

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Church of England Primary School

Vision

In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.' Matthew 7:12

Blackpool St John's CE Primary is a Church of England primary school with its ethos and teaching founded on Christian values and the belief that individuals are created by God and precious in his sight.

Our central concern is the education of the whole child. This stems from the Christian belief that all people are made in God's image, so all are equally worthy of his care, and all have a valuable contribution to make to the school and the wider community.

We want the best for each member of the school- within a Christian environment, working in partnership with each other, with home, church and the community- led by the hand of God.

Everyone matters in God's world.

Strengths

- The Christian vision is deeply embedded in all aspects of daily life at St John's. This is well supported by the school's Christian values that inspire adults and pupils to 'do to others what you would have them do to you.'
- Relationships and the wellbeing of everyone are a key focus for school leaders. Through the Christian vision, this creates a nurturing culture where pupils learn to respect and value one another.
- The school's curriculum is shaped by the Christian vision. The wide range of experiences provided by the school enables pupils, including the vulnerable, to find learning irresistible and flourish in their studies.
- Well-planned collective worship emphasises the school's vision and values. Pupils and adults value the daily inclusive opportunities to come together for celebration, reflection and prayer. This is enhanced further by the strong relationship with the local church.
- Effective leadership in religious education (RE) ensures that learning is challenging and engaging for pupils. As a result, they have a good knowledge of world religions including Christianity.

Development Points

- Develop a shared understanding of spirituality that is woven through the curriculum. This is to ensure its full meaning becomes more widely understood across the school enabling pupils and staff to reflect and flourish.
- Encourage and develop pupils' awareness to independently address areas of injustice. This is to enable them to become more confident agents of change for those facing adversity.



Inspection Findings

St John's is an oasis of calm, happy learning in the centre of Blackpool. Through the Christian vision, leaders strive to provide a continuously developing environment. This enables pupils to flourish to the best of their ability. The school effectively embodies its five Christian values in all aspects of school life. This commitment is positively reinforced daily by both staff and pupils, fostering a caring environment that supports high expectations. Regular surveys for pupils, staff, and families further ensure that everyone's voice is heard, reinforcing the inclusive culture that defines the school. This dedication to inclusion ensures pupils feel safe, valued, and part of a supportive community. The school has a proactive approach to nurturing families and providing resources such as uniforms and PE kits. This exemplifies its commitment to equality and readiness for learning. Governors' commitment to the school's Christian vision can be seen through their decision making. They ensure that pupils have opportunities for full participation in curriculum and extracurricular activities, regardless of their background.

The curriculum at St John's reflects its Christian vision, fostering both academic excellence and personal growth. Theme days and months are intentionally integrated into the curriculum. This broadens pupils' understanding and strengthens the school's vision of nurturing compassionate, well-rounded individuals. Adults and pupils are dedicated to maintaining the highest standards across all aspects of school life. Each topic covered has a big question to focus on. Curriculum areas thoughtfully explore biblical teachings and worldviews, with texts chosen to reflect the school's vision. This enables pupils to challenge themselves. They are continually encouraged to ask profound questions. Vulnerable pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), benefit from early intervention and adapted provision. The use of visits and visitors enhances pupils' opportunities for spiritual experiences. However, they do not use a consistent vocabulary. This limits their ability to express the depth of their spiritual understanding. A range of extra-curricular clubs and activities is also a key element that enables individual growth. These impart life skills and moral values in order to help pupils become responsible future citizens. Celebrating achievements fosters a culture of success and potential fulfilment. Participation in sports and enrichment events, including residential trips, further builds pupils' confidence and perseverance. Leaders and governors regularly and effectively monitor the curriculum to ensure that pupils continue to flourish.

Collective worship at St. John's enables both pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. Leaders create an engaging, and reflective time shaped by the school's Christian vision. Pupils participate with enthusiasm, particularly enjoying the opportunity to sing, pray, and reflect. The local vicar and visitors enrich worship experiences, modelling diverse and effective ways of engaging with spirituality. Worship fosters a sense of community, as pupils and staff come together, strengthening their spiritual connection through shared experiences. Pupils are encouraged to explore their faith openly through thoughtful questions, such as 'What would Jesus do?' Leaders use these to prompt deeper reflection on how biblical teachings apply to their lives. This approach helps pupils to build strong moral foundations that shape their behaviour and interactions with others. By involving pupils as leaders, readers, and evaluators, collective worship fosters their confidence and leadership skills. Celebrations, such as Harvest and Easter, in the church further strengthens spiritual ties between the school and the wider community.

Leaders use the Christian vision to create a culture of respect and kindness ensuring that both pupils and adults are treated well. The emphasis on wellbeing is evident in the wide range of systems available for pupils, staff, and families. The impact of this is a self-supporting community for mental health and wellbeing. Leaders develop partnerships with external agencies who provide additional support to further enhance this. Resources and agencies brought in demonstrates leaders' care for every individual's emotional and spiritual needs. This helps promote equality and ensure that no pupil feels left behind. The inclusive approach reflects the school's



commitment to treating everyone with dignity and respect. This reinforces the belief in treating others as you would like to be treated. Staff wellbeing is equally prioritised by leaders. They actively monitor and support staff in a variety of ways, including flexible working policies and timely staff meetings. This reflects leader's deep-rooted Christian commitment to fostering a caring and compassionate environment.

The school's Christian vision actively fosters justice and responsibility by embedding its values into daily life. This encourages pupils to be advocates for fairness and ethical action. The Relationships policy, rooted in Christian ideals of forgiveness and reconciliation, ensures that adults and pupils are treated fairly and with respect. The school purposefully engages with local, national, and global charities. These initiatives help pupils understand the importance of compassion. Pupil voice is strongly encouraged through various councils. This gives them a genuine say in school life, increasing their confidence and responsibility. However, beyond the school pupils are less aware of how they can act independently to challenge injustice and be agents of change. The school's commitment to social justice is deeply rooted in the teachings of Jesus, with worship and RE using his role model to emphasise fairness and moral responsibility. The equality, diversity and justice (EDJ) curriculum and approach promoted by the diocese further enhances success in this area.

RE at St John's is highly effective, providing pupils with a deep and comprehensive understanding of world religions including Christianity. Teachers effectively enable pupils to have a rich and comprehensive understanding of world religions. This has been well supported with professional development from the diocese. The curriculum enables pupils to explore thought provoking questions. Leaders ensure this includes a variety of creative activities to actively engage them. As a result, pupils look forward to their lessons. Leaders, including governors, make themselves aware of the quality of RE through regular and effective monitoring. The high quality of teaching within the RE curriculum is evident in the strong attainments of pupils including the most vulnerable. Teachers are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to create a safe and supportive environment where pupils can explore challenging topics and express their personal opinions freely. The use of key vocabulary and learning maps ensures clarity in teaching and assessment. This further enhances the progression of pupils across the school.

Information

Address	Church Street, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY1 3NX		
Date	17 October 2024	URN	119595
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	206
Diocese	Blackburn		
Headteacher	Nadine Galloway		
Chair of Governors	Hayley Aris		
Inspector	Rob Dean		