

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St. Peter's Church of England Primary School			
Address	Birley Street, Newton le Willows WA12 9UR		
Date of inspection	15 November 2018	Status of school	VA Primary
Diocese	Liverpool	URN	104801

Overall Judgement	Grade	Excellent
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?		
Additional Judgements		
The impact of collective worship	Grade	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Grade	Good

<p>School context</p> <p>St Peter's is a primary school with 244 pupils on roll. The school has a very low level of religious and cultural diversity and very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages as is the proportion of pupils who have special educational needs/disabilities. The headteacher has been in post since September 2018.</p>
<p>The school's Christian vision</p> <p>GROWTH.....the journey is never ending.... At St. Peter's our vision starts with growth. 'The child grew and became strong in body, mind and spirit.' Luke 2: 40</p>
<p>Key findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision permeates every aspect of the school's daily life. It is understood and articulated by all members of the school community. Together with the core Christian values of love, hope, trust and faith, the vision ensures that everyone grows and flourishes in a loving and caring environment. • The newly appointed headteacher is bringing outstanding Christian leadership and Church school experience to the strong senior leadership and staff teams. He is supported by committed governors who are able to contribute a range of expertise and skills to their strategic role. • All members of the school community are treated with Christian dignity and respect. The school's nurturing ethos ensures that every individual feels safe and valued as a unique child of God. • Invitational and inspirational collective worship lies at the heart of daily life. It provides opportunities for pupils and adults to grow in faith and spirituality. • Extremely strong and mutually beneficial links with the parish church make a significant contribution to the school's distinctive Christian character and to pupils' spiritual development.
<p>Areas for development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support and further professional development for the religious education (RE) subject leader in order to ensure that the revised syllabus and <i>Understanding Christianity</i> are taught confidently and from a position of enhanced understanding and knowledge. • Further extend the RE curriculum in order to deepen and extend pupils' knowledge and understanding of non-Christian faiths.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

The school's Christian vision has clear practical implications for the daily life of the whole community. It is displayed in all classrooms and on documents and policies and it drives school development planning. Pupils are able to explain its importance in terms of their academic, physical and spiritual development. The school's admission arrangements ensure that all are welcome. This can be seen in the excellent provision the school makes for the diverse needs of individual pupils. The newly appointed headteacher demonstrates inspirational Christian leadership and he ensures that senior leaders and staff understand current thinking in Church school education. Priority is given to the development of collective worship and RE. The school has a strong link with the diocese. This ensures that current thinking and appropriate professional development support the school as it lives out its Christian vision. Members of the governing body demonstrate a high level of commitment and purpose. They are fully involved in the strategic monitoring of the school's work. The distinctiveness committee has already carried out a number of monitoring activities to evaluate Church school effectiveness. The well-established partnership with the parish church enhances the learning and spiritual opportunities of the pupils and ensures that the congregation is aware of and involved in their Christian development.

The Christian vision shapes the way decisions are made regarding the curriculum, extra-curricular opportunities and extended learning. The unique academic and spiritual needs of each pupil are met through a creative and broad curriculum that encourages them to explore new ways of thinking. Staff ensure that spiritual development is fundamental to their teaching, providing opportunities for deep and meaningful discussion. This includes the consideration of current affairs and issues related to injustice and discrimination. As a result, pupils express their ideas and opinions with confidence and age-related maturity. Pupils' excitement about learning and school life is reflected in outstanding attendance. They constantly refer to the Christian vision statement and core values, saying that these help them to be the very best they can be. Provision for those with additional learning or personal needs and those who are vulnerable is exceptional. It is rooted in Christian love and understanding. Members of staff have the expertise to deliver a wide range of intervention strategies. Recent data shows that disadvantaged pupils perform especially well at the end of Key Stage 2. Parents speak highly of the school's commitment to supporting families and meeting the learning and emotional needs of their children.

The school's Christian vision supports the character and moral development of pupils extremely well and enables them to flourish in all areas of their learning. The range of opportunities the school offers strengthens pupils' aspirations and self-esteem. Pupils say that they feel confident to ask for help and that staff are always supportive and kind. Many pupils show great resilience and perseverance and the school's Christian ethos provides an extremely safe and supportive environment in which they can progress and become confident. Pupils have opportunities to grow through leadership roles on the school, eco and worship councils. All members of the school community demonstrate Christian compassion and concern for justice in local, national and global settings. The school supports a number of charities and pupils' involvement leads to a deeper understanding of poverty, disadvantage and deprivation. Pupils on the eco council know how important it is to care for God's world. The school's Christian vision is also reflected in the way that the school makes ethical decisions about its resources, always seeking to do the very best for its pupils and staff.

The school's Christian vision and values underpin all relationships and are at the heart of policies and practice. A link to *Understanding All God's Children* on the website makes a clear statement about the school's inclusive and supportive ethos. Pupils behave extremely well and explain that Christian values and the individual class charters encourage everyone to be kind and considerate. If disagreements do occur, staff use restorative justice to help pupils to resolve differences. Instances of bullying are rare and pupils say that they feel extremely safe at all times. Staff speak of the many ways they feel supported and valued and attribute this culture to the school's distinctive Christian ethos. The positive approach to equality and valuing difference means that everyone in the school community is treated with dignity and respect. The mental health and wellbeing of all members of the school community is a priority. The special educational needs co-ordinator ensures that pupils have access to support in school and through a range of outside agencies.

All members of the school community recognise the central part collective worship plays in the life of the school. It is inclusive and invitational and reflects the school's Christian vision and values. Staff say that they find it inspirational and a time for calm reflection. Planning is rooted in biblical teaching, the life of Jesus and Christian festivals and seasons. Pupils explain the nature of the Trinity in appropriately age-related terms. Pupils enjoy worship and participate enthusiastically whilst maintaining a due sense of reverence. They sing well and understand that this is a way of praising God. They are now involved in planning, leading and evaluating class worship and this furthers their understanding of the key elements of liturgy. Pupils know and use traditional

prayers and responses. Reflection areas around the building offer a place for stillness and contemplation. As a result, pupils understand the importance of prayer in the lives of people of faith. The vicar of St. Peter's leads worship every week and he has advised on the development of classroom reflection areas. Pupils are aware of the central importance of the Eucharist and many choose to be prepared for confirmation. This creates a strong link with the worshipping life of the parish church and it enriches the experience of the whole school.

RE provision reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement and enables pupils to reflect on their own religious and spiritual convictions. Pupils engage with religious text and discuss theological ideas with confidence. Staff ensure that challenging questions and opportunities for open discussion contribute to the development of mind and spirit. Pupils speak enthusiastically about their learning in RE and they enjoy a range of creative tasks through which they explore knowledge and ideas. The recently appointed subject leader brings commitment and enthusiasm to her role.



The effectiveness of RE is Good

RE is regarded as a core subject and is well-resourced. Effective teaching challenges and supports pupils' exploration of religious beliefs and practices. Pupils are less confident in their knowledge of non-Christian faiths. Informative assessment procedures are currently being reviewed in the light of the revised diocesan syllabus. However, it is evident that all pupils, regardless of ability, make at least good progress in their learning and standards are in line with national expectations.

Headteacher	Paul Robinson
Inspector's name and number	Jean Forward 625