

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St. John's Church of England Primary School

Vision

'You are the light that gives light to the world.' (Matthew 5:14)

At the heart of all we do lies a deep commitment to our school family. Everyone belongs and we encourage each other to be our best in a respectful, safe, nurturing and creative environment. Through friendship and God's love, we give each other hope and the courage to succeed. This is a place where we can be our unique selves and serve as a beacon of light to our community. Following in the footsteps of Christ, we live our lives through our values of respect, friendship, trust and hope.

St. John's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- St. John's Christian vision and values are at the heart of every aspect of daily life. They are rooted in a deep understanding of the school's context. Leaders and governors ensure that the vision drives school development so that all members of their community can flourish.
- Leaders have a clear understanding of spirituality in its widest sense. Consequently, staff have developed a shared language and creative approach to identify opportunities for spiritual flourishing in all areas of learning.
- Religious education (RE) is prioritised and highly valued. The ambitious curriculum, and a thoughtful approach to inclusion, ensure that all pupils enjoy their learning and make good progress.
- Collective worship is central to daily life. Inclusive and inspirational planning ensures that pupils and adults experience worship that is rich, varied and invitational. All are encouraged in their journey of spiritual growth.
- Exemplary relationships across the school community are rooted in love and compassion. The Christian vision and values are lived out in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.

Development Points

- Extend opportunities for pupils to take the lead in acting as agents for change. As global citizens this will equip them to make a difference to the lives of others within and beyond the local community.
- Further develop RE assessment feedback for pupils. This will support them in understanding how they can extend their knowledge and respond to challenging questions.



Inspection Findings

St. John's Church of England Primary School is a beacon of hope at the centre of its community. The Christian vision and values of respect, friendship, trust and hope drive all aspects of daily life. They are clearly understood by pupils and adults. They inspire members of the school community to be the very best they can be and encourages them to be a 'light that gives light to the world'. The school is a haven of inclusivity. This is a reflection of strategic decisions made by leaders about the curriculum and additional support to remove barriers. The school is strengthened in its Church school ethos by the dedicated staff team, knowledgeable governors and the Quest Trust. This leads to effective self-evaluation and development planning, ensuring that the Christian vision informs school improvement. Excellent relationships with the trust, the diocese and the parish church support and sustain staff and governors in their work.

The school's Christian vision underpins its ambitious approach to the curriculum. Pupils have a deep sense of belonging and they feel safe and cared for. As a result, they are keen to learn and know that staff will always support them. The school focuses on enabling every individual to thrive and grow as a unique child of God. The curriculum and extra-curricular provision reflect this. Pupils are encouraged to become aspirational and confident in their unique abilities. As a result, they show determination to succeed in every aspect of school life. Rich and varied learning opportunities engage and stimulate pupils' spiritual development. A powerful shared language of spirituality informs planning and learning experiences. Pupils develop meaningful responses to the wonders of creation and human achievement. As a result, they express their own ideas through questioning and curiosity. A programme of curriculum-linked extension opportunities and trips widens pupils' experience and understanding. Extra-curricular provision further develops pupils' interests and raises aspirations, including through a range of sports, the arts and gardening. These opportunities contribute to spiritual growth and positive emotional development.

Daily collective worship is planned with great care and integrity. Inspirational content incorporates the Christian vision and values, biblical teaching, major Christian festivals, Compline and eucharistic worship. A combination of whole school and class worship adds richness to pupils' experience. Staff, governors and members of the congregation and clergy of the parish church lead worship. In this way, pupils come to understand how worship is at the heart of the wider community. The school regularly worships in the church. The prayer life of the school is deeply spiritual. This is achieved through moments of silent reflection and more formal prayer throughout the day. The use of Anglican responses and a clear pattern for worship establish a familiarity and sense of inclusivity. The school's approach to worship has a positive effect on the spiritual lives of the school community. Pupils are reverent and attentive. They enjoy a range of worship songs and sing with enthusiasm. Reflection areas in classrooms and the outdoor Peace Garden enable pupils to further develop their spiritual response. A regular pattern of monitoring by staff and governors leads to formal feedback and opportunities to develop the school's approach.

St. John's is a community rooted in generosity and kindness. The curriculum and worship enable pupils to develop a keen awareness of the needs of others and current world issues. They are encouraged to support a range of charities, often taking the initiative in deciding how to raise money. They understand that living in Jesus' footsteps will help them to become caring and compassionate individuals. Pupils are at the early stage of understanding the importance of challenging injustice. There are many opportunities for pupils to take on specific responsibilities within the school community. These roles include being members of the pupil parliament, school council members, reading partners and sports leaders. As a result, they understand the importance of supporting the daily life of their school and the wider community.

Through a culture of Christian love and compassion, the school demonstrates an inclusive and sensitive approach to individual needs. This is particularly evident in the access for pupils with additional needs through support and resources. A range of intervention strategies, adaptations to learning, nurture and mental health provision ensures every pupil thrives and feels secure. Pupils' behaviour is very good, and the Christian values clearly support



relationships across the school community. Pupils thrive because of the love and care they receive. The school brings hope to the community through an open-door policy. Parents and carers know that staff will listen to concerns, offering support and understanding. The pastoral manager works with families, and this builds confidence, trust and mutual respect. Staff feel supported professionally and personally. They develop their professional skills and knowledge. Opportunities to progress within the trust lead to an aspirational culture. A culture of mutual support is rooted in Christian respect and care, with wellbeing and positive mental health a priority. Loving and caring interactions are modelled by the staff towards pupils and one another.

RE reflects the school vision and is well-planned, well-constructed and effectively led. The curriculum is well-balanced, so that pupils learn about Christianity and a range of worldviews and other religions. Units of work are carefully adapted so that pupils delve more deeply into subject content through discussion. Lessons are carefully planned. As a result, making connections and applying knowledge are central to learning. Pupils value their learning in RE, and enjoy a range of creative tasks. Floor books to capture class reflections and discussion are used effectively. Pupils recognise that it is important to know about religious and non-religious traditions. Consequently, they understand the relevance this learning has to their own lives. The curriculum enhances pupils' understanding of people from a range of views and faiths. As a result, they can articulate key beliefs and practices across the religions they study. In turn, this also supports the culture of acceptance and inclusivity evident throughout the school. RE is well-resourced and regular continuous professional development supports staff in their own understanding and knowledge. Leaders assess the quality of learning through a range of monitoring and evaluation activities. This includes moderation across the Quest Trust schools. As a result of effective teaching, most pupils are working in line with expectations. However, pupils do not always understand how to make progress in their learning. This is because assessment procedures do not include clear individual targets for improvement.

Information

Address	Simpkin Street, Abram, Wigan WN2 5QE		
Date	13 March 2025	URN	141641
Type of school	VA Academy	No. of pupils	278
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT	Quest Academy Trust		
Head of School	Linda Gatley		
Chair of Board of Trustees	Crispin Pailing		
Chair of Governors	Vacant		
Inspector	Jean Forward		