

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Paul's Church of England Primary School			
Address	Crompton Street, Walkden, Worsley, Manchester M28 3HP		
Date of inspection	10 October 2019	Status of school	VA primary
Diocese	Manchester	URN	105945

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

School context

St Paul's primary school has 232 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is broadly in line with the national average, as is the proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Attendance is above the national average. The school serves a strong traditional local community where several generations have attended the school. It is a strategic partner in the St Andrew's CE Teaching School Alliance and has achieved the Rights Respecting School Bronze award.

The school's Christian vision

We belong, We Learn, We Believe, We Achieve
Everyone does their best at all times with a culture of the highest expectations, respect and consideration.

Core Christian Values:

Compassion, Peace, Forgiveness, Friendship Thankfulness and Creation

Key findings

- Nurturing relationships, based on Christian love, have a significant and positive impact on all members of this highly inclusive school community. The wellbeing of all pupils and staff is of the highest importance.
- Inspirational leadership ensures a deeply Christian learning community where every member flourishes. The Christian vision is thoroughly embedded by the headteacher together with dedicated staff and committed governors.
- The Gospel message, delivered through the school's vision, enables all pupils to achieve their full potential through high quality teaching and loving care.
- Collective worship and RE contribute significantly in promoting distinctive Christian values. They deepen the spiritual growth of both pupils and staff, uniting all in a caring school family that reaches out to the needs of the wider world.
- Strong and mutually beneficial links with the parish church and church family make a significant contribution to the school's distinctive Christian character.

Areas for development

- Further enrich pupils' experience of collective worship by increasing their involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation.
- Provide more in depth opportunities to extend pupils' reflective skills in RE. This will enable them to make deeper and more considered responses to challenging questions and theological ideas.

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 deeply embedded Christian vision is founded upon well established Christian values and rooted in gospel teaching. The statement of vision stems initially from discussions with pupils and then the whole school community about what values are most important for their school. It is at the heart of the school's curriculum intent and drives everything the school does. Staff model these values which pupils copy and live out themselves. The Christian vision is vibrantly proclaimed in the school entrance hall for all visitors to experience. It promotes a family where pupils and adults are cherished and challenged to do their best within a thriving and stimulating community.

The headteacher demonstrates inspirational Christian leadership that ensures senior leaders and staff understand the distinctiveness of working in Church school education. The school has a strong link with Manchester Diocese which ensures appropriate professional development and support as the school lives out its Christian vision. This ensures that senior leaders and staff understand current practice in Church school education. Pupils recently visited Manchester Cathedral to take part in God and the Big Bang. Here pupils were encouraged to engage in rational, exciting, well-reasoned and thought-provoking discussion about the place for science in God's world. Staff morale is high because they know that they are supported both personally and professionally at all levels

Living the school's Christian vision supports pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development extremely well and allows them to flourish in all areas of learning. A wide range of curricular provision and in particular the sporting opportunities, strengthens pupils' aspirations and self-esteem. The Christian vision also gives high priority to wellbeing for everyone. Parents speak highly of the school's commitment to supporting families and meeting the learning and emotional needs of their children. Pupils' behaviour is excellent and relationships between all members of the school community are extremely supportive based on forgiveness and reconciliation. Pupils know they can express their worries and anxieties and be listened to. Staff speak of the many ways they feel supported and valued, attributing this to the culture of the school's distinctive Christian ethos. The positive approach to equality and valuing difference means that everyone in the school family is treated with dignity and respect. As one member of staff stated, 'If anyone needs support then someone will listen and help you.'

Governors support and challenge robustly in all areas of school improvement. They demonstrate a high level of commitment and purpose. The extremely thorough cycle of self-evaluation engages all members of the school community ensuring that the school's Christian vision and values are central. Church school issues are given high priority and are included in each year's school development plan. Governors have regular involvement in the school's life and work through their visits, learning walks and conversations with pupils. They also receive detailed information from the headteacher, RE leader and the vicar, who is the RE governor. This ensures that strategic development is highly effective.

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 local and global charities and pupils' involvement leads to a deeper understanding of poverty, disadvantage and deprivation. They are made aware of global issues and encouraged to be agents of change to make a difference in the world. Pupils spoke during the inspection about the support the school has given in adopting and funding a child's education in Africa. Pupils are also involved in active community engagement, including the Archbishop of York's Young Leaders scheme.

Worship is at the heart of the school and central to its daily life. It is well planned with themes developed around the school's Christian values, the Bible, festivals and the teachings of Jesus. Pupils have an age-appropriate appreciation of the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is constantly reinforced through the Holy Trinity symbol displayed in the school hall. Pupils enjoy worship and participate enthusiastically whilst maintaining a due sense of reverence. One pupil said that worship is, 'A time to be quiet and speak to God'. The lighting of candles reinforces that Jesus is always with us and as one pupil was quietly heard to say, 'Jesus is the Light of the World'. Pupils are invited to light a candle in their souls, which remains lit when worship ends. In addition to exploring the Christian faith, worship enables pupils to develop an understanding of beliefs and practices of world religions, learning to respect and value all faiths. As a result of this and the wide curriculum offered, they are well prepared for life in British society. Pupils know and use traditional prayers and responses and understand the value and importance of prayer and personal reflection. The well established and enthusiastic pupil ethos team and school council have a strong voice and are very much involved in making improvements. Although pupils take on responsible roles during worship, they are not yet fully involved in planning, leading and evaluating. There is a prayer tree and well used reflection area in every classroom. A stunning prayer garden, St Paul's Peaceful Place,

offers opportunities for stillness and prayerful contemplation, providing times of spiritual inspiration for all members of the school community. The whole school visits church for special occasions as well as benefitting from the Experience Easter, Harvest and Christmas events. There is a close working relationship with parish clergy, both of whom are actively involved in the life of the school. Therefore pupils have a strong sense of belonging to the wider Christian community.

The Christian vision and values shape the way decisions are made regarding the curriculum and extended learning. The use of *Questful RE* and *Understanding Christianity* supports this well and reflects the *Church of England Statement of Entitlement*. Staff ensure that enquiry is at the forefront of lessons, providing opportunities for deep and meaningful discussion so that spiritual development is fundamental to their teaching. As a result, pupils express their ideas and opinions with confidence and age-related maturity. Provision for those with additional learning or personal needs and those who are vulnerable is exceptional. RE deepens pupils' understanding of Christianity as a world faith and enhances their appreciation and understanding of the beliefs and customs of non-Christian faiths.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

RE is taught well and reflects the school's Christian vision statement. Learning is creative and exciting, enabling all pupils to flourish. Pupils are eager and confident learners. They are inspired and challenged by their learning, which develops enquiry skills well. This enables pupils to share and discuss their own thoughts and ideas whilst respecting those of others. However, the school recognises that pupils' reflective skills could be extended further. The knowledgeable and enthusiastic RE leader monitors the subject regularly and offers excellent support and guidance to staff. Assessment is used well to identify next steps in learning. Pupils, including the most able and those with special educational needs, make good or better progress in RE and achieve outcomes in line with other core subjects.

Headteacher	Yvette Sullivan
Inspector's name and number	Stephen Burrow 622