

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St James Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Vision

Journeying together to live, learn and laugh with the love of God.

'Do everything in love.' Corinthians 16:14

Strengths

- As a result of the school's Christian vision, both pupils and adults are valued. Relationships are extremely positive.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum is meticulously planned. This ensures pupils make good progress and enjoy their learning.
- Pastoral support and an emphasis on positive mental health results in highly motivated pupils and adults.
- Excellent collaboration between the partner school and the trust enhances the curriculum.
- Collective worship is a key part of daily life. It successfully helps pupils and adults to deepen their understanding of the school's Christian vision.

Development Points

- Embed opportunities for spiritual development throughout the curriculum. This is to ensure that pupils access rich, planned experiences to help them flourish spiritually.
- Broaden pupils' understanding of justice and responsibility in order for them to become effective agents of change as global citizens.
- Further develop the monitoring of the quality of collective worship across school. This is in order to enhance deep spiritual flourishing.



Inspection Findings

This is a school built on love. It permeates through everything the school does. Members of the school community know they are valued and respected as children of God. Togetherness and encouraging others to be the best they can be, is at the heart of relationships. This community is served unconditionally with Christian care and compassion. Leaders speak with passion about both the school and the Christian vision of 'Do everything in love.' Decisions made by leaders, including governors, are influenced by the of love for the pupils and for each other. A rich awareness of a community working together enables pupils and adults to feel they belong in this school. They are nurtured and thrive because of the unwavering support, accompanied by great empathy. The school's vision is closely aligned to that of the multi-academy trust (MAT). There is strong collaboration within the MAT. This enriches the Christian character of the school. Parents of faith and of none are comfortable in sending their children to this school. They know they will be encouraged to be the best they can be. Pupils have a clear understanding of the school's vision and can articulate what it means to them. They talk about their own journey with God and how he lights up the path for them, especially during difficult times. Pupils here know they have God's love at all times. Staff see themselves as learners and live out the vision daily. Their Christian love of the pupils at the school shines through their compassionate actions. Pupils know they will be listened to and supported as a result of highly effective pastoral care.

The school's curriculum has been shaped by the vision. Each subject lead has this at the forefront of their mind when monitoring impact. There is a well-established, well-planned 'journey curriculum' in place. Pupils consider big questions through the 'windows, mirrors and doors' approach. This enables them to explore a range of issues. Pupils are encouraged to think deeply. However, planned curriculum opportunities for spiritual development are in their infancy. Likewise, a whole school approach to spirituality is not fully developed. Relevant trips and visits further enhance learning. Bespoke strategies effectively support pupils with additional needs and those who are vulnerable. Carefully chosen texts are embedded within the curriculum. These foster a sense of acceptance. They help create a foundation for a school wide culture, which promotes good health and happiness. After school activities provide further opportunities for pupils to flourish. These include sport, Lego and book clubs.

The school's vision is pivotal in the planning of collective worship. It has pupils at its heart. The vision and values are promoted through worship, providing a sense of fellowship and purpose. Time is built in to be still and to reflect. Questions are posed with no expectations of answers. Music makes a spiritual difference as pupils and adults sing joyfully to God. The relationship between the school and church is seamless. Church leaders provide a weekly Eucharist service which has been adapted to aid engagement. Reflective areas throughout school and its grounds encourage spontaneous prayer. The school participates in trust wide worship. This fosters a sense of belonging and serving God together. Leaders have begun work on the monitoring of collective worship but this is in its early stages.

The school has a recently established pastoral support team who are passionate about ensuring pupils flourish. The 'Harbour' area in school provides alternative activities at lunchtimes and playtimes for those pupils who need a quieter indoor space. This is highly valued. Positive relationships are embedded. The school works closely with local mental health professionals and the trust's network. The influence of the whole team working together impacts lives beyond the school day. Staff wellbeing is also a priority for leaders. Ongoing, carefully selected training supports their development. They are able to flourish in an environment that encourages growth and aspiration. There is a strong sense of appreciation and respect between staff at all levels.

Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves in their actions and reactions. They take leadership roles very seriously and with great responsibility. The school supports a range of good causes. Charities adopted



have been carefully chosen to complement the curriculum. Pupils speak with conviction and knowledge about the work they do in this area. They are, however, at the early stages of recognising social injustice and the part they can play in addressing this. Pupils enjoy positive relationships with their peers. They work and play together collaboratively. Issues around friendships are soon addressed by staff. School supports pupils in reconciling differences and moving on through forgiveness and Christian love.

The RE curriculum has been carefully considered and designed. This to ensure progression as well as engagement. Leaders work closely with the trust, accessing training and networking. The profile of RE is high at this school. Leaders strive for the subject to be inclusive. This results in a range of inspiring teaching styles. Hence, pupils with additional needs access and enjoy lessons. In a Year 5 lesson, pupils were able to independently link the school's Christian values to particular Bible verses. They show a mature understanding of their own beliefs. Year 6 pupils speak confidently about world faiths and the importance of pilgrimage. They can discuss their own beliefs and the beliefs held by others. The subject is impactful for pupils. It provides opportunities for debate and self-reflection. Pupils are proud of their work and achievements.

RE is taught well by inspirational teachers. The impact of the subject is constantly monitored through work scrutiny, pupil voice and observations. It is carefully assessed. Pupils make good progress and enjoy their lessons. They clearly benefit from the carefully structured curriculum.

Information

Address	Lyme Street, Haydock, St Helens, WA11 ONL		
Date	17 October 2024	URN	146429
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	161
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT	Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust		
Headteacher	Jennifer Young		
Chair of Governors	William Wiswell		
Inspector	Katie Prescott		