THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE

The Methodist Church

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

All Saints Church of England Primary School					
Address	Devon Street. Farnworth, Bolton, Lancashire BL4 7PY				
Date of inspection	27 September 2019	**Status of school**	VA primary		
Diocese / Methodist District	Manchester	**URN**	105238		

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**	**Good**
Additional Judgements	**The impact of collective worship**	**Grade**	**Good**
	The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	**Grade**	**Good**

School context

All Saints primary school has 213 pupils on roll, including an 84 place nursery. The majority of pupils are from minority ethnic groups with the majority of Pakistani heritage. There are seventeen nationalities in the school with a large proportion of pupils speaking English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is slightly above the national average, as is the proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. There is high pupil mobility throughout the school with a large proportion of pupils arriving from other countries with little or no English. Attendance is broadly in line with the national average. A newly appointed vicar will take up post shortly.

The school's Christian vision

To be a school of choice where, through the pursuit of excellence and embodiment of Christian values, everyone within the school community is inspired to give of their best**.** To be the best that we can be!

Core Gospel Values - Fellowship, Friendship and Hope

Key findings

- The strong and purposeful Christian leadership of the headteacher, with the committed support of the deputy headteacher, staff team and governing body, emphasises the clear Christian vision.
- All aspects of school life are permeated by the Christian vision, which is understood by all members of the school community. Together with core Christian values, the school's vision ensures that everyone grows and flourishes in a loving and caring community where mental health and wellbeing are given high priority.
- All members of the school community are treated with Christian dignity and respect. The nurturing ethos, based on Christian love, forgiveness and reconciliation, is at the heart of the school. It ensures that every individual feels safe and valued as a unique child of God. As a result, behaviour is good.
- There are excellent relationships across the school and pupils' attitudes are highly positive. High aspirations are encouraged for all pupils, including those who are vulnerable, enabling everyone to flourish.
- Collective worship and RE contribute significantly in promoting distinctive Christian values and deepening pupils' spirituality.

Areas for development

- Extend pupils' involvement in planning, leading and evaluating worship in order to further enrich their experience.
- Build on the existing opportunities for pupils to apply the knowledge and skills they learn in RE. Provide opportunities for deep thinking and enquiry based learning so that pupils are better able to reflect on questions of meaning and purpose.
- Increase opportunities for pupils to become involved in the local community through additional participation in events and activities.

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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

All Saints has an inclusive Christian vision focused on love and aspiration where everyone is encouraged, 'To be the best that we can be'. It underpins everything the school does and ensures that everyone feels welcomed and valued. Pupils are enabled to flourish morally and spiritually as well as being challenged to achieve their best academically. They are encouraged to develop high self-esteem and think inspirationally about their future. Parents say that the school goes, 'above and beyond' to make sure their child thrives. The vision is also reflected in the provision the school makes for the diverse needs of individual pupils. Expectations of good behaviour are also strongly influenced by the school's vision and the focus on forgiveness and reconciliation. Consequently behaviour in the school is good. Pupils feel safe, valued and understand the impact of their behaviour on others. Their voice is strong in the school. The positive approach to equality and valuing difference means that everyone in the school family is treated with dignity and respect. The chair of governors summed up by saying, 'Our identity as a Church of England school is unashamedly and proudly made clear to pupils and their parents and is respected by them.'

The ambitious, passionate Christian leadership of the headteacher ensures that the school's Christian vision is embraced and lived out by all. She benefits from the committed support of the deputy headteacher, staff team and governing body. The school has strong links with Manchester Diocese, enjoying the support of a diocesan officer who provides valued professional advice. There is also a recently established partnership with another local primary school. This results in the ethos groups of each school working together and sharing ideas. Professional development ensures that all staff understand the distinctiveness of teaching in a Church school. The whole school visits church for special occasions as well as benefitting from the Experience Easter and Christmas events. The school enjoys a close working relationship with parish clergy. These experiences give pupils a sense of belonging to the wider Christian community.

The well-considered curriculum decisions of senior leaders are driven by the Christian vision, and as result all pupils flourish. Staff live out the Christian vision, providing a supportive and caring environment where Christian values underpin all learning and support pupils' mental health and wellbeing. All staff speak passionately of their shared commitment and love of the school. Parents know that the staff will help their children to overcome barriers to learning and provide loving care during the school day. Provision for those with additional learning or personal needs and those who are vulnerable is strong. It is rooted in Christian love and understanding. The caring and supportive work of the learning mentor and special educational needs coordinator ensures that the needs of families and individuals are quickly identified and met. The school's distinctive Christian ethos supports staff well. Each member of staff has a wellbeing buddy. One member of staff said, 'If something is bothering you there is someone to talk to and listen to you.' Staff feel very much valued and appreciated.

The governing body has a strong commitment to the school's Christian foundation. They know the school and its staff very well. They are challenging, supportive and aspirational. They are determined that everyone should achieve the best they can. One governor stated that it was their aim, 'to raise the aspirations of all our children'. Their regular involvement in school life, through visits and learning walks combined with the detailed information they receive from the headteacher, ensures well-informed decision making. There is a nominated governor for Christian distinctiveness who regularly visits school and is involved in the monitoring process.

The whole school family demonstrates Christian compassion and concern for social justice and support a number of charities. These include a local foodbank and more globally a Twinning Toilets project, giving pupils a deeper understanding of poverty, disadvantage and deprivation. The school strives to be a place where everyone can become advocates for change within society. However, the development of more practical involvement by pupils in their local community is not yet established.

Worship is central to the school day, effectively underpinning and extending the well-embedded Christian vision and values. These values are then reinforced throughout daily school life. Worship is engaging, appropriate and fundamentally inclusive. It does not demand of any pupils or members of staff participation that they cannot give with integrity. Worship is well planned with themes developed around the school's Christian vision, core values, festivals, the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. This enables pupils to have an understanding of the nature of worship and the Christian faith. Worship has developed because of constructive systems for monitoring and evaluation. The school recognises that, although pupils enjoy being able to take on responsible roles during worship, they are not yet fully involved in planning, leading and evaluating. All teaching staff are involved in leading worship, allowing pupils to experience a variety of delivery and approaches. The sensitive presentation of the gospel and the careful

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introductions to prayer and reflection ensure that everyone feels included. Prayer and reflection are an important aspect of worship and there are well used class reflection areas. The recently established and enthusiastic pupil ethos group has begun to discuss and plan worship themes and members have created a quiet reflective space for pupils to use at lunchtimes. Worship explores the Christian faith as well as providing an understanding of the beliefs and practices of other world faiths within multi-cultural British society. Pupils said that they really enjoy worship and participate enthusiastically whilst maintaining a due sense of reverence. One pupil said, 'We all come together and share our differences and pray.' Worship helps pupils to consider the significance of Christian beliefs for themselves. Another pupil explained the importance of knowing about world faiths so that, 'We get to know about other religions and how we all talk to God.'

The use of *Questful RE* and *Understanding Christianity* strengthens the school's core values and vision and reflects the *Church of England Statement of Entitlement*. The RE leader ensures that the subject maintains a high profile and stimulates pupils' interest and enjoyment. She provides support to staff and monitors the subject well so that pupils benefit from their learning. The school is looking forward to the appointment of one of the staff to the new post of school chaplain, a role they feel will further support the involvement of pupils in RE and collective worship.

VA ONLY

The effectiveness of RE is Good

RE is well led with teaching reflecting the school's vision statement. It is enhanced by good professional development and a range of useful resources. Pupils understand that Christianity is a global world faith. Their learning about this and other world faiths prepares them well for life in our diverse global society and helps them develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. The RE leader provides effective support and guidance to staff and through effective monitoring. The school is working hard to include more enquiry-based learning. This enables pupils to share and discuss their own thoughts and ideas whilst respecting those of others. Assessment is used well to identify next steps in learning. Consequently, teaching of RE is good and all pupils, including the most vulnerable make good progress. RE outcomes are similar to those in other areas of the curriculum.

Headteacher	Katie Hague
Inspector's name and number	Stephen Burrow 622

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