

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Ann's Church of England Primary School

Address	View Road, Rainhill, Prescot, Merseyside L35 0LQ		
Date of inspection	11 July 2019	Status of school	Academy inspected as Voluntary Aided Three Saints Academy Trust
Diocese / Methodist District	Liverpool	URN	104800

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	Excellent

School context

St Ann's is a larger than average primary school with 420 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. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is in line with national averages. The headteacher is well established at the school. Since the last inspection, the school has joined the Three Saints Academy Trust.

The school's Christian vision

'But those who trust in the Lord, they will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles...'
Isaiah 40:31
'Together, we aim high: with God's love, we can fly'

Key findings

- All leaders demonstrate a passion for implementing a steadfast Christian vision that profoundly transforms the lives of its pupils academically and spiritually.
- St Ann's embraces excellent academic rigour by working with all pupils to achieve their God-given potential within an innovative and engaging curriculum.
- The whole school works tirelessly to support and promote equality and inclusion. Pastoral support for pupils, and support for families, is exemplary. As a result, relationships and partnerships are exceptionally strong at all levels enabling all pupils to flourish.
- Collective worship is inspiring and at the heart of the school community. There are many innovative opportunities for pupils and adults to develop spiritually.
- Religious education plays a central role in the life of the school. Carefully planned experiences, designed to deepen pupils' understanding, lead to high levels of understanding of Christianity and other major world faiths.

Areas for development

- To embed and develop the variety of innovative opportunities provided to pupils to plan and lead worship.
- To consolidate and build on the high standards of this church school during the forthcoming leadership transition.

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

St Ann's is an exceptional Christian school. School leaders are passionate about the school's well-established Christian values which are founded on the carefully chosen Christian vision. Pupils are inspiring in their ability to articulate biblical references relating to their school's vision and values. They apply these beliefs to all relationships and attitudes to work, at home and at school. One parent said, 'Children bring their learning home, in the way they are with others.' The vision, 'Together, we aim high: with God's love, we can fly' is aspirational and inclusive. This perfectly encapsulates how the school ensures that everyone can make the most of their God-given talents. Consequently, behaviour in the school is excellent and incidents of bullying are extremely rare. Pupils develop a deep love of learning and achieve highly. Leaders are fully committed to continuous improvement and have implemented a rigorous self-evaluation framework. It ensures that the school's vision and values are at the heart of all decision making. Development plans demonstrate that leaders have carefully considered the latest thinking in church school education. Subsequently, the school's inclusive practice is highly effective. Being part of the Three Saints Academy Trust enables the school to lead the local Religious Education (RE) hub. As a result, they support the development of innovative RE practice across a number of schools. An excellent example of this is in their use of persona dolls to support pupils' understanding of different world faiths.

All within the school strive to provide excellent educational practice. The love and concern of staff and governors for pupils and their families is tangible. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of all that the school does. They are full of praise for the impact that the school has upon their children's development academically, socially, morally and spiritually. A parent commented, 'This school could not have supported my child more in building their confidence and helping them to shine.' Initiatives such as lunch club, the offer of school counselling and lego therapy support pupils well in their time of need. Pupils speak passionately about the opportunities provided to all pupils no matter the challenges that they face. They appreciate and welcome the opportunity to influence change through their roles of responsibility. One excellent example being the 'super leader' initiative which is driven by the school's vision. Consequently, pupils are confident and aim high in all that they do.

Senior leaders have created a talented and harmonious staff team. Morale is high because staff know that they are supported personally, spiritually and professionally. A member of staff commented, 'The sense of family is overwhelming in this special place.' Staff benefit from on-going professional development which is carefully selected to meet the identified needs within the school. One example of this is the diocesan-led training on worship which has empowered staff to deliver innovative class-led worship. The vastly experienced RE lead has been a huge inspiration in the development of RE across the school. She ensures that the subject is given high priority and that practice across school is excellent.

The school's ambitious Christian vision is effectively promoted through their innovative and inclusive school curriculum. Exceptional consideration has gone into developing and implementing a curriculum that transforms pupils' aspirations. This encourages a deep respect for difference and diversity. All pupils, including the most vulnerable, make rapid academic progress by the time they leave the school. Leaders maintain that this is due to the unremitting emphasis on promoting positive and ambitious attitudes to learning. Teachers regularly explore spiritual and ethical issues both planned and unplanned. Big questions are woven into the curriculum, especially through thoughtfully planned RE provision. For example, Year 6 were asked about how they thought the fishermen felt and why when Jesus asked them to follow him. Pupils answered thoughtfully and confidently. The school's Christian vision inspires a wide range of initiatives that challenge injustice. Their desire to ensure that all 'aim high' influences their support for Africa's Children in Education charity. Pupils talk passionately about the influence they have on the choice of charities supported by the school. The school's innovative Worldwide Wednesday Worship provides a powerful opportunity for pupils to explore situations of injustice and inequality. This is linked closely to their well-planned learning throughout the curriculum. Pupils articulate their deep understanding of Christian values. They talk passionately about life lessons that they have learned. When explaining courage, one pupil said, 'God's always giving me an extra mindset.' Another pupil explained the importance of the Christian value of forgiveness to them.

Pupils are enthusiastic and animated learners because they are inspired by their learning. They are confident and can articulate their thoughts superbly because of the opportunities they are provided with to develop their oracy

skills. Pupils are able to disagree well. Many pupils say they love RE. It is taught in an engaging way that inspires and excites pupils. Many argue it is their favourite subject because they get the chance to think about religion and the way it impacts on people's lives. Pupils show a mature respect for other faiths. They use religious vocabulary with confidence and an impressive level of accuracy.

Inclusive and inspirational collective worship is at the heart of school life. It is carefully planned, allowing exploration of the school's vision and values in a variety of engaging ways. The strong and effective link with the church actively supports the worship, prayer and spiritual life of the school. Pupils enjoy regular worship in church. They appreciate Anglican traditions, such as the use of liturgical greetings at the beginning of worship. Pupils value the opportunity to participate in the Eucharist. One pupil commented, 'It helps us to connect with God.' Pupils speak confidently about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and how worship supports this knowledge. Many speak of worship 'hooking' them in and being mind-provoking. A pupil said, 'Worship influences me to try to be a better person.' The exceptional practice of Year 6 leading 'Worship of Worth' (WOW) is valued by pupils across the school. Staff comment that through worship they feel uplifted. One member of staff said, 'It sets the tone for the rest of the day.' Prayer and reflection are key elements of daily worship. Prayer spaces are used effectively around the school and are part of everyday life. As a result, pupils are confident to pray spontaneously. The monitoring and evaluation of worship is excellent. Consequently, the RE and worship team ensure evaluation positively impacts on provision.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

Consistently outstanding teaching challenges and supports pupils' exploration of religious beliefs and practices. Driven by the school's vision to aim high, standards are at least in line with other core subjects.

The school ensures that all groups of pupils flourish academically in RE. This includes vulnerable pupils, who make at least good progress against expected standards. The effective and systematic monitoring and assessment systems are accurate. As a result of the information obtained from the monitoring of RE, practice is constantly improving.

Headteacher	Rebecca Wilkinson
Inspector's name and number	Rachel Pimblett 961