

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

Address	Union Road, Rochdale, OL12 9QA		
Date of inspection	7 February 2019	Status of school	Voluntary Controlled Primary School
Diocese	Manchester	URN	144690

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 Judgement		
The impact of collective worship	Grade	Excellent

School context

St Andrew's Primary School has 407 pupils on roll. The school has a 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 above the national average whilst the percentage of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is below national averages. The school is a member of the Wardle Multi Academy Trust. Since the last inspection there has been an extensive building programme taking the school from one form to two form entry.

The school's Christian vision

We value our kind and caring school, which looks inwards to love and care for all our children and adults, and outwards to the community it serves. We work hard to achieve the best we can in our learning and through the development of our characters. We are a gentle school, committed to our Christian ethos, yet determined in our ambition for all our children.

We embrace life in all its fullness with Jesus at the heart, knowing St Andrew's will always be in our hearts.

Key findings

- The Christian vision permeates every aspect of the school's daily life. It is understood and articulated 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.
- The outstanding Christian leadership of the headteacher and deputy headteacher, with excellent support from staff and governing body, demonstrates a clear Christian vision.
- The Gospel message, delivered through the school's vision enables all pupils to achieve their full potential through nurture, high quality teaching and deep care for each other.
- All members of the school community are treated with Christian dignity and respect. The nurturing ethos ensures that every individual feels safe and valued as a unique child of God. There are excellent relationships across the school and pupils' attitudes are highly positive. Consequently, behaviour is outstanding.
- Collective worship and religious education (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.

Areas for development

- To develop pupils' involvement in planning and leading worship, sharing and discussing ideas in order to further enrich their experience of worship.
- Develop outdoor quiet spaces so that all members of the school family have additional support for reflection and personal growth.

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. It has clear practical implications for the daily life of the whole community and underpins everything the school does. As the chair of governors stated, 'All members of staff are living the gospel values. They are demonstrated and lived out and the children can see this.' The 'Ethos Thread' which physically threads throughout the school also reinforces this. St Andrew's is aspirational and inclusive, creating a family in which everyone is cherished and challenged to achieve the very best they can. Aspirations Week specifically celebrates this. Pupils are inspired through the work of the aspiration and enrichment co-ordinator to focus on their ambitions for the future. Leaders are totally committed to continuous improvement. The extremely thorough cycle of self-evaluation engages all members of the school community, whilst ensuring that the school's Christian vision and values are at the heart of everything. Staff, pupils and parents value the school highly because of the strong sense of belonging and inclusivity where everyone feels an integral part of the ethos. The headteacher and deputy headteacher demonstrate inspirational Christian leadership that ensures senior leaders and staff understand current practice in Church school education. Staff morale is high because they know that they are supported both personally and professionally at all levels. As one teacher stated, 'This is our work family and we are always there for each other.' Priority is given to the development of collective worship and RE. The school has strong links with the other Trust schools and with Manchester Diocese, which ensures appropriate professional development and support as the school lives out its Christian vision.

Governors are very closely involved in the life of the school. Their visits and the detailed information they receive from the headteacher ensures very well informed decision making. They hold senior leaders to account in driving forward the school's academic standards as well as ensuring that the Christian vision is lived out fully in every area of school life. There are strong links between the school and church. As result the school is very much part of the wider church family which is at the heart of the local community and its related activities.

The school's Christian vision and values underpin all relationships. As the headteacher explained, 'Our Ethos Thread running throughout our school, binds us together and emphasises that that we are one.' Extremely supportive relationships based on forgiveness and reconciliation exist between all members of the school family. As a result, behaviour is outstanding and Christian love and care can be felt throughout the school. The school's Christian vision supports the character and moral development of pupils extremely well and allows them to flourish in all areas of learning. Everyone is treated as an individual within an extremely safe and supportive environment in which they can progress and grow in confidence. The mental health and wellbeing of all members of the school community is a priority. The Sex and Relationships curriculum and Personal, Social, Health Education programme, promote emotional wellbeing and high self-esteem. Pupils are encouraged to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school and in the community. Staff and parents agree that children are happy at school. Parents speak highly of the school's commitment to supporting families and meeting the learning and emotional needs of their children. The inclusion manager, family worker and family liaison officer provide invaluable support to both pupils and their families. They have built up very strong relationships with families based on mutual trust and respect, showing that the school cares for them as well as their children. They provide the bridge between home and school. As one parent commented, 'We made the right choice because the ethos of the school is to respect everyone, whoever they are.' There is respect for all religions without prejudice and all faiths are valued. 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 charities and pupils' involvement leads to a deeper understanding of poverty, disadvantage and deprivation.

Collective worship is at the heart of the school and central to its daily life. It is very well planned with themes developed around the school's core values, the Bible, the church year 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 three candles lit on the worship table and 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 get closer to God'. The lighting of candles reinforces on a daily basis that Jesus is always with us and messages from worship provide a clear focus for daily reflection. In addition to exploring the Christian faith, worship enables pupils to have an understanding of the beliefs and practices of other world religions. As a result, 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. One pupil commented,

'Prayer is a way to communicate with God. You can talk to him about anything and he will listen.' The well established and enthusiastic pupil ethos team meets regularly with the RE leader and vicar to discuss and evaluate worship themes. They are very much involved in decision making. Staff are involved in the planning of worship and there are effective procedures in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of worship. However, the school recognises that there is an untapped opportunity to involve pupils more in the planning and delivery of worship. The school environment, with engaging displays and biblical verses, stimulates pupils and reinforces the development of their spirituality. Well used reflection areas, monitored by the ethos team and vicar, are placed in corridors and classrooms, offering places for stillness and prayerful contemplation. The school does not yet, however, have outdoor provision for prayer and reflection. The vicar is a regular visitor to school, leading worship and working with the ethos team. Pupils regularly celebrate Eucharist in church with church members. This reinforces the strong bond which exists between the school and church. There are also strong links with other Anglican schools in the Rochdale area, providing an outward facing dimension to the school's work. The 'We Are One' project celebrated this.

The Christian vision shapes the way decisions are made regarding the curriculum. RE provision is integral to the school's vision and strengthens the school's core values. A combination of the Questful RE syllabus, Understanding Christianity and enquiry based learning ensures that pupils have rich and deep learning experiences. It develops their knowledge of Christianity and also other major world faiths. In lessons observed on the day of the inspection pupils were very much involved in sharing and discussing their own thoughts and ideas. The use of 'Big Questions' encourages pupils to learn to discuss and disagree in ways that engender tolerance and respect. The RE leader ensures that the subject maintains a high profile, is well resourced and stimulates pupils' interest and enjoyment. She monitors the subject well so that pupils benefit from stimulating learning. Teaching draws upon pupils' own experiences and creates a safe space where they explore their own and others' religious beliefs. Because teaching of RE is always of a high standard, it inspires pupils' understanding and engagement and so all pupils make good or better progress in RE and achieve outcomes in line other core subjects. As a result of very good professional development opportunities and the outstanding support provided by the subject leader, staff feel very confident in their teaching of RE.

Headteacher	Judith Rainford
Inspector's name and number	Stephen Burrow 622