



## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St John's Church of England VC Primary School, Longsight	
Address	Clarence Road, Longsight, Manchester, M13 0YE
School vision	
<p>"Let all that you do be done in love". Corinthians 16:12</p> <p>We aim to serve our community by providing an education of the highest quality that nurtures and inspires children to become lifelong learners as well as compassionate individuals. We strive to create an inclusive and stimulating environment where love, community, hope, wisdom and dignity are the guiding Christian values embedded in everything we do.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christian vision drives decision making and actions. It unifies the community as adults and pupils articulate its positive impact on their lives. As a result, the school is a haven of Christian love, a safe space for those who enter.</li> <li>• The strong partnerships with Manchester Diocese and the St John Chrysostom federation enrich the life of the school. They provide inspiration, guidance and support for many aspects of school life. Therefore, helping pupils and adults to flourish.</li> <li>• Leaders ensure a rich variety of learning experiences celebrating the local area. These give pupils a sense of pride in their local community and the city of Manchester.</li> <li>• Collective worship is central to the spiritual life of the school. It provides moments of joy, reflection and learning. Opportunities for reflection are woven into the school day, Because of this, there is a strong understanding of spirituality.</li> <li>• The religious education (RE) curriculum is both inspirational and challenging. Consequently, pupils confidently and respectfully articulate their understanding of religions and worldviews and how these impact the lives of followers.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create spaces outside of the classroom for self-directed stillness and reflection. This will deepen and enhance spiritual experiences.</li> <li>• Initiate opportunities for pupils to independently engage in social action both at a local and wider level. Thus, enabling them to believe they can become global agents for change.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>St John's throws open its gates every morning with smiles and sounds of welcome for all who enter. This happy, inclusive school serves its diverse community with an abundance of Christian love and</p>	



service. Not only a place of learning, it provides its families with help in many aspects of life. It is rightly held in high regard by its community as a beacon of hope.

The Christian vision drives decision making and is woven into all aspects of school life. Leaders and staff are passionate in providing the very best for their pupils. They seek out innovative solutions and are constantly searching for ways to improve outcomes for all. Belonging to the federation brings positive change as the two schools work together sharing the same vision. This strengthens cohesion and understanding of purpose. The sharing of ideas and resources enriches the school, providing many opportunities for career development. The governing body is robust in its support for the school. It monitors all aspects of school life with diligence. This ensures that the school remains true to its Christian foundation, serving its diverse community with sensitivity and love.

Leaders create bespoke learning opportunities to enrich the lives of pupils and promote a sense of aspiration. Many activities promote a sense of pride in their local community and a greater awareness of their city of Manchester. The study of inspirational people is woven into many subjects. Pupils learn how these people, who often come from challenging beginnings, have had a positive impact on the world. This encourages them to believe that they can also achieve great things. There are many opportunities for pupils to develop their interests and talents, including a diverse range of after school clubs. The wide range of interventions help the most vulnerable to succeed both academically and socially. As a result, pupils thrive.

Leaders ensure that the spiritual development of staff and pupils is a priority. There is a common understanding of spirituality which helps them to express their feelings and beliefs. In classrooms the well used reflection areas allow pupils space for quiet contemplation. There is also a designated quiet area for staff to use. However, there are no designated quiet spaces for pupils outside of the classrooms which limits opportunity for spontaneous reflection. Collective worship is a joyous time of the day. The hall is a welcoming place with an exquisitely crafted worship table and inspirational artwork on the walls. It exemplifies the high value placed on worship in the school. Everyone is invited to join in with worship in the way best suited for them. There are times of stillness and reflection, songs and learning. Discussions are thought provoking and extend back into classrooms where pupils explore the themes in more detail. Beautifully presented class worship books, organised by the worship champions, help communicate thoughts and ideas. These are often used as inspiration for times of independent reflection. As a result, both individual spirituality and a sense of togetherness are well developed.

Staff and pupil wellbeing is high on the agenda. Staff recognise that at times, their job can be difficult and stressful, but feel supported by leaders and governors. They are urged to talk about concerns and a positive life outside of school is promoted. As a result, they feel valued and appreciated. The Christian values help define everyday life in school. They inspire positive relationships and serve as a reminder of how to live successfully together. Pupils are taught to resolve differences through discussion and to respect each other. Because of this, a strong feeling of unity and community runs throughout the school. Pupils are encouraged to discuss their fears with a trusted adult. Worry boxes are provided in classrooms as another means of communication between pupil and teacher. This means they know that there is always someone there to talk to. Leaders have forged positive partnerships with experts in child mental health and special educational needs. As a result, the most vulnerable pupils are given the right help at the time of need, furthering their life chances. Times on the playground are happy ones, despite space being limited. Staff on duty ensure that pupils are engaged in productive play and take the time to further relationships. Consequently, life in school is full of joy, love and a sense of belonging to something special.

The school holds the silver award for the United Nations Rights Respecting Schools. This helps pupils

understand the importance of human rights and that for everyone to enjoy these, comes responsibility. Pupils are encouraged to become leaders and voice their opinions through the school council, worship champions and wellbeing warriors. These roles are held in high esteem and pupils know their work is important and that their voices are heard. Pupils are involved in helping others, the local foodbank being supported by the school. Pupils are also involved in raising funds for other charities such as 'Mary's Meals'. At present, they are not engaged in leading this. Therefore, opportunities for them to develop as independent agents for change are limited.

The RE curriculum has been developed in partnership with the Manchester Diocese and is regularly reviewed by staff and leaders. Staff receive training from both the diocese and the federation which keeps skills and knowledge up to date. There is a careful sequence of knowledge, skills and concepts to secure a growing understanding. This means pupils have a strong knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of faiths and worldviews. They are able to talk about the importance of sacred scriptures and the meaning behind some of the stories. They understand what it means to have a faith and how this impacts the lives of followers. They thoughtfully describe the benefits and challenges that this can bring. Pupils talk respectfully, and recognise that knowing about different beliefs helps in understanding others. They also explore moral and ethical issues with maturity and open mindedness. Consequently, pupils here have a thorough understanding of the subject.

These inspection findings indicate that St John's Church of England (VC) Primary School is living up to its foundation as a church school.

Information			
Inspection date	8 July 2024	URN	105504
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	489
Diocese	Manchester		
MAT/Federation	St John Chrysostom Federation		
Executive Headteacher	Gareth Elswood		
Chair	Miranda Hall		
Inspector	Lesley Montgomery	No.	2243