

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Luke's Church of England Primary School, Heywood	
Address	Queens Park Road, Heywood, OL10 4XB

School vision

St. Luke's CE primary school provides a journey to discover 'life in all its fullness', John 10:10, where children flourish, are happy and succeed. Our distinct Christian values: friendship, love, trust, patience, forgiveness and respect are woven throughout the day, the learning, gathering and school. Our Christian values are connected to our vision and we aim for the school community to flourish without barriers.

School strengths

- The carefully crafted Christian vision is deeply embedded. The shared commitment to the vision supports the flourishing of pupils and adults within a warm, nurturing and welcoming environment.
- Leaders, including governors, effectively monitor the school as a Church school. Impactful decisions, guided by the vision, are made to support all pupils, including the vulnerable or disadvantaged.
- Leadership is supportive and nurturing, and wellbeing is a priority. Positive interactions throughout the school environment exemplify this culture.
- Thoughtful and inclusive collective worship provides valuable opportunities for all pupils to grow and flourish.
- High quality religious education (RE) and effective, supportive leadership enables the delivery of a curriculum that is broad and relevant. Effective monitoring results in continuous development and improvement.

Areas for development

- Extend pupils' knowledge of global issues to enhance their experience and development as courageous advocates for justice.
- Enable pupils to engage in wider planning of collective worship themes to enhance their opportunities for spiritual development.
- Work with the local clergy to develop and strengthen the ethos group work in school. This is so that the school community can benefit from a wider range of collective worship.

Inspection findings

St Luke's is a warm, nurturing and welcoming school. The Christian vision is carefully crafted to meet the needs of the community it serves. The school is ambitious and determined to support pupils to be happy and successful in line with the vision. A wide range of opportunities, offered within the curriculum and through wider partnerships, support this vision. Leaders make decisions relevant to the context of the school, looking to secure current needs while preparing pupils for the future. Leaders intentionally create policies and practices to enable everyone to flourish. Governors support

leaders to keep the vision central through robust monitoring and evaluation. Everyone shares a determination to improve life chances for pupils. They are the first school in the area to launch breaking barriers films dealing with challenging social issues. Staff speak highly of the excellent support they receive. They describe working at St Luke's as being part of a family. They flourish, because they know leaders care deeply about their wellbeing.

Visionary leadership has responded to the specific needs of the school community. The curriculum is designed to support pupils in achieving life in all its fullness. It is delivered both inside the classroom and outside in dedicated areas of school grounds and forest school. The determination to provide positive learning experiences, designed to support successful, happy pupils, underpins the creative curriculum. It is sensitively adapted to meet the needs of all. Leadership ensures pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are included in the classroom where possible. Pupils benefit from the decisions leaders have made about funding when considering their needs. One impact is the development of the nurture room. As a consequence of this inclusive strategy pupils with complex needs have opportunities to flourish in a 1:1 environment. Further opportunities for growth and flourishing are offered through an extensive range of enrichment activities. These creative, wider opportunities firmly support the vision.

Collective worship is the heartbeat of the school and an integral part of the school day. The programme is carefully planned with the school's vision and values woven through the weekly calendar. The windows, mirrors and doors concept is used to support spiritual development. It enables pupils and staff to consider the wider world and reflect on their own actions and behaviours. As a consequence of the structured routines, pupils willingly contribute their own reflections to the 'summing up book' during wider school worship. Forest school provides further opportunity for the development of enquiring minds. The wide range of activities include reflecting on Bible passages and writing prayers. Pupils enjoy this opportunity to experience faith in different ways and spaces. Pupils in the ethos group have worked with leaders to develop creative ways to share worship with pupils in the nurture room. They talk with great pride about this unique opportunity to support the spiritual growth of others.

Within the school, each child is known and seen as an individual. Development of the whole pupil is nurtured and shaped through every interaction, underpinned by the core Christian values. Pupils enjoy attending the school. This is seen through excellent behaviour and positive relationships across the community. Committed pastoral support is central to the school approach to wellbeing. Through efficient systems, effective interventions to support mental health and wellbeing are provided to support the flourishing of the pupils. An example of the school's sensitive approach to pupil wellbeing is the attention given to changing year groups. As a result of thoughtful activities pupils are enthusiastic about transition, and parents are reassured. Parents speak warmly about all the school has to offer. They rightly agree that values are accessible to all and encourage pupils to be 'good humans'. The comments received by St Luke's shows the impact of the ethos beyond the school building. One parent remarked, 'The things you are teaching my child about God have made him think about how to show respect and kindness at home'. Encouraged by the awards given in school, pupils are keen to show the values in their lives. Awards also encourage children to see that they can make a positive contribution to society. For example, the school recently received a Britain in Bloom award for engaging pupils in work with the local community.

Pupils are encouraged to become active citizens and make a difference in the wider world. They engage in regular opportunities to learn about charities, local and wider global issues. Underpinning these activities is the vision for the school community to flourish without barriers. These activities encourage pupils to make positive contributions to society recognising and responding to different needs. For example, the school recently linked with the local care home, enabling young and old to increase their understanding of each other. Year 6 pupils were inspired in a geography lesson to

think about living well with neighbours in the community. As a result, they have initiated a local road safety campaign. The wider community work is underpinned by the school's vision and values. Pupils are encouraged to live life in all its fullness and actively support others to do this. St Luke's also has a strong, supportive relationship with the diocese which enhances their ethos.

RE leaders are enthusiastic, ensuring the subject has high profile. The consistency of approach in RE and across the wider curriculum supports pupil growth, development and spirituality. It also enables those with more specific needs to feel safe and secure with established routines throughout the school. Lessons are well planned, engaging and challenging. A robust monitoring and evaluation system is in place. This ensures an accurate picture of the quality being delivered. Staff receive excellent, supportive professional development. Pupils confidently articulate knowledge of the Bible and are able to respond to big questions. Through effective teaching, pupils develop a deep respect for a range of religions. Strong links with governors, who give valued support, are positively welcomed. Thoughtful planning has ensured a curriculum that is engaging and sequenced to maximise learning for pupils. The same techniques used in collective worship are incorporated into RE and wider curriculum as part of pupils' reflection on spirituality. The concept of big questions used in RE is also woven into other subjects. This supports a consistency of learning ethos across the wider school.

The inspection findings indicate that St Luke's Church of England Primary school is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	18 January 2024	URN	105805
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	386
Diocese	Manchester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Kim Farrall		
Chair	Lynne Coxell		
Inspector	Tina Astley	No.	2205