

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Greenfield St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Address	Manchester Road, Greenfield, Oldham, OL3 7DW		
Date of inspection	21 June 2019	Status of school	Voluntary aided
Diocese	Manchester	URN	I05723

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 Mary's is a primary school with 210 pupils on roll. A large majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is well below the national average. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is below national averages. The school received a judgement of Good from Ofsted in February 2019.

The school's Christian vision

We enjoy learning and achieving in a Christian environment and aim to be the best that we can be in the eyes of God; developing all members of our community into lifelong learners that foster faith, hope and love.

Key findings

- The school and church, working in a close partnership, have created a deeply Christian community where all, children and adults alike, feel valued and supported.
- Governors are proactive in ensuring that the Christian foundation of the school is maintained and developed.
- Leaders are committed to a holistic curriculum that recognises the school's context and widens pupils' experience and understanding of the wider world and more diverse communities.
- Collective worship is valued by all members of the school community as a time to reflect on the school's Christian values and to relate those to current events.
- Pupils enjoy religious education (RE) and talk enthusiastically about how the subject challenges and inspires them.

Areas for development

- Make the school's vision and values and their roots in biblical teaching more explicit on the school's website to inform future parents and other members of the community.
- Continue to develop pupils understanding of diversity and disadvantage to prepare them for life in modern society.

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

Leaders share a clear vision for the school as a caring Christian community where pupils develop as life-long learners and become ambassadors in the local area and beyond. The SCARF values of Safety, Caring, Achievement, Respect and Friendship are underpinned by biblical references and displayed around the school. The emphasis on Christian values has led to the creation of a warm and inclusive community where all feel a sense of belonging. This is enhanced by a very close and mutually supportive relationship with St. Mary's church. This sense of belonging leads to a high retention rate for staff and to continued involvement with the school by many pupils and their parents after they have left. Pupils, for example, talk about how their former buddies keep in touch for years, long after they have moved on to high school.

Parents appreciate that the school treats each child as an individual, celebrating their unique gifts and talents. The support given by the respected headteacher is greatly valued by parents and staff. The school also values the contribution made by parents. A teacher described as 'uplifting' the support offered by several families one weekend to clear and reorganise the outdoor area for the Reception Class. There is a strong sense of families, school and church all working together for the benefit of the children. This is promoted by initiatives such as a family picnic for new Reception families and their Year 6 buddies and regular homework projects.

Church and school are at the heart of the local community. Governors are very committed to the school and feel accountable to the local church and community for the preservation of its strong Christian foundation. They are proactive in monitoring, evaluating and promoting the Christian ethos of the school. Many governors are actively involved in St. Mary's Church and the church and school together organise community events such as an annual Christmas Fair.

Leaders offer pupils a broad and balanced curriculum, enhanced by trips and visits and with a wide range of extra-curricular activities available. As a result of the rich and stimulating curriculum and good teaching pupils progress well and attainment is high. They enjoy school and are well supported to achieve their best and to have high aspirations for the future. These are also fostered by activities such as a Year 6 business project, where pupils choose a charity to support and then plan, make and sell a product in a local store. Membership of a partnership of local schools has provided valuable opportunities for staff collaboration and development in addition to opportunities for pupils to benefit from interschool art and sporting activities. Good professional development opportunities have enabled two previous deputy headteachers to move on to lead Church of England schools.

The school's context means that pupils have little experience of diversity and disadvantage. Participation in a link project enables pupils from Year 3 to have a year-long connection with pupils in two other Oldham primary schools in very different faith and socio-economic contexts. Through visits, letters and joint projects the pupils come to know each other and to form friendships. Pupils also develop an understanding of global issues through initiatives such as a Year 6 globalisation project, sponsorship of a child in Africa, an annual Cultural Diversity Week and regular reference to current events in collective worship. As a result they demonstrate a good understanding of current issues and are articulate about problems such as plastic pollution, mental health and homelessness. They are actively seeking to reduce the use of plastic in school and have written to local companies about their use of plastic packaging.

The consistent emphasis on Christian values as a basis for behaviour and relationships has resulted in an atmosphere of mutual trust and support where all can flourish. Disagreements are, where possible, resolved through restorative approaches, although the school's Behaviour Policy does not perhaps fully reflect current practice. Pupils were reflective when asked about the reasons for their good behaviour. One suggested that she would be 'disappointed with myself' if she misbehaved. Instances of bullying or of prejudicial language or behaviour are rare and are effectively dealt with.

Pupils respond positively to lively and varied acts of collective worship. Collective worship is also used to raise awareness of and reflect upon current issues. Time for prayer and reflection is a significant feature of worship and staff and pupils commented on how they value the time to think and be still at the start of each day and

during lunchtime and home time prayers. One pupil commented, 'It's a way of talking to God - if you are upset, he will help you.' Pupils talk enthusiastically about worship led by the local minister and by Groundbreakers, a Manchester City Mission project. Pupils plan and lead worship through the school council and on regular visits to St. Mary's Church for major festivals and services such as Education Sunday. These visits are well attended by parents who value the opportunity to share in worship. Annual participation in a local Posada project with other schools also enhances the involvement of families and the local community in shared worship. Regular evaluation of worship, led by the governors, has led to changes designed to develop pupils' understanding of Anglican liturgy and practice, for example the use of liturgical colours on the assembly table.

The well qualified and experienced RE leader, with the support of senior leaders and governors, has been successful in ensuring that RE plays a key role in pupils' spiritual development, enabling them to develop as curious and reflective learners. Lively and varied teaching allows pupils to explore issues and to relate religious teaching to their own lives. The syllabus effectively weaves the study of other major world religions into teaching on Christianity enabling pupils to make links between philosophies and practices. Teaching is enhanced by regular visit to places of worship such as a mosque, synagogue and a Moravian Settlement. Statutory obligations are met for both collective worship and RE.

Excellent leadership over time has enabled the school, through its links with the church, to become the heart of a Christian community where all are valued and supported and where, as a parent commented, pupils develop 'love for each other, their school and the environment.'



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

Teachers use a variety of strategies such as drama and discussion in well-planned lessons that pupils respond to with enthusiasm. Less able pupils are well supported by teaching assistants and through the provision of more discursive and practical tasks requiring a verbal rather than written response. Regular monitoring by the RE lead and governors, one of whom is a member of the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, enables the school to have an accurate understanding of the quality of teaching and learning in RE. This together with a well-established and manageable system of assessment allows the school to have confidence in its judgment that last year 20% of Year 6 pupils were working at greater depth. Governors are proactive in developing provision further for example through preparation for the RE Quality Mark.

Headteacher	Suzanne Hall
Inspector's name and number	Carolyn Whiteway 933