

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

<b>Childwall Church of England Primary School</b>			
Address	Woolton Road, Liverpool, L16 0JD		
Date of inspection	21 November 2019	Status of school	Voluntary aided primary
Diocese	Liverpool	URN	104625

<b>Overall Judgement</b>	How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>Additional Judgements</b>	<b>The impact of collective worship</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<b>The effectiveness of religious education (RE)</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

### School context

Childwall is a primary school with 423 pupils on roll. The 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 below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below national averages. The school serves a large catchment area with a wide range of needs.

### The school's Christian vision

'And the child grew and became strong; He was full of wisdom and God's blessings were upon Him.'

We strive, with God's grace, to enable every child to grow academically, socially, morally, spiritually and culturally in the knowledge that they are loved by God and are safe and valued within our school community. Our core Christian values are woven through our curriculum and wider school ethos to fully prepare each of our children to achieve the highest holistic outcomes.

### Key findings

- The school's ambitious and inclusive Christian vision shapes every aspect of school life. It motivates and inspires pupils and adults to do their very best, enabling all to flourish.
- School leaders make bold and ethical decisions promoting equality of opportunity, rooted in biblical teaching. As a result, pupils grow in wisdom and character, including the most vulnerable. They challenge injustice and are courageous advocates for change, particularly in the local community.
- Well-being is a cornerstone of school life. Mutual support for all members of the school community is highly valued and respect for diversity is deeply embedded. As a result, pupils and adults thrive together in this family centred school.
- Collective worship is highly valued by the whole school community. Varied and rich opportunities to reflect deeply have a significant impact on pupils' spiritual development.
- Religious Education is innovative and inclusive. Leaders make creative decisions to deepen pupils' responses, particularly those who are more vulnerable. As a result, pupils are inspired by RE and have a high level of understanding.

### Areas for development

- Build on existing faith based links with overseas partnerships to widen the school's charitable activities on a global scale.
- Continue to review ways that pupils record their work in RE so that higher attaining pupils fully demonstrate their understanding.

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**

Childwall Church of England Primary School is an inspirational and inclusive Christian school. The school's Christian vision and supporting values shape all aspects of school life. The headteacher, supported by a strongly cohesive staff team, makes bold, ethical decisions, enabling pupils and adults to flourish. Since the last inspection, leaders have comprehensively addressed areas of action and are relentless in their drive for improvement. Close partnerships, notably with parents, the local diocese and church, make a substantial contribution to school development. Leaders, including governors, innovatively use a range of carefully selected awards to drive the school forward. Work towards the Gold Inclusion Chartermark, amongst others, has transformed many areas of school life. Relationships at all levels are exceptionally strong and rooted in biblical teaching. Staff members live out the school's Christian vision and their contribution is highly valued. They are well supported through professional development and see themselves as central in fostering the values of church school education. 'This is a unique and special school,' said one teacher. 'We all feel the presence of the Lord moving here.'

Inspired by Luke 2:40, 'and the child grew...', leaders are passionate about equality of opportunity. To this end, the school's inclusive Christian vision underpins an innovative curriculum. Topics in each year group are effectively linked with Christian values, enabling pupils to explore ethical and spiritual dimensions across the curriculum. Leaders' decision to group pupils more flexibly in the classroom has instilled a spirit of hope and aspiration, particularly with less confident learners. This is significantly strengthened by a range of whole school initiatives developing pupil perseverance and resilience. Pupils are hopeful and know what to do when they face difficulties. They are confident, excited about their learning and achieve highly compared with schools nationally. Social, moral, spiritual and cultural development (SMSC) is woven seamlessly through the curriculum and the school holds the Gold Chartermark for SMSC. As a result, spiritual development is central to school life, enabling all to flourish in this compassionate, family centred community. Leaders work tirelessly to ensure all pupils actively participate in the wider life of school. They enjoy an impressively rich range of clubs and experiences. Consequently, pupils love school and attendance is above the national target.

The school is a beacon of support for the more vulnerable in the local community and passionately supports a range of local causes. Even younger pupils can explain the link between their Christian value of generosity and the schools' contributions to the local foodbank. Joint projects, notably with a neighbouring special school, result in a compassionate school community, committed to inclusion and social justice. Leaders understand the need to extend pupils' understanding of inequality beyond the local area. Teachers build innovative opportunities for debate on current affairs into the school's weekly timetable. Pupils speak movingly about national and global issues in light of their Christian vision, often responding through spontaneous prayer. In one Year 5 class a world map in the reflection area shows pupils' prayers for world communities struck by disaster. Although the school supports many local causes, leaders have rightly identified that their next step is to extend the school's charitable work globally.

Leaders' ambitiously compassionate Christian vision underpins relationships at all levels. Parents and pupils speak about the school as an extended family, with a strong sense of welcome and nurture. Pupils especially value a montage of photographs in the school entrance depicting every family in the school. 'We are all different and unique and loved by God here,' said one pupil. Many initiatives, often led by pupils, contribute to a culture where everyone is valued. Leaders actively partner with outside bodies to spearhead a wide range of well-being initiatives for the whole school community. Pupil well-being ambassadors proactively champion projects around school. The school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies are firmly rooted in the biblical teachings of mutual respect and forgiveness. As a result, pupils are very caring and supportive of each other, one saying, 'We forgive each other here, like Jesus did on the cross.'

Many parents choose the school because of its strong Christian foundation and appreciate how the school promotes individuality. Underpinned by national Church of England guidance, leaders passionately champion diversity. Pupils engage in a rich range of experiences and have an impressive understanding of world faiths and views. Parents from a range of faiths describe how they are made to feel welcome in school. The school is proud

to be named a Liverpool Council 'School of Sanctuary', recognising it as a safe and respectful place for everybody. The school's relationship and sex education policy is guided by the Christian values of love and respect.

Inclusive and engaging, collective worship is central to school life and highly cherished. In this large school, pupils value daily opportunities to come together to sing, pray and reflect. A range of worship leaders, including the local vicar, provide rich and varied opportunities to explore biblical themes based on the school's Christian values. Pupils plan and lead worship regularly. Class worship ambassadors are impressively independent in their planning. One Year 3 pupil confidently described how he searched in the Bible and chose the story of 'Rahab and the Spies' to illustrate the school's Christian value of kindness. Anglican traditions are strong and clearly understood. Older pupils celebrate the Eucharist and show an understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God. Pupils and parents value leaders' recent decision to deepen spiritual reflection in family services. As a result, parents speak convincingly about the impact of collective worship on family life and how pupils often continue to reflect and pray at home.

Religious Education is inspirational and creative. The school's vision and values are woven carefully through the curriculum. Leaders have made innovative decisions about how to capture pupils' responses in imaginative and inclusive ways to ensure all pupils are excited by RE. Pupils who were seen in the past to be less keen to engage in written responses now have a variety of rich opportunities to express their ideas. Teachers use innovative teaching strategies that enable all pupils to show a progressively deeper understanding of theological concepts. In one Year 5 class, for example, pupils used biblical texts to ask challenging questions of God, relating them thoughtfully to their own life experiences.

The Christian vision of this compassionate and inclusive school is deeply embedded in school life. One boy reflected, 'The Bible shows us how to be a good role model and kind to others. That's what we do here.'



### **The effectiveness of RE is Excellent**

The quality of education in RE is exceptional. The RE leader works innovatively in partnership with other schools and the diocese to continually improve the quality of teaching and learning. As a result, pupils say they love RE and reflect on Christianity and other world faiths with deepening understanding. Pupils are extremely proud of their work and achievement is high across the school for all groups. Leaders are not complacent and are now looking at ways to capture even deeper responses from higher attaining pupils.

Headteacher

Wendy Mason

Inspector's name and number

Sue Mawdsley 930

