

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Kirkdale St Lawrence Church of England Primary School	
Address	Fonthill Road, Liverpool, L4 1QD
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision
<p>We are the Kirkdale St. Lawrence CE family. We are a nurturing, safe, inclusive school which is the anchor of our diverse community. Through God's love, we support everyone to flourish spiritually, academically and personally: this is our heartbeat. All are valued for who they are and what they could become.</p> <p>Together, with God in our heart, the path to our dreams will start. (Based on Psalm 20: 4)</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inspirational and reflective Christian leadership of the headteacher, and the commitment of staff and governors, have ignited a transformational process to ensure that every member of the school community can flourish. • The recently reviewed Christian vision and values are already having a significant influence on all aspects of the school's daily life and development. As a result, pupils and adults understand the importance of living out the vision and its biblically rooted values day by day. • Relationships across the school are highly supportive and rooted in a strong sense of community, Christian service and trust. All are treated with dignity and respect. Consequently, every individual feels valued and safe as a unique child of God. Systems to ensure that wellbeing and mental health are a priority are firmly in place for all members of the community. • Invitational and inclusive worship is planned carefully so that pupils experience a rich variety of styles and content. Prayer and stillness are especially key to this. Pupils contribute to worship but do not take a leading role. • Religious education (RE) is led well. Pupils are engaged in and enthusiastic about their learning. The school is in the process of deepening staff knowledge and understanding of the recently revised diocesan syllabus.



Areas for development

- Continue to embed the revised RE syllabus. This will add further rigour and will ensure that all staff are confident in their teaching.
- Develop the role of pupils as leaders of worship. This will deepen their spiritual awareness and understanding of the school's liturgical patterns.
- Facilitate more opportunities for pupils to initiate and lead a range of social action so that they can develop a deeper understanding of how to be courageous advocates against injustice.

Inspection findings

Kirkdale St. Lawrence is a haven of Christian love at the heart of its community. The carefully reviewed Christian vision and values are rooted in an understanding of God's love for all. The headteacher, staff and governing body are exemplary as they live out the vision day by day, serving one another and the community. This can be seen in the provision the school makes for the diverse needs of individual pupils and their families in an area experiencing significant social disadvantage. This includes support through a free breakfast club and family events during holiday periods.

Senior leaders and governors are aspirational in their strategic planning for the development of the school. This results in wise decisions regarding staffing and resources. Improvement plans also include areas for Church school development. This ensures that the school is constantly moving forward in its Christian work and service to the community. All staff take advantage of opportunities to develop their professional knowledge and skills and know that they are greatly valued for their commitment to the school.

The school has strong links with the diocese, church and many outside agencies. The long-standing and highly effective relationship with the parish brings additional insight into the development of Church school life. It reinforces the sense of the school as the 'heartbeat' and 'anchor' of the community. In his role as chair of the governing body, the vicar is fully involved in school life. The school chaplain plays a significant and far-reaching role in the school community. She offers pastoral care and guidance to pupils, staff and families, and contributes to worship and RE. As a result, the church and school partnership enriches and supports the life of the community.

The school's Christian vision and values underpin a desire to provide a rich and relevant curriculum and extra-curricular activities. This ensures that teaching and learning are tailored to the school's context and the individual needs of pupils. The curriculum has recently undergone revision in order to ensure a balanced and creative approach. There is a commitment to broadening experience and aspiration for all pupils. The incorporation of Christian and British values across units of work strengthens and supports pupils' understanding of diversity, equality and difference. Curriculum enhancement through a range of visits and enrichment activities helps to build resilience. The school's vision and core Christian values of hope, thankfulness, courage, compassion and trust have been threaded through the curriculum overview. This ensures that pupils have opportunities to become reflective learners. As a result, their spiritual understanding of and response to the world around them is also fostered. Extra-curricular activities are planned to broaden pupils' interests and aspirations and include a range of sports, music, drama and art. Pupils are excited by the opportunity to explore new interests.

The school's holistic approach to child development and learning ensures that all pupils are able to flourish, believe in themselves and strive to achieve. The calm and loving environment helps pupils to feel secure and grow in confidence. A wide range of intervention strategies, mentoring and nurture support make it possible for individual pupils to engage in learning and do their best. Pupils, including those who are vulnerable or have additional needs, show great resilience and determination as a result of the wealth of support they receive. There are opportunities for pupils to take on roles of responsibility including being members of the school council, junior chaplains and playground buddies. Working towards the Archbishop of York's Young Leaders Award and taking part in Military School are further opportunities to build self-esteem and resilience. Pupils understand the importance of helping others and the school supports a range of local and national charities. Each class chooses a charity for the year, and this engages their interest and desire to help. However, pupils do not yet have a



deeper understanding of being advocates for social justice and equality in a wider context.

The Christian vision and values underpin positive relationships throughout the school and are at the heart of policies and practice. Pupils behave extremely well and are polite and considerate. They understand that the core values help them to be good friends to one another. As a result, they demonstrate compassion and trust in their relationships. They understand the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation when there are disagreements. The school's inclusive and loving ethos sustains positive relationships with parents and carers who feel comfortable and supported as members of the school family. A range of community activities enables families to be more involved in the life of the school and the parish. Support for staff is exceptional, both professionally and personally. The wellbeing offer ensures that all staff feel valued.

Collective worship is central to the daily life of the school. It is inclusive and invitational and reflects the school's Christian vision and values. Planning is thorough and the weekly pattern well-established. This includes biblical teaching, the seasons and festivals of the Church's year and Christian values. The weekly class worship using Picture News resources adds a further dimension and encourages pupils to ask challenging questions. Pupils understand the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit in an age-appropriate way and are reminded of this through the lighting of candles. They become familiar with Anglican patterns of worship through the use of liturgical responses, music, reflection and prayer. Weekly class worship in the school's Sacred Space, led by the school chaplain, gives pupils time to develop a deeper level of contemplation. They value the classroom and outdoor reflection areas. Pupils and adults are able to grow spiritually through these opportunities for deeper prayerfulness. The school community worships in the church for major festivals and contributes to Sunday services at certain points during the year. This further strengthens pupils' understanding of what it means to be part of the wider Christian family.

RE is taught in a creative and investigative way using different teaching styles and resources. Exercise books and floor books show that pupils enjoy a range of activities including written tasks, art and role play. There is an emphasis on using religious text and developing age-appropriate theological language. The safe learning environment encourages pupils to share their opinions and beliefs and they do so with confidence. Partner and group activities further extend discussion and the sharing of ideas.

Kirkdale St. Lawrence is living out its Christian vision in an inspirational and transformational way. In every thought and action, the school clearly demonstrates Christian love and care for everyone.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Good	
	<p>The quality of teaching and learning in RE is consistently good. This is shown through effective monitoring and was verified during the inspection. Pupils make at least good progress and are excited about their learning. A consistent approach to on-going assessment ensures that the needs of all pupils are met.</p>			
Information				
School	Kirkdale St Lawrence Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	8 December 2022	
URN	132176	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Liverpool	Pupils on roll	270	
Headteacher	Jo Campbell			
Chair of Governors	Mike Griffin			
Inspector	Jean Forward	No.	625	