

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St. Anne's (Stanley) Junior Mixed and Infant Church of England School			
Address	Prescot Road, Liverpool L13 3BT		
Date of inspection	16 January 2020	Status of school	Voluntary aided primary
Diocese	Liverpool	URN	104622

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

School context

St. Anne's (Stanley) is a primary school with nursery provision. There are 425 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. The percentage of pupils with English as an additional language is slightly below the national average. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is well above the national average. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is broadly in line with the national average.

The school's Christian vision

At St. Anne's, we provide our children and families with a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment where they feel valued for who they are. With God's guidance we strive for our children to become well-prepared and confident members of the school, wider community and parish. We all come together to learn in a Christian community.

Key findings

- The extremely strong Christian vision permeates every aspect of the school's daily life. It is deeply rooted in an understanding that everyone is a child of God and is worthy of the best the school can give. Together with the core Christian values, the vision ensures that everyone flourishes in a welcoming, inclusive and loving environment.
- Senior leaders demonstrate outstanding Christian leadership and service. They have the support of a strong staff team and committed governors. The latter bring experience and skills to enable them to fulfil their strategic role effectively.
- All members of the school community are treated with Christian dignity and respect. Consequently, relationships are extremely strong. The school's nurturing ethos is exceptional and ensures that every individual feels safe and valued.
- Invitational and inspirational worship lies at the heart of the school day. It supports all members of the community and encourages spiritual reflection and development.
- Exceptional leadership of RE ensures that the subject is taught with commitment and enthusiasm. Pupils experience lively and searching learning and their ideas and opinions are always valued. As a result, they are engaged and feel confident when expressing their views.

Areas for development

- Involving the whole school community, decide upon a suitable Bible quotation to support the strong Christian vision statement. This will complete the careful and considered process the school has undertaken to make its vision explicit and grounded in Christian love.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to visit non-Christian places of worship in order to strengthen their knowledge and understanding of topics covered in the RE syllabus.

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

St. Anne's (Stanley) is exceptional in the way it lives out its Christian vision and values. A governor referred to the Christian vision as a 'living statement, constantly evolving and the foundation of all that happens in the school'. Each core Christian value is linked to its Bible context and pupils constantly refer to these when talking about their learning. The school is committed to meeting the diverse needs of individual pupils and their families in an area experiencing significant social disadvantage. Senior leaders are secure in their knowledge of current thinking in Church school education and all staff take advantage of opportunities to develop their professional and leadership skills. The school has extremely strong links with the diocese, parish church, local schools and many outside agencies. This ensures that Christian distinctiveness, school improvement strategies and provision for the specific needs of all pupils are central to development planning. Governors are involved in the daily life of the school. Systems for monitoring and evaluation are rigorous and as a result, governors are able to offer well-informed challenge and support. The parish priest supports all aspects of Church school distinctiveness and is involved in monitoring and evaluation activities. This collaboration brings additional insight and strengthens the church and school partnership.

The school's Christian vision underpins a creative approach to the curriculum. This ensures that teaching and learning are tailored to the specific needs of all pupils. The curriculum is rich and balanced and includes a commitment to broadening experience and horizons. This includes visits to museums, places of historic interest and specialist music provision. In conjunction with the wealth of extra-curricular activities, these opportunities enrich pupils' lives and learning. As a result, they flourish and are eager to do their best. Inclusion is at the heart of the school's Christian ethos. The wide range of intervention strategies and nurturing enables all pupils to become confident and aspirational learners. A rigorous and unwavering approach to attendance encourages all pupils to value their time in school. Parents speak highly of the many ways in which the Christian ethos is demonstrated day by day. They praise the dedication of the staff and the encouragement and love their children receive.

The school's Christian vision and holistic approach to child development and learning ensure that pupils are able to flourish, believe in themselves and strive to achieve. They say that their teachers 'are ready to help' in every situation. Many pupils show great resilience and perseverance. The school's Christian ethos provides an extremely safe and supportive environment in which they can progress and gain confidence. Pupils have opportunities to grow through leadership roles in the school council, eco council and as worship warriors. They take these responsibilities extremely seriously and the school's Christian vision and values are at the heart of their social interaction. All members of the school community demonstrate Christian compassion and concern for justice in local, national and global settings. The use of the Picture News learning resource provides opportunities to discuss world events and enables pupils to focus on big questions. The school supports a number of local, national and global charities. Pupils' involvement leads to a deeper understanding of poverty and disadvantage. The Christian vision is reflected in the way that the senior leadership team and governors make astute and ethical decisions about resources, always seeking to do the very best for pupils and staff.

The Christian vision and values underpin relationships throughout the school community and are at the heart of policies and practice. Pupils behave extremely well and explain that Christian values and the school's rules encourage everyone to be considerate, kind and forgiving. Pupils say that they feel extremely safe at all times. Parents endorse this and say that the school is a haven of Christian pastoral care not just for pupils but for everyone. They attribute this culture to the school's distinctive Christian ethos and sense of family. The positive approach to equality and valuing difference means that everyone is treated with dignity and respect and their mental health and wellbeing are a priority. The school's mental health strategy extends to all members of staff who speak highly of the support, care and encouragement they receive. As a result, there is a deep-rooted commitment to the work of the school and its Christian identity.

Collective worship is at the heart of school life. It is inclusive and invitational and reflects the school's Christian vision and values. Staff say that it is powerful and contributes to their own spiritual life. Planning is thorough and is rooted in biblical teaching, Christian values and the seasons and festivals of the Church's year. Some pupils are able to explain the nature of the Trinity in age-appropriate terms. They enjoy worship and

participate enthusiastically whilst maintaining a sense of reverence. The worship warriors are developing their skills in planning and leading worship and individual classes have the opportunity to lead worship for their families. Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 experience eucharistic worship and are involved in preparing the liturgy, including readings and intercessions. This gives pupils a strong sense of involvement and responsibility and develops their understanding. Reflection areas in classrooms provide a focal point for contemplation and prayers are said at key points during the school day. As a result, pupils understand the importance of prayer in the lives of people of faith. The parish priest leads worship in school and there are many occasions during the year when pupils celebrate major festivals in the church. This creates a strong link with the worshipping life of the parish and it enriches the joint experience for both communities. All members of the school community contribute to the evaluation process. This informs future development and gives everyone a sense of involvement.

The diocesan syllabus and *Understanding Christianity* resources ensure that pupils have rich learning experiences in RE. These develop their knowledge of Christianity and different world faiths. Pupils have the opportunity to understand the significance of sacred texts and to consider challenging questions. They engage in respectful discussion and collaboration. As a result, pupils are able to reflect on their own and others' religious and spiritual convictions and articulate differing points of view. Pupils also value their learning through creative activities and visits to the church. Opportunities to visit non-Christian places of worship are, however, not fully developed. Parish clergy provide excellent support in RE and this strengthens the link between the school and the church. The subject is well resourced and a professional development programme ensures that staff feel confident about their teaching and subject knowledge.

The core Christian values of honesty, friendship, understanding, hope, confidence and family are deeply embedded in the daily life of this compassionate and inclusive school.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

Under the expert guidance of the subject leader, effective teaching and informative assessment procedures ensure that all pupils, regardless of ability, make at least good progress. As a result, pupils' attainment is in line with that in other subjects and some achieve above age-related expectations. A thorough programme of subject monitoring and involvement in the local diocesan cluster informs the school's areas for development.

Headteacher	Julie Simons
Inspector's name and number	Jean Forward 625