

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Reddish	
Address	Broomfield Drive, Reddish, Stockport, SK5 7DR
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

School's vision
At St. Mary's, we recognise that 'with God all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26). Everyone is valued, respected as an individual and encouraged to achieve their full potential. Our faith, underpinned by our core Christian values of love, respect, creativity, forgiveness and perseverance, is at the heart of school life.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deeply held, aspirational Christian vision and an ambitious programme of Church school improvement shapes the life of this thriving Church school. Adults and pupils feel valued and encouraged to reach their potential. As a result, adults and pupils alike flourish. • The curriculum is underpinned by the values of creativity, respect and perseverance. This encourages high aspirations. Senior leaders formally monitor the impact of the vision and associated values. However, monitoring by subject leaders is more informal. • The highest priority is placed upon continuing professional development. As a result, leaders at all levels understand their roles within a Church school. The actions pupil leaders take are impressive and have a positive impact at Saint Mary's and beyond. • Collective worship is a strength of the school. Creative changes have resulted in worship which now inspires and excites pupils. Pupils are involved in worship but do not yet plan or lead worship. • A creative and exciting religious education (RE) curriculum means that pupils have high levels of subject knowledge, particularly around Christianity as a global religion. Their knowledge of other world religions and viewpoints is less secure.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop and embed the ways that subject leaders monitor the impact of the vision and associated values. This will help to secure the ongoing improvement of the school as a Church school. • Enhance worship by extending the role of the ethos group in planning and evaluating worship. This will support pupils in developing their understanding about the impact of worship. • In RE, continue to deepen pupils' understanding of a range of world religions and viewpoints. This will enable pupils to gain a better understanding of the diverse nature of the world they live in.



Inspection findings

The vision of 'with God all things are possible' is the driving force behind the work of this thriving Church school. As a result of the deeply rooted vision all members of the school community feel empowered to succeed. The associated values of love, respect, creativity, forgiveness and perseverance are lived out by pupils and adults alike, infusing every aspect of school life. Ambitious leaders articulate how the vision and values underpin actions taken to make Saint Mary's the absolute best it can be.

There is a tangible sense of encouragement and high aspirations which permeates all aspects of school life. Positive relationships built on mutual respect and trust demonstrate how the wellbeing of pupils and staff is prioritised. Pupils eloquently describe how the Christian vision teaches them to persevere because there is 'no limit to what they can achieve.' Leaders equally empower adults to grow through a wealth of internal and external training opportunities. As a result, staff morale is high because they feel loved and valued.

The curriculum and wider curriculum have been designed to reflect not only the vision but the context of the school. The creative curriculum recognises the value of disciplines such as drama and art and ensures that the unique, individual gifts of all pupils are celebrated. Leaders have skilfully woven aspects into the curriculum which develop cultural capital. For example, the English curriculum has been reviewed to include authors from a wide range of sociocultural backgrounds. This supports pupils from a predominantly White British background to better understand and respect the diverse nature of their world. Teachers challenge pupils to become independent learners by asking them to consider what they want to learn or achieve. All pupils, including vulnerable pupils demonstrate resilience and perseverance across all aspects of school life. Consequently, they make good progress.

The Christian vision and associated values inspire pupils to take action as courageous advocates. Pupils of all ages feel empowered to make a difference and challenge injustices. The work of the eco group is particularly impressive and has been recognised through an award. Pupils confidently articulate their role as earth stewards and have been instrumental in making improvements to the school and local environment. This work has included creating a bee garden which has been replicated at the church. This is one way in which the impact of pupil leadership extends beyond Saint Mary's. Other examples include supporting initiatives such as Re-Dish, a local charity which collects and redistributes various items to those in need.

Behaviour at Saint Mary's is impressive. Pupils have been equipped with the skills to listen to one another and to respect different opinions. They talk about the importance of forgiveness and link this to the way Jesus lived his life. Parents describe the school as a family and appreciate the way their children are cared for and taught to be empathetic towards others.

Collective worship is inspiring and offers a time for individuals to come together as a family and to be at one with God. Focused questions such as 'does everyone respect God's world?' challenge pupils to think creatively about the world they live in. Pupils understand that worship can take place at any time. Designated spaces throughout school are used by pupils for spontaneous prayer. A coloured bead representing each class provides a powerful symbol of how important the concept of community is to this Church school. The joining of these beads to form a rainbow reminds pupils that they are each loved as members of God's family. Furthermore, pupils recognise the rainbow as a symbol of hope and link this to the Christian vision. Formal monitoring demonstrates the impact of worship. One pupil describes how worship and talking to God 'helps me to keep going or to put things back to together.'

Leaders have developed a standardised approach to worship which includes the use of worship boxes. Pupils talk with confidence about the significance of each artefact including a Bible, candle and cross. At the beginning of worship these items are placed on a cloth matching the current liturgical colour. This provides a sense of consistency for all and reminds pupils that worship always links to the teachings of Jesus. The school works closely with the church and other organisations which enhances worship. Leaders have overcome the challenge of the church being in a vacancy by engaging with the wider church community and foundation governors. The pupil led ethos group is in its infancy but they are keen to develop their roles as worship leaders.

The RE curriculum fully embodies the school's aspirational vision and associated values. Pupils speak highly of the creative opportunities they are offered which include drama, music and art. Skilful and sensitive questioning by teachers challenges pupils to debate ethical issues. Pupils' religious literacy and understanding of Christianity as a global faith is impressive. However, their understanding of other world religions and viewpoints is less secure. Leaders have accurately identified this as an area of development. Pupils enjoy RE and aspire to achieve. They can apply their knowledge of the school's values to stories from the Bible. For example, in one lesson, pupils were completing a task which some found challenging. One pupil explained how they should all 'stick at it, like Moses,' demonstrating the value of perseverance. Another linked the story of the Good Samaritan to the value of forgiveness. The RE leader has engaged with training and support from the diocese and good practice is shared with other schools. Informal monitoring such as learning walks offer advice and support to less experienced staff. This is valued by all. Formal monitoring by subject leaders is not yet fully embedded.

Saint Mary's is a God imbued Church school. Everyone is recognised as unique and enabled to grow, assured by the universally held vision that anyone can succeed through God. The recently appointed aspirational yet humble headteacher has identified a clear and exciting plan of Church school improvement. which includes the whole school family. As one pupil said, 'it's all of our jobs to make Saint Mary's the very best it can be.'

Information			
School	St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Reddish	Inspection date	4 July 2023
URN	106106	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Manchester	Pupils on roll	192
Headteacher	Deborah Faryniarz		
Chair of Governors	Yvonne Guariento		
Inspector	Joanne Hyslop	No.	972