

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Saviour's Church of England Primary School

Address	Shirland Road, Little Venice, London W9 2JD		
Date of inspection	01 May 2019	Status of school	VA primary
Diocese	London	URN	101141

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 Saviour's is a primary school with 222 pupils on roll, including those attending the school nursery. Whilst the community the school serves is predominantly Christian, there is a high level of cultural diversity with a significant number of pupils speaking English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is slightly above national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below national averages.

The school's Christian vision

'Together we live and grow in the love of Jesus Christ'. The Christian faith is at the very core of all St. Saviour's is and does. The school's values provide a focus for an all-encompassing spiritual environment. This provides every member of our community with a sense that God is leading and guiding us. The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23) supports our vision to encourage children to grow in the love of Jesus Christ.

Key findings

- The vision and values are the foundation from which all pupils are enabled to achieve their potential spiritually, academically and socially. They have a strong impact on pupils' highly positive attitudes to each other, to life and to their learning.
- The highly effective impact of the vision is clear in all areas of school development. It motivates and inspires pupils and adults, including parents.
- Remarkably strong, nurturing relationships, based on the fruit of the spirit values, support all members of the school family. These sustain pupils and adults at times of personal need, supporting their mental health and emotional wellbeing extremely well.
- Collective worship is creative, inspirational and inclusive, providing opportunities to worship in a variety of ways. It facilitates exceptional spiritual growth in pupils and adults. Together with the high-quality religious education (RE) provision, it supports and develops the vision and values.
- Highly committed, skilled leadership has created a vibrant, deeply Christian learning community in which every member flourishes. Dedicated staff and highly experienced and skilled governors share the inclusive, embedded Christian vision which inspires and directs every aspect of school improvement and policy.

Areas for development

- Embed the newly enhanced assessment tools in order to ensure continued high-quality learning and excellent pupil progress.

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

The love and care shown by staff and governors for pupils and their families is palpable. It shines through the calm, purposeful working atmosphere which is immediately sensed by visitors. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of everything offered by the school. All staff strive to provide the best possible learning environment and educational practice. Over many years of stable leadership, senior leaders and governors have created a unified, harmonious staff team. Morale is high because staff know that they are supported personally and professionally, at all levels. In reviewing the marking policy, it was amended to reduce work load and improve the quality of feedback for pupils, thereby supporting the wellbeing of all. Many staff members comment on how the Christian character of the school has positively impacted on their own faith journey. All staff benefit from well-targeted professional development opportunities, some of which have been instrumental in supporting middle and senior leadership and preparing future church school leaders. The absolute commitment to the personal and professional development of the entire school community is an outworking of the school vision which is to see people 'grow', enabled by the fruit of the spirit. Highly effective partnerships with other church schools and the diocese support assessment and curriculum development. St. Saviour's expertise and innovative practice is shared with other schools and the diocese to support development and improvement.

Leaders are totally committed to continuous improvement. This is seen both in the strong progress all groups of pupils make, and in their preparation as life-long learners. The extremely thorough cycle of self-evaluation and monitoring systems ensure that pupil progress is tracked and individual needs identified and supported. As a result, all aspects of school improvement are successfully driven by the shared Christian vision and values which are at the heart of all decisions, ensuring the community continues to 'live and grow in the love of Christ'. Policies too have been shaped by the vision to create an ethos of dignity and respect for all. Governors and leaders have attended diversity training and implemented recommendations from 'Valuing all God's Children' to ensure behaviour and equalities policies and practices are reflective of the school vision.

Governors know the school extremely well. Through regular monitoring visits and meetings with staff and pupils, they have a very clear idea of school performance and the way in which the vision is being lived out. Their excellent practice ensures that the needs of all pupils and staff are met. This can be seen through the challenge and support evidenced in governor meeting minutes but also in the way that governors celebrate the work of the staff by hosting a party twice a year to say thank you to staff.

RE and collective worship make very substantial contributions to pupils' spiritual growth. Pupils are eager learners because they are excited and inspired by their learning. They are confident and mature, able to articulate their thoughts clearly, so that they can disagree well. Pupils develop key skills of enquiry and analysis and are stimulated to grapple with the big questions within Christianity and other world faiths. Religious literacy is strong and RE makes a powerful contribution to pupil's spiritual development. Reflection is integral to learning across the curriculum, through which Christian values are threaded seamlessly. Pupils express their ideas creatively through drama, art, poetry, prose and prayer. The outstanding quality and depth of their personal responses can be seen in vibrant displays and in the RE and collective worship class books. Teachers are adept at questioning. This deepens pupils' thinking because they are frequently asked to explain or consider why such a belief is expressed. Provision for pupils' spiritual development and emotional wellbeing is extremely well-considered. The 'Godly play' approach is used exceptionally well to create spiritual moments of deep reflection on stories from the Bible. Pupils have repeated, high quality experiences through a regular pattern of visits and visitors. An annual enrichment experience is provided through a World Faith day and a Christianity day. This enhances and deepens the children's experience and understanding of faith through a range of visitors both from world faiths and Christian denominations.

Pupils make a very clear link between Jesus' teaching, Christian values and their own actions. This can be seen in the way they recognise injustice and demonstrate support for several local and international charitable causes. Through their charitable support linked to the work of the church, such as the homeless shelter, and ecologically conscious activities, pupils respond to the needs of others, recognising that everyone can do something to make a difference. This demonstrates the school vision in action as the 'Christian faith is at the very core of all St Saviour's says and does'. Parents strongly believe that their children grow spiritually and personally, gaining self-confidence as a result of their curricular and extra-curricular experiences. Many of the families attend the two parish churches closely associated with the school. They recognise the profound impact the school vision has on the children's spiritual wellbeing and comment that this is evident in the contributions the children make at Sunday school.

Behaviour is exemplary because all pupils strive to live out the vision and demonstrate the fruit of the spirit in their relationships and everyday life.

Collective worship is the heartbeat of the school community. Worship is a joyful and participatory experience. Pupils frequently take part, helping to act out stories, answer questions and provide responses following weekly reflections. The extent to which they are engaged in planning, leading and evaluating worship is exemplary. Worship ambassadors meet weekly with the senior leadership team and take responsibility for leading key aspects of worship. Thorough planning, based on the Bible and the life and teaching of Jesus, explores Christian values and themes imaginatively, so that worship constantly reflects the school's vision and values. The Vicar supports planning, sharing ideas and resources. He is a frequent visitor, leading worship in church each week and supports the teaching of RE. Pupils experience a range of different worship styles and settings in school and church led by staff, clergy, pupils and visitors. All pupils have experience of the Eucharist and understand the connection between what happens in church on a Sunday with collective worship in school. The strong link with the churches actively supports the worship, prayer and spiritual life of the school. Pupils' awareness of the Christian concept of the Trinity is well-developed. Prayer and reflection are key features of daily worship. Pupils offer their own prayers freely and spontaneously, demonstrating a clear understanding of the nature and purpose of prayer. They write and use their own prayers for public and personal use and are familiar with traditional prayers and graces, such as the Lord's Prayer. The monitoring and evaluation of worship is frequent and involves pupils, senior leaders and governors. They monitor the impact worship is having on the school community with precision and use this to ensure that worship continues to have a very positive impact on everyone's spiritual growth.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

Teaching and learning in RE is consistently good, and a high proportion is excellent, supporting pupils' exploration of religious belief and practices. This ensures that all pupils, including the disadvantaged and those with special needs and/or disabilities, have a consistent record of high attainment and progress. Leadership of the highest quality ensures that staff are knowledgeable and skilled. The school has worked closely with the diocese and other schools to establish a set of carefully framed questions to assess pupil knowledge and understanding in RE. This work is still in the process of becoming embedded in the practices of the school.

Headteacher

Lindsey Woodford

Inspector's name and number

Allan McLean (NS 823)