

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

<b>St. Luke's Church of England Primary School</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Jubilee Road, Formby L37 2HW		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	4 April 2019	<b>Status of school</b>	VC primary
<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Liverpool</b>	<b>URN</b>	104897

<b>Overall Judgement</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</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>Additional Judgement</b>		
<b>The impact of collective worship</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

<p><b>School context</b></p> <p>St. Luke's is a primary school with 401 pupils on roll. The school has a very low level of religious and cultural diversity and 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 (SEND) is below national averages. Ofsted graded the school good in April 2018.</p>
<p><b>The school's Christian vision</b></p> <p>God is love to learn, to succeed, to value one another as God's children</p> <p>Strong relationships, founded on Christian values, enable our pupils to flourish and leave St. Luke's as happy, confident, ambitious learners with a strong sense of community responsibility and social awareness.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christian vision permeates every aspect of the school's daily life. It is understood and articulated by all members of the community. Together with the core Christian values, the vision ensures that everyone flourishes in a welcoming, inclusive and loving environment.</li> <li>• The headteacher demonstrates outstanding Christian leadership. She has the support of committed governors whose experience and skills enable them to fulfil their strategic role effectively.</li> <li>• All members of the school community are treated with Christian dignity and respect and relationships are extremely strong. The school's nurturing ethos ensures that every individual feels safe and valued as a unique child of God.</li> <li>• Varied and invitational worship lies at the heart of the school day. It inspires all members of the community and encourages spiritual reflection and development.</li> <li>• The exceptionally strong and innovative school curriculum ensures that all pupils have opportunities to develop as individuals and lead 'life in all its fullness'.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Areas for development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further refine and embed the curriculum for religious education (RE) in order to incorporate materials from the locally agreed syllabus, <i>Questful RE</i> and <i>Understanding Christianity</i>. This will secure rich and varied learning experiences for all pupils.</li> </ul>

## 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. Luke's inclusive and distinctive Christian vision drives all aspects of the school's work. It is firmly rooted in the love of God and inspires extremely strong leadership at every level. School policies and development planning clearly reflect the motto 'to learn, to succeed, to value one another' as God's children. Pupils are able to explain the importance of this in terms of their academic, spiritual and physical development. Outstanding provision is made for the diverse needs of individual pupils and their families. 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 school improvement group and many outside agencies. This outward-looking approach helps to ensure that Christian distinctiveness, school improvement strategies and provision for the needs of all pupils are paramount. Systems for monitoring and evaluation by governors are rigorous and offer well-informed challenge and support. Regular visits by the Church school distinctiveness governor and termly governor days sustain a high level of involvement, addressing the area for development from the previous inspection.

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. The innovative and exciting curriculum captures pupils' enthusiasm and fosters academic and spiritual development. The Christian vision and core values are threaded through teaching and learning so that every pupil has the opportunity to develop and experience success. The school knows its pupils extremely well and a wide range of intervention strategies supports their individual needs, enabling them to succeed. Pupils make at least good progress and in 2018, attainment at Key Stage 2 was well above the local and national averages. A wide range of extra-curricular activities, residential visits and music tuition help to widen and enrich pupils' experience. As a result, they extend their knowledge, skills and abilities to the full. Staff develop pupils' curiosity, including in their spiritual lives, through challenging questions and learning activities. Much is being done to raise self-esteem through growth mindset, mindfulness and a culture of encouragement. Consequently, pupils have a positive approach and a desire to learn in the knowledge that they are unique in the eyes of God. Parents commend the school for the way it tailors learning to suit every pupil.

The school's 'Learn' strategy (learn for life, explore new things, ask good questions, reflect and improve, never give up) focuses on developing pupils as independent and aspirational learners. Pupils understand and are able to explain the strategy. It motivates them in all areas of school life and helps them to build resilience as new challenges are faced. The core Christian values support pupils' moral and character development extremely well and this prepares them for future relationships and roles as members of the wider community. The school supports a number of charities locally, nationally and worldwide. Strong links with Christian schools in Rwanda and Peru broaden pupils' understanding of global issues related to poverty and disadvantage. Pupils respond with great compassion and a desire to help. They often select and organise charitable activities independently, showing mature responsibility and Christian love. Pupils have a number of opportunities to take on leadership roles and develop a sense of purpose through their involvement in the school council, eco team and worship warriors.

The school's Christian vision and values underpin all relationships and are at the heart of policies and practice. Pupils' behaviour is excellent and they explain that Christian values and the school's positive approach encourage everyone to be thoughtful, kind and forgiving. Instances of bullying are rare and pupils say that they feel extremely safe at all times. A supportive buddying system encourages all pupils to demonstrate the school's Christian values. This results in a strong sense of togetherness and love for one another. Parents speak of the warm and welcoming atmosphere and the fact that school demonstrates 'faith in action'. Staff speak of the many ways they feel supported and valued professionally and personally. They attribute this culture to the school's distinctive Christian ethos and sense of family. Through its Christian vision, the school provides an inclusive and strong community built on mutual respect and understanding of difference. Consequently, all members of the community feel valued and they are able to flourish as children of God. This positive approach to equality and valuing difference means that everyone in the school community is treated with dignity and respect and their mental health and wellbeing are a priority.

Collective worship plays a central role in the life of the school. It is inclusive and invitational and reflects the school's Christian vision and values. Staff say that they take inspiration from worship. As one of them put it, 'Worship supports us in our daily lives.' Detailed planning is rooted in biblical teaching, the life of Jesus and Christian festivals and seasons. Pupils enjoy worship and participate enthusiastically whilst maintaining a sense of reverence. They sing well and understand that this is a way of praising God. The worship warriors team is beginning to be involved in planning, leading and evaluating class worship and this furthers pupils understanding of the key elements of liturgy. Traditional prayers and responses ensure that pupils experience aspects of Anglican tradition. Pupils explain the nature of the Trinity in appropriately age-related terms. Classroom reflection areas and the outdoor courtyard

offer places for stillness and contemplation. These experiences enable pupils to explain the importance of prayer in their lives and the life of the community. The vicar of St. Luke's leads worship fortnightly and other members of the church family also contribute. Pupils worship in the church for major festivals and as a result have a strong sense of belonging to the wider Christian family. Year 6 pupils are introduced to eucharistic worship and attend mid-week celebrations in the church. These strong links with the worshipping life of the parish enrich the experience of the whole school.

The Christian vision underpins the school's approach to the teaching of RE using the locally agreed syllabus. Some aspects of *Questful RE* and *Understanding Christianity* have been introduced but have not yet been matched specifically to the agreed syllabus. Pupils have the opportunity to understand the significance of sacred texts and to engage with challenging questions. Pupils explain that RE is a time for respectful, open discussion. They value the opportunity to learn through creative activities and visits to the parish church and non-Christian places of worship. RE books and floorbooks show that pupils enjoy a range of activities including written tasks, drama, art and hot seating. The knowledgeable subject leader provides excellent support and guidance and monitors the subject with care. She is always open to new ideas and opportunities to strengthen teaching and learning.

St. Luke's proclaims the love of God in all that it does and is at the heart of its local community.

Headteacher	Sharon Cowey
Inspector's name and number	Jean Forward 625