

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Barnabas Church of England Primary School	
Address	Collin Street, Warrington, WA5 1TG
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	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
Preparing for a positive future, achieved through faith. "Let your light shine," Matthew 5:16
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through its deeply embedded Christian vision St Barnabas is outstanding, enabling all pupils and adults to flourish. The vision richly infuses all aspects of the school, impressively enriching the lives of the whole community. • The exceptional and extensive pastoral support given to all within the school family means that everyone feels valued and cared for. Leaders are creative and highly innovative in sensitively addressing the varied needs for each individual in their diverse community • Opportunities for spiritual development are woven through the curriculum, enabling all staff and pupils to grow spiritually. Planned opportunities to further explore the language and meaning of spirituality are not sufficiently embedded. • Excellent collective worship is the heartbeat of the school creating a very strong sense of community. Inspiring spaces in every classroom enable pupils to reflect deeply and respond meaningfully to values and issues affecting their lives and the lives of others. • The leadership of religious education (RE) is outstanding. Consistently high levels of staff expertise leads to inspirational teaching. The depth of theological knowledge and understanding of the RE themes studied that pupils have, results in an impressive degree of religious literacy.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further enrich opportunities for pupils to plan and lead collective worship so that they have greater ownership of and engagement in worship. • Promote and embed a shared definition and vocabulary of spirituality so that all can fluently explain and articulate its impact on themselves and others. • Explore ways in which the school can share its excellent practice in being transformational in the lives of its pupils and the wider community.

Inspection findings

St Barnabas' Christian vision is the heartbeat of this excellent school. It shapes innovative and transformational practice in every aspect of school life, enabling all to flourish. Underpinned by the Gospel message, 'Let your light shine', the vision is lived out exceptionally well by the whole community. All pupils and adults understand the source of the vision and articulate it with passion. The school is highly inclusive and ensures that everyone feels supported and valued, enabling them to flourish and let their light shine. This creates a deeply loving culture, where all are accepted, known, nurtured and inspired. A rich variety of backgrounds and cultures are represented in this very diverse school, and there is a deep sense of harmony and family. Everyone is treated with dignity and respect. This enables all to thrive in a place where diversity is celebrated, and every person is valued and truly cared for. To ensure that the vision is driving their actions, governors work actively and effectively with the headteacher and staff to monitor its impact.

The headteacher and staff are committed to excellence through their dedication to high quality teaching and learning. This is achieved through their ambitious curriculum that is built upon the school's Christian vision and values. It is meticulously planned, innovative and empowering. It ensures that the interests and varied needs of all pupils are embraced. As a result, pupils are fully engaged, highly motivated and enjoy their learning. The vision is explicitly realised in the education of all pupils. The progress pupils make in their learning is above national averages. School leaders firmly believe that all children should be enabled to let their light shine. This inspires them to work relentlessly as a team, to ensure that all flourish and reach their potential.

Through difficult social circumstances and demanding local challenges, the school has prioritised and promoted worthwhile and beneficial partnerships. These have a transformational impact on the school and its work. The vision inspires leaders to employ imaginative solutions in their persistent and hugely successful work to remove any barriers or hinderances which arise. As a result, highly effective, individual, and bespoke support is facilitated for those who are vulnerable or have additional learning and personal needs.

Outstanding pastoral care for all in the school community is inspirational and anchored in the school vision. Staff care deeply for their pupils and their families. This deeply inclusive school celebrates the uniqueness and inherent value of everyone. The school is highly effective at meeting the varying needs of the pupils and their families. The transformational early help offer contributes to pupils' flourishing. The love and care parents and their children receive provides reassurance, confidence and hope for the future. The importance of good mental health and wellbeing is championed throughout the school, meaning that no-one who is struggling goes unnoticed. There are many rich and varied leadership opportunities given to pupils. This allows the unique gifts and talents of every child to develop and flourish through fostering a sense of worth and achievement.

The Christian vision promotes a wonderful, secure culture in which difference and diversity are warmly embraced. The community comprises those of a range of world faiths and beliefs, as well as those with none. All thrive in an atmosphere of mutual acceptance and respect. Forgiveness and reconciliation happen quickly if needed and are well understood. Members of world faiths speak passionately of opportunities to participate in Christian worship, knowing that their own beliefs are valued. There are significant opportunities provided within and beyond the curriculum for all to learn about the diversity and difference of the school community and further afield. This shows real courage in trying new things, a commitment to acceptance, promoting compassion and living well together.

The vision inspires bold and ambitious decisions which lead to an imaginative extracurricular provision. Thus, pupils have a wealth of opportunities to explore, reflect and develop character. Healthy lives, lifestyles, relationships and life choices are promoted throughout the curriculum enabling pupils to cherish and respect themselves and others. Opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum are in place within collective worship, RE and through relationships. Examples of this include

the use of big questions revealed weekly by the team spirit group, and experiences in RE. A shared definition of, and a language to fully and clearly articulate spirituality, is not yet in place.

Exemplary collective worship is at the heart of St Barnabas, setting the vision, atmosphere, and tone for all aspects of school life. Pupils and staff flourish because of the rich opportunities to sing, pray, and reflect. Pupils greatly value worship and are excited by it. They recognise it as a part of the school day that inspires them and brings them a deep sense of joy. Worship, led by the staff and the local vicar, brings a variety of enrichment to the life of the school. It also enables pupils to think about charitable causes and wider issues. As a result, children are inspired to support those in need through charitable giving and to challenge injustice and inequality. This ignites a passion for social action in pupils, making them agents of change. Examples of this are the courageous Christingle, the palm oil project with Chester Zoo and the school's mini police working to transform the local subway.

Strong partnerships with the local church, diocese, initial teacher training partnerships and community are a real strength of the school. They clearly demonstrate how the vision underpins relationships at all levels. Links with St Barnabas Church are very strong and mutually beneficial. Pupils are excited by the post-pandemic reintroduction of church visits. The local vicar and many others from the congregation provide regular support and leadership in worship, governance and extracurricular activities. This is highly valued and supports the worship, prayer and spiritual life of the school.

RE in this school is excellent, has a very high status and has been awarded the RE Quality Mark, Gold standard. The subject leader inspires staff through high quality and innovative training. RE is exceptionally well planned, with a carefully sequenced and progressive curriculum which is confidently taught by staff. This is reflected in the high quality of pupil work which demonstrates a deep understanding of Christianity and the impact of beliefs on the world today. Pupils also have an excellent knowledge of world religions and recognise the importance of this in promoting acceptance and a global understanding. There is an effective system of assessment and monitoring in place to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning remains excellent.

The outstanding Christian commitment to value everyone, and the desire for all to achieve a positive future through faith underpins all interactions in the school. Rooted in the Christian vision, the headteacher, staff and governors ensure that everyone is given the care and opportunity needed to succeed. This is an excellent school where all flourish. It is truly a place where all can let their light shine.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	The planning and teaching of RE is outstanding and excites all pupils to engage and excel in the subject. Lessons are inspiring and imaginative promoting a love of learning. As a result, the standard of work produced by pupils is excellent. Outcomes are robustly measured against expected standards. All pupils use religious language confidently and the pupils leave the school with a very high level of religious literacy.			
Information				
School	St Barnabas Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	29 November 2022	
URN	111299	VC/VA/Academy	VA	
Diocese	Liverpool	Pupils on roll	195	
Headteacher	Jane Hodgkinson			
Chair of Governors	Dr Carsten Kressel			
Inspector	Natalie Dodd	No.	2201	