

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Trinity Church of England /Methodist Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Address Kiln Lane, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 8PW

Christian vision

‘Letting our light shine as we live, love and learn together with Jesus’ is based on an extract from the Gospel of Matthew. We aim to develop the skills and talents that God has given our children and, in doing so, as they grow in grace and knowledge, they may aspire to achieve wonderful things.

School strengths

- Senior leaders have developed a compelling vision of Christian flourishing for the whole school community. In conjunction with the core Christian values, the vision is deeply embedded in all aspects of the school’s daily life and service.
- Relationships across the school community are highly supportive and rooted in Christian service and trust. Consequently, all feel valued and safe as they watch over one another in love.
- Collective worship is rooted in biblical teaching and the exploration of Christian values. It is inspirational and inclusive and has a transformative effect on the spiritual lives of pupils and adults. Prayer and contemplation punctuate the school day.
- Long-standing links with the Anglican and Methodist churches enrich the lives of the whole community. The mutually supportive relationship fosters a deep sense of what it means to ‘live, love and learn together with Jesus’.
- Highly effective leadership of religious education (RE) ensures that all pupils receive an ambitious and challenging curriculum. As a result, pupils are enthusiastic learners, and they feel secure when expressing their ideas and opinions.

Areas for development

- Explore ways to extend the contemplative prayer life of the school using opportunities that present themselves across the school site.
- Embed opportunities for learning about Christianity as a worldwide faith in order to deepen pupils’ existing knowledge and understanding.

Inspection findings

Trinity’s Christian vision is clearly articulated and understood by all members of the school community. It is theologically rooted in an understanding that the love of Jesus should be present in all aspects of the school’s life. Bold decision-making removes barriers and enables every individual to shine as a unique child of God. The school has a deep understanding of the needs every pupil and of the local community. The vision clearly informs school policies and practice. The five core Christian values of love, perseverance, trust, forgiveness

and respect support the day-to-day life of the school as it enables all to flourish. Experienced and inspirational senior leaders are supported by a dedicated staff team. Members of the governing body bring a wide range of skills and knowledge to their role. Together, they ensure that the self-evaluation and development of the school are highly effective and life-changing for pupils and their families.

School leaders and staff work closely with the Anglican and Methodist churches. Clergy and members of both congregations are involved in the daily life of the school. They provide pastoral care for members of staff and families as well as contributing to worship. This strengthens the church and school partnership. Links with the Diocese of Liverpool and the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust support the school in its development. Staff and governors attend a range of meetings and professional development sessions to enhance their understanding of Church school matters. They also share the school's informed practice, demonstrating a commitment to collaborative working.

The school's Christian vision informs the broad and balanced curriculum. Pupils are excited by their learning and develop their unique skills and qualities in a safe and supportive environment. A culture of challenge and perseverance enables all pupils, including those with additional needs, to do their best and experience success in their learning. The individual needs of every pupil are met through a loving and caring approach. This ensures that they flourish academically, emotionally and spiritually. A wide range of extra-curricular provision extends pupils' interests and develops self-esteem in cultural and sporting activities. The school places great importance on providing enrichment opportunities through visits and residential opportunities. 'Forest School' fosters an understanding of nature and an awareness of God's love through creation. As a result of these carefully planned experiences, pupils' horizons are broadened and their spiritual lives enriched. A wide range of intervention strategies, mentoring and nurture support make it possible for individual pupils to engage in learning. Pupils, including those who are vulnerable, show great resilience and determination because of support they receive.

Pupils have many opportunities to take on special roles and they demonstrate a great sense of responsibility for one another. They understand the need for social justice and equality. Through their support of local and global charities, pupils are given the opportunity to see beyond themselves. They demonstrate thoughtful and compassionate action. They help with a child's education through the charity 'International Needs', and there is a long-standing link with Uganda through 'Operation Orphan'. These projects are discussed in depth with pupils. As a result, they are developing a deeper awareness and understanding of worldwide issues. The school has started to teach pupils about Christianity as a worldwide faith through theme weeks. However, it recognizes that there is a need to deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding.

The Christian vision and values underpin positive relationships as all members of the community watch over one another in love. Pupils behave extremely well and are polite and considerate. They have a deep understanding of the school's core Christian values and know that forgiveness, trust and respect are part of living well together. The school's loving and inclusive ethos sustains positive relationships with parents and carers. They feel comfortable and supported as members of the Trinity family. Support for members of staff is exceptional. This enables them to thrive professionally and ensures that positive mental health and wellbeing are a priority.

Inclusive and inspirational collective worship is central to the daily life of the school. It is rooted in biblical teaching and the exploration of Christian values. Planning incorporates the major seasons of the Church's year, giving pupils an understanding of the rhythm of Christian life. Pupils experience a variety of styles and settings. This includes whole school and class-based worship. The traditions of the Anglican and Methodist churches are carefully considered. Pupils experience formal and informal approaches, a rich and varied prayer life, and the joy of music as a means of praising God. As a result, worship is spiritually uplifting for pupils and adults. Pupils in Year 6 are introduced to Holy Communion in both the Methodist and Anglican traditions. This deepens their understanding of its central role in the life of Christians. Pupils plan and lead classroom worship. This helps them to understand the elements of worship and the importance of exploring the school's vision and values. All members of the school community welcome the many opportunities for prayer and stillness.

Classroom reflection areas extend personal prayer and contribute to an understanding of the different ways prayer can be part of daily life. ‘Bright Lights’ worship for pupils and their families and monthly all-age Sunday worship are held in school. These bring the Church and school families together. All members of the school community are involved in monitoring and evaluation activities. In this way, the school reflects on its provision and practice.

RE is at the core of the curriculum. It enables pupils to reflect on their own religious and spiritual convictions. The ‘Questful RE’ syllabus ensures that pupils have rich learning experiences. These develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and major world faiths. Staff use a variety of teaching styles and resources to enhance pupils’ knowledge and understanding. Pupils explore texts, discuss theological ideas, and answer challenging questions. They are engaged and enjoy their learning. Exercise books show that pupils enjoy a range of activities and opportunities to reflect on their learning.

The Christian vision and values of this deeply compassionate and inclusive school are clearly embedded in every aspect of daily life. Love abounds as all members of the school community ‘live, love and learn together with Jesus’.

The inspection findings indicate that Trinity CofE/Methodist Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information					
School	Trinity C of E/Methodist Primary School				
URN	119406	Pupils on roll	241	VA/VC/Academy	VC
Diocese/Circuit	Diocese of Liverpool/North West Methodist Circuit				
Multi academy trust	n/a				
Federation	n/a				
Headteacher	Tony Currie				
Chair of governors	Chris Spittle				
Inspector	Jean Forward		No.	625	
Date of Inspection	22 September 2023				