

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hale Church of England VC Primary School, Liverpool	
Address	Hesketh Road, Hale, Liverpool, L24 4AN

School vision

Our school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the curriculum and experiences it offers its pupils.

Our vision is founded on Matthew 5: 14-16

'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.'

School strengths

- Leaders, including governors, have developed a Christian vision rooted in the school's context. It inspires all members of the community, ensuring that everyone is able to flourish and 'Be the Light'.
- Leaders have created a warm, welcoming school inspired by the Christian vision and values. All are treated with dignity and respect. This leads to a culture of openness and trust. As a result, relationships are exemplary.
- Inspirational collective worship is central to the daily life of the school. It is rooted in biblical teaching and the development of Christian values. It provides a rich variety of class and whole school opportunities to learn about the love of God.
- The Christian vision permeates all aspects of the school's work and is at the heart of the curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to shine in all that they do. This leads to a joy for learning as well as the development of aspirational attitudes.
- High quality religious education (RE) provides pupils with challenging and exciting learning experiences. It encourages deep thinking, developing knowledge and understanding of Christianity alongside a range of world faiths and worldviews.

Areas for development

- Create opportunities for pupils to initiate and lead a wider range of social action. This is to develop a deeper understanding of how they can be agents of change in a global setting.
- Extend links with the church community through its contribution to collective worship. This is to strengthen the mutual flourishing of the Hale Christian family.

Inspection findings

The compelling Christian vision of Hale CE Primary School is deeply rooted in Christian belief. All members of the school community are invited to 'Be the light' in whatever they do. Everyone is encouraged to be the very best they can be and to live life to the full. Leaders make bold decisions to



remove barriers and enable every member of the school community to have high aspirations. A culture of love and compassion supports each individual as a child of God. Experienced and inspirational senior leaders drive the Christian vision in response to the specific needs of the community. They are supported by a dedicated staff team and knowledgeable governors. Highly effective self-evaluation and development planning ensure that the Christian vision drives all aspects of school improvement. Members of the governing body are supported in their roles through development opportunities with the diocese and local authority.

The Christian vision and core values of courage, thankfulness, peace, hope, truthfulness and friendship underpin all areas of life in school. As a result, rich and relevant learning opportunities and extra-curricular activities enable pupils to thrive. Teaching and learning are tailored to the school's context and individual needs. The vision inspired curriculum ensures a balanced, creative and relevant approach. There is a commitment to broadening experience and raising aspirations for all pupils. The incorporation of Christian and British values across units of work strengthens and supports pupils' understanding of diversity, equality and difference. Curriculum enhancement through a range of visits and enrichment activities helps to build resilience. Pupils' spiritual response to learning experiences and the world around them is a priority. Forest School and other outdoor provision add a further dimension to the development of awe and wonder. Extra-curricular activities successfully broaden pupils' interests and aspirations. These include a range of sports, choir, drama and art. Pupils welcome the many opportunities they have to explore new interests and develop their skills. The school's holistic approach ensures that they believe in themselves and strive to achieve. A wide range of intervention strategies, mentoring and nurture support makes it possible for individual pupils to engage in learning and shine. Pupils, including those who are vulnerable or have additional needs, show great resilience and determination. This is because of the wealth of support they receive.

Relationships across the school family are exceptional. Everyone is given opportunities to flourish personally in a community rooted in love and respect for others. Pupils behave extremely well. They clearly understand the importance of friendship and caring for one another. They recognise the importance of following the school's Christian values. Pupils have many opportunities to take on responsibilities in the daily life of the school. This includes being worship, curriculum and playground ambassadors as well as members of the pupil parliament. The school has a high profile in the community. This includes reaching out to the needs of others. They have a commendable attitude to helping and caring for those around them. 'Picture News' engages pupils in discussion about justice and responsibility. However, they do not currently have opportunities to make ethical choices in a global setting.

The Christian vision and values underpin the exceptional support for staff. This enables them to flourish professionally and personally. Opportunities to engage in national qualifications as well as school-based professional development fosters aspiration and expertise. Opinions and ideas are valued and there is a strong sense of teamwork. Leaders prioritise the wellbeing and mental health of all. The school's loving and inclusive ethos sustains positive relationships with parents and carers. They rightly feel comfortable and supported as members of the caring school family. They know that they can approach staff at any time for help and reassurance. This includes providing affordable wrap-around care, support with attendance and focused activities concerning the specific needs of their children.

Daily collective worship inspires pupils and staff. It is clearly rooted in the Christian vision, core values, biblical teaching and festivals. It is invitational and inclusive. As a result, pupils and adults engage in a deeply spiritual way. Planning is thorough. It incorporates 'Picture News' and 'Values for Life'. The successful combination of whole school and class-based worship provides variety and opportunities for pupils to be fully involved. Worship ambassadors play an important part in the

preparation and leading. In this way, they deepen their understanding and grow in spiritual awareness. The diocese has supported the school through professional development and bespoke advice to enhance provision. The school has close and mutually supportive links with the parish church. There has been a long-standing tradition of clergy involvement in worship. The school is in the early stages of further developing its partnership with the congregation through parental involvement in worship. This is in response to the current clergy vacancy. Pupils are invited to praise God through their singing and contributions to prayer. Reflection areas and prayer stations provide further opportunities for them to develop their own prayer life in a meaningful way.

RE is at the core of the curriculum. It enables pupils to reflect on their own religious and spiritual convictions. The school follows the local authority agreed syllabus and this results in rich learning experiences for everyone. High expectations ensure that pupils delve more deeply into lesson content and develop appropriate religious language. They are confident to contribute their opinions in discussion with one another and their teachers. Pupils develop knowledge of Christianity and major world faiths in an exciting, interactive way. A variety of teaching styles and resources extend pupils' understanding. They explore texts, discuss theological ideas, and answer challenging questions. They are engaged and clearly enjoy their learning. The class floor books show that pupils experience a range of activities.

The inspection findings indicate that Hale CE Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	27 November 2023	URN	111294
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	190
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Emma Fenton		
Chair	Mike Fry		
Inspector	Jean Forward	No.	625