

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Andrew's Church of England VA Primary School, Bolton	
Address	Crescent Avenue, Over Hulton, Bolton, BL5 1EN

School vision

Growing in Faith, Hope and Love. 1Corinthians 13:13
 St Andrew's is a place where pupils, parents, staff and governors work together as one family to become the best we can be, through Trust, Confidence, Hope, Friendship, Forgiveness, and Co-operation; over-arching all of these is Love.

School strengths

- The overarching Christian value of love, inspires adults and pupils to work tirelessly for the wellbeing of others. The staff and pupils feel appreciated and valued, resulting in the school being a place where all can flourish.
- Driven by unswerving leadership at all levels, the Christian vision and values significantly impact all aspects of school life. This enables pupils and adults to thrive.
- Relationships across the school are strong and supportive. This results in a culture of high aspiration where pupils and adults can achieve their full potential.
- There are extremely strong links between church and school. This makes a significant contribution to collective worship and in deepening the Christian character of the school.
- Highly effective subject leadership in religious education (RE) drives an innovative and continually evolving curriculum. As a result, pupils love RE and demonstrate an impressive understanding of the topics covered.

Areas for development

- Strengthen systems for monitoring the impact of collective worship. This is to ensure worship evolves over time and promotes spiritual flourishing.
- Agree and embed a shared understanding of spirituality across the school. This is so that opportunities for spiritual development are recognised and captured across the curriculum.

Inspection findings

At the very heart of St Andrew's School is the Christian vision, 'growing in faith hope and love', and adopted values. Pupils and adults express ownership and commitment to the vision and values of the school. This is practically demonstrated in the way they show co-operation, trust and love for each other and live well together. It is a happy and positive place to be. The linked Bible passage encompasses all, creating a welcoming culture of growing in faith, love and hope. Leaders and the pupil led ethos council, recently reviewed and renewed their vision and values statements. This ensures it is still relevant and reflective of the school and its mission in the community. Leaders and

the ethos council effectively monitor and evaluate the impact of the adopted vision statement and selected Christian values. The ethos council insisted co-operation was included in the selected Christian values. This is because they feel it is an important element of living well together. The vision is enhanced by the close, supportive relationship with St Andrew's Church. Leaders and governors use the vision as their guide when making important decisions. There is a culture of growth across the school. As a result, pupils make progress, developing from their own starting point. The staff value the many and varied opportunities they have to develop and grow.

The vision weaves throughout the curriculum. It has been developed to provide purposeful learning experiences. Accessibility for all is paramount, focusing on everyone being the 'best we can be'. Pupils, including those who are vulnerable or have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are known and celebrated for their uniqueness. They are taught to understand and regulate their emotions and always try their best. This has a very positive impact on their learning experience. Staff regularly find opportunities for pupils to reflect. During an educational visit, staff and pupils paused to appreciate the awe and wonder of their surroundings. This was recognised as a spiritual experience. However, an explicit approach to spirituality, in the context of each curriculum subject, is in the early stages of development. The school's inspirational outdoor environment is purposefully arranged to support the wider curriculum. It provides opportunities for activity but also reflection and prayer. The opportunity to be alone within a safe, supportive environment is valued by many.

Spiritual flourishing is prominent at St Andrew's and collective worship is seen as an important part of this. Pupils and staff highly value the invitational and inclusive worship. They describe how worship brings the whole school community together, meeting together in faith, hope and love. Parents value being part of the worship, bringing the school family together in the 'nurturing environment' that school provides. Collective worship is carefully planned and incorporates the vision and values of the school. Word, song and prayer unite all those present. It is enthusiastically enjoyed by the school community. It is structured and evaluated carefully, but its impact on the spiritual flourishing of worshippers isn't captured. The lighting of a candle contributes to spiritual flourishing and is an important focal point for the pupils. After prayer and reflection, the blowing out of the candle is seen as sending their thoughts and prayers to God. Strong partnerships with the local church contribute to the impact of collective worship. The vicar leads worship each week in school and in church at significant times of the year. Members of the church community value Year 6 pupils joining their worship and making refreshments for them. Conversations with each other about the experience supports spiritual flourishing.

Inspired by the biblically rooted vision, leaders have created a highly effective ethos where all are treated well. Relationships across the school are exceptionally strong. Pupils talk of the care adults take to listen to them and help them. Pupils behave well, are polite and support each other. They aim to be the 'best friend a person can have'. The wellbeing of all is given a high priority. Each member of the community is cherished. Pupils have an age-appropriate understanding of individuality. Leaders are guided by the vision to respect similarities and differences, to ensure everyone has the opportunities to reach their full potential. There is a shared commitment to fairness and helping each other, whatever their needs or differences. Pupils in school benefit from a range of highly valued specialists. Needs are identified and supported resulting in trust between home and school. Staff appreciate the care shown to them by leaders. They value the support they are given both in their professional and personal lives.

Pupils understand the importance of respecting others. They take their responsibilities very seriously. The ethos council support many and varied charities. Demonstrating the Christian vision, they support others through their over-arching value of love. They focus particularly on lower profile causes, which often have links to the school. Pupils are passionate about the issues of equality and injustice they experience and see in the world around them. So they have a deep desire to make

changes and make a difference both in and out of school. The older pupils take responsibility seriously. They support leaders in many ways, including being class monitors, play leaders and looking after the environment.

RE is an important area of the curriculum and is highly valued within the school. It is a priority for leaders, teachers and governors. It is an important academic subject, contributing significantly to learning and broader spiritual flourishing. Pupils demonstrate an extensive understanding of Christianity and knowledge of a range of faiths. This supports their strong understanding of positive relationships for everyday living and it enables them to show friendship, co-operation and love. Pupils enjoy lessons and are proud of their achievements. The books show differentiation and progression. The curriculum is balanced and sequenced and complimented by the multi-faith week. During this time pupils visit and explore a wide range of religions and world views. Challenging questions are explored through a range of thought provoking activities. Floor books record the many approaches and wide range of activities experienced by the pupils along with their reflections. Pupils make rapid progress in RE because teaching is highly effective. As a result of good staff knowledge and creative teaching styles, work is of a very high standard. RE is both accessible to all and exciting. Leaders work relentlessly to continually develop the effectiveness of the curriculum, ably supported by diocesan training and guidance. Clergy provide expert support to develop and enhance teachers' subject knowledge. Assessment and monitoring lead to positive development.

The inspection findings indicate that St Andrew's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	19 June 2024	URN	105236
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	208
Diocese	Manchester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Simon Charnock		
Chair	Michael Jefferies		
Inspector	Angela Knowles	No.	497