



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Canon Sharples Church of England Primary School and Nursery	
Address	Whelley, Wigan, WN2 1BP

School vision
<p>Trust God. Love Always. Aim High.</p> <p>Our children will have high aspirations, strong self-belief and feel empowered, knowing they are well equipped for future success.</p> <p>Our staff will be ambitious for our children, guiding and supporting them holistically on their journey through life.</p> <p>Our school will be a safe place for all to flourish together through God's love.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership at all levels, including directors and governors, enriches the lives of all within the school. The Christian vision guides and influences decisions, creating a culture of care for all where everyone is valued. • Relationships, pastoral care and support of all is a strength of the school. There is an overwhelming sense of Christian love and the wellbeing of everyone is a high priority. • The curriculum, and how it is tailored to meet the needs of all, is driven by the Christian vision. Successful collaboration across the trust and with partners provides many creative opportunities for pupils to achieve their potential. Those who need additional help are well provided for and, as a result, they succeed. • Collective worship is at the heart of school life. The embedded Christian vision and shared values provide calm, reflective opportunities for personal spirituality. Pupils and adults value the time to come together in collective worship. • Effective leadership in religious education (RE) has established a well-sequenced and balanced curriculum. This helps pupils to develop sound knowledge and understanding of world religions.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to embed the shared language of spirituality across the curriculum. This is so that pupils are increasingly confident in expressing their thoughts as they develop spiritually. • Strengthen further pupils' understanding of the difference they can make as agents of change beyond their local community.
Inspection findings
<p>Canon Sharples is a welcoming and inclusive school. The Christian vision of the school is central in enabling individuals to thrive within its context. Leaders' approach to flourishing is successfully guided by research. The model used encompasses five key elements: Purpose, Relationships, Learning, Resources and Wellbeing. All are carefully considered by trust and school leaders to ensure their practice gives pupils the best opportunity to flourish. Grown from the Christian vision, this</p>

approach is thoughtfully underpinned by their values. These foster a sense of fellowship, friendship, respect, peace, trust, and love. Trust leaders have a collaborative team approach to everything they do. However, they ensure that this school successfully maintains its ability to cater for its community and context. As a result, pupils and adults are part of a Trust family, where everyone belongs and is well cared for.

Inspired by the Christian vision, the school's curriculum is grounded in the 'Flourishing Schools Cultural Model'. This approach enables pupils to foster a love of learning and curiosity about the world. Leaders strive for the highest quality education with Christ at the heart. This empowers pupils and adults to use their talents for a positive impact. Effective learning experiences are supported by a wealth of enrichment activities. Sports, STEM, book club and choir contribute to spiritual growth as well as a sense of belonging. Continuous professional development, including collaboration with the Learning Together Trust, ensure there are impactful and ambitious learning experiences. Spiritual awareness is supported by the planned integration of Christian values and diverse perspectives. However, pupils do not have a consistent vocabulary to use. This limits their ability to express the depth of their spiritual understanding. Regular monitoring and evaluation is performed by leaders, governors and trust directors. They also use external validation to maintain the effectiveness and quality of education. From their evaluations, annual trust experiences were launched to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Open to all, these opportunities are valued by the everyone. They talk of the aspirations they now have, having experienced galleries, winter sports and university. Key partners, who align with the school's vision, provide essential services such as counselling, sports expertise and music tuition. These purposefully contribute to the excellent well-being and development of the school community.

Leaders place a strong emphasis on collective worship to facilitate spiritual growth among both pupils and adults. The pattern spanning the week with different themes and resources, allows for a focused exploration of Jesus' teachings. Well planned themes run across the year include the Words of Jesus, Advent, Parables and Holy Week. These contribute to a broad exploration of Christian teachings. During worship the use of silence, candles, calm music and images enhances the spiritual atmosphere. Pupils contribute well with prayers, readings and reflections. This fosters a sense of ownership and involvement in the spiritual life of the school. Daily prayer is ingrained in the school's routine. Varied interactive reflection opportunities allow pupils to connect with God in diverse ways. The clergy is actively involved in regular worship in the school. This collaboration provides a strong connection between the school, church, and community. It is exemplified by supporting 'JEDS Community Pantry' which provides help as an affordable food source.

Shaped by its Christian vision, leaders have created a culture where both pupils and adults are treated well. It emphasises respect, diversity and positive mental health giving a sense of belonging to the whole school community. All individuals have a valued and listened-to voice promoting a culture of inclusion. Staff are supported to be the best versions of themselves. This in turn helps them enable pupils to achieve their full potential. Continuous professional development, informed by research, contributes to positive outcomes. Collaboration with a wider network of professionals, enabled by the Learning Together Trust, ensure staff receive quality support and growth. The creation of a positive culture is recognised through its status as a 'THRIVE School of Excellence'. Through THRIVE, trauma-informed training is used to support pupils and families. The adoption of this as a whole-school approach builds the resilience and positive wellbeing of all adults and pupils. As a result, Canon Sharples is able to provide wrap around support to help both families and individuals to flourish.

Through the Christian vision, the leaders create an environment of fairness and responsibility. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) learning is interwoven across the curriculum. Through specialist resources, pupils grapple with thought-provoking questions, reflecting on global

incidents. The well-planned opportunities enable them to learn from world events, respecting diverse beliefs, feelings and faiths. The school purposefully engages with local, national, and global charities. Pupils who support causes close to their hearts are celebrated. However, they are less equipped to act as agents of change beyond their locality. Leaders have recently launched an 'Agents of Jesus' calendar with a monthly focus, such as being 'Agents of Kindness'. This exemplifies the school's ongoing commitment to justice and responsibility. Leaders recently becoming mentors in the Church of England 'Leaders Like Us' programme further underscores the commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion.

Inspired by the school's Christian vision, the RE curriculum focuses on clear progression with sequenced coverage of knowledge and skills. Teachers effectively enable pupils to have a rich and comprehensive understanding of world religions. This has been well supported with professional development from the diocese. The curriculum enables pupils to explore thought provoking spiritual questions. Leaders ensure this includes a variety of creative activities to actively engage pupils. As a result, they look forward to their lessons. Directors and governors make themselves aware of the quality of RE. They do this through evaluative visits to school as well as regular reports from leaders. Recently, governors appreciated how leaders had adapted the locally agreed syllabus to maximise its impact within the context of the school.

The quality of RE is a priority for school leaders who strive for excellence. They facilitate collaborative working opportunities for staff as well as moderation of assessments across year groups. This approach empowers staff, enhancing their subject knowledge and confidence. It enables effective and high-quality teaching. The school actively removes barriers to ensure all pupils have access to the curriculum and spiritual development. As a result, all pupils are able to progress well.

The inspection findings indicate that Canon Sharples Church of England Primary School and Nursery is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	17 January 2024	URN	142028
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	327
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation	Learning Together Trust		
Executive Headteacher	Jennifer Woodcock		
Chair	Andrew Holliday		
Inspector	Rob Dean	No.	2129