

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Heswall St Peter's Church of England Primary School	
Address	Thurstaston Road, Heswall, CH60 4SA
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	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision
<p>John 8:12 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'</p> <p>Firm foundations, shining bright</p> <p>Like St Peter, we build upon the rock of Jesus to enable us to shine: achieving our God given potential and loving ourselves, others, the world and God.</p> <p>Matthew 16:18 'You are Peter and upon this rock I shall build my church.'</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil and adults flourish at St Peter's because of the way that the community fully understand and lives out its' vision. Leaders at all levels explain how the vision is drawn from St. Peter and is built upon the rock of Jesus. • The Christian values are lived out through strong support for the wellbeing of all members of the community. As a result everyone lives well together and are cared for. • Pupils develop high levels of subject knowledge because of the well-planned religious education (RE) curriculum. However, at present, there are limited opportunities for pupils to engage with those who follow faiths and world views other than Christianity. • Collective worship unites the school community and provides a variety of activities that promote opportunities for spiritual exploration and reflection. A deeper understanding of spirituality is not yet fully developed in the curriculum. • Pupils and adults seek to challenge injustice through their active support of a particular charity. This supports a developing culture of courageous advocacy, however, the opportunities to lead courageous advocacy in the local area is still developing.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on the understanding that pupils gain through the curriculum, develop opportunities for pupils to have experience of other faiths and world religions. • Deepen pupils' understanding of spirituality to enable them to articulate its meaning and impact upon themselves and others. • Facilitate more opportunities for pupils to initiate and lead a range of social action so that they develop a deeper understanding of how to be courageous advocates against social injustice.

Inspection findings

The school's inclusive Christian vision, underpinned by Christian narrative, is at the heart of all aspects of school life. The vision is fully embedded within, and treasured by, the whole school community. As a result, pupils and adults are confident in knowing that they can build their lives on the rock of Jesus and shine bright in their community. The St Peter's values weave their way explicitly through all aspects of school life. Strong relationships ensure that all pupils flourish and have confidence in the adults who teach and care for them. The school's close partnerships with the vicar and church are beneficial and result in valuable pastoral care and practical support. Governors ensure that the robust self-evaluation process ensures development in this important aspect of church school life. Staff and governors attend relevant church school training with the Diocese. This further strengthens their understanding of an effective church school.

The school is active in the community with pupils engaging in services at St. Peter's Church. The pupils are able to 'shine bright' through these well attended events. Alongside attending services, pupils also offer practical support for the Rock of Joy trust. Donations, such as shoes and toothbrushes, are collected and sent to children in Uganda through church members. Pupils' understanding of courageous advocacy is being developed through this action to improve the lives of others.

The ethos team actively participates in promoting the school's Christian vision. They regularly plan and lead worship and are responsible for the outdoors prayer box. Pupils are invited to write and lead prayers for worship. They spontaneously offer sincere prayers, demonstrating a developing awareness of spirituality.

The wellbeing of every member of the school community is a high priority. Leaders clearly understand the challenges to mental health and the impact that this can have on pupil progress. Their motto 'firm foundations, shining bright' drives a desire to ensure that all are loved and cared for and can reach their God given potential. The school ensures that staff expertise in this area is secure and pupils are able to express the importance of valuing themselves and others. Parents find staff very approachable and staff value being part of a supportive team.

Pupils' awareness of diversity is enhanced through a variety of educational resources used in curriculum areas such as religious education (RE) and literacy. This provides children with a clear understanding of the rich culture that exists beyond the school gates. Opportunities to visit culturally diverse locations are currently limited for pupils following Covid restrictions. This has restricted the pupils' deeper experience of other world faiths.

The St Peter's values are very effective for raising the awareness of the importance of empathy and respect. This resulting positive ethos permeates the school through caring relationships and respectful attitudes. Consequently, pupils unfailingly behave calmly, courteously and with dignity. Where there are misunderstandings or occasional fallings out, pupils, with the support of the staff, can work problems out together. As a consequence, relationships are strong, and restorative conversations, forgiveness and understanding enable pupils to get along well. The school's solid Christian vision underpins every aspect of school life. As a result, pupils and adults experience school as a place of calmness, security and happiness, increasing their resilience and self-confidence.

Pupils are able to articulate a clear sense of injustice that exists in Uganda. Pupils are being taught how to raise awareness for injustice. For example, pupils wrote letters to book shops to request book donations so that local Ukraine refugees could have access to books. Strategies such as this will enable pupils to take an active role in becoming advocates for




change. Further opportunities for pupils to engage in local action for change are yet to be fully established.

Pupils value worship in their school and there are many opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually. Classroom prayer, reflection areas and times of collective worship nurture pupils' understanding of the Christian faith. Older pupils participate in, planning, leading and evaluating worship times. Lighting a candle signifies to pupils that worship is a special time as well as a reminder to shine brightly on the firm foundation of Jesus. Attractive displays around the school buildings prompt reflection and deepen children's spirituality. Leaders have developed an outdoor prayer box in which pupils may explore prayer and quiet contemplation during break times. Various opportunities for spiritual development are evident and pupils have some understanding. Leaders are aware of the need to secure a clear understanding of spirituality to develop pupil confidence.

RE makes a sound contribution to the Christian character of the school. Staff follow the diocesan syllabus and the resources of 'Understanding Christianity'. This ensures that pupils gain broad understanding and knowledge. Staff receive training to secure a good understanding of the diocesan curriculum. They use their skills and ideas to invite pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider some big questions. Pupils engage creatively in their learning. Drama is one tool that is used to enhance learning opportunities. Older pupils had the opportunity to act out different aspects of the Easter story while considering the impact. This allows pupils to develop empathy for others. RE allows pupils to consider identity, diversity and difference, within a framework characterised by tolerance and mutual respect. A range of activities and open-ended questions provoke pupils to consider the importance of belief and faith for others and for themselves. Because of this, pupils are able to articulate what faith means to them and are considerate towards others.

St Peter's successfully provide firm foundations for the school community to learn and grow in Jesus. The school adults shine brightly and provide opportunities for pupils to achieve their God given potential.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Good	
	<p>The well-planned curriculum ensures that RE teaching is effective. Children are able to articulate their learning with confidence and explain what it means to them. While pupils' knowledge of Christianity is a strength, the learning of other world faiths is less secure.</p> <p>The school has effective processes for regularly monitoring teaching and learning in RE. Pupils make good progress and flourish in their learning.</p>			
Information				
School	Heswall St Peter's Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	13 March 2023	
URN	105079	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Chester	Pupils on roll	324	
Acting Headteacher	Michael Parry			
Chair of Governors	Nicola Griffiths			
Inspector	Anna Brooksbank	No.	974	