Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Runcorn All Saints Church of England Primary School

Vision

Hope Believe Achieve

We are Runcorn All Saints; an inclusive family where we grow together and flourish under God's guidance. Through the love of God and our shared Christian values, we nurture a community of unique individuals to believe in themselves, have high hopes for their future and have the courage to go forward and achieve anything.
The Lord is my strength and my shield. I trust him with all my heart.' Psalms 28:7

Runcorn All Saints Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- The Christian vision, with its strong biblical roots, is clearly articulated and understood by pupils and adults. The vision underpins and drives all aspects of school life. It enables pupils and adults to grow and flourish.
- Worship provides calm and reflective opportunities for spiritual growth. Pupils and adults value coming together at this special time each day. Prayer spaces support personal flourishing.
- Through its vision and values, the school works tirelessly to ensure that pupils and families are known, nurtured, inspired and included. This results in them feeling safe, confident and enabled to thrive in relationships and in their learning.
- Partnerships with the local church and families are exceptionally strong and mutually beneficial. Working closely together deeply enriches Church school life.
- The Christian vision underpins a fruitful culture of justice and responsibility. Issues are courageously explored, empowering pupils to make ethical choices and challenge injustice.

Development Points

- To develop planned opportunities for times of reflection across the curriculum. This is to further support pupils' spiritual flourishing.
- To strengthen recently developed assessment procedures for religious education (RE). This will enable teachers to gauge pupils' progress more effectively.

Inspection Findings

Runcorn All Saints is a small school with a big heart. The Christian vision is at the core of this caring and loving school. Staff and pupils believe in each other and encourage one another to flourish and succeed. The vision is powerfully lived out through the values of courage, joy, trust, compassion, forgiveness and respect. These values are seen in action across the school and through the wide range of enrichment opportunities offered. Pupils' aspirations for themselves are high. Where they face difficulties, they have the courage to persevere, enabling them to flourish. Inclusivity is embraced as part of the school's vision and so pupils who have special educational needs and disabilities thrive. Leaders, including governors, make bold decisions based on the vision. For example, the appointment of a family support worker enables the school to offer additional care to many families. Lives are transformed because of the commitment and compassionate approach of leaders, governors and staff. There is a profound impact on the pupils and families they serve; many parents speak of the difference that staff have made to their lives.

Collective worship enriches the lives of pupils and adults. Inclusive and invitational, it encourages reflection on biblical teachings with opportunities for response. This is because the approach to worship is shaped by the school's shared understanding of spirituality. Pupils and adults look out at the world around them. They reflect on what they see and decide how they might act. This ensures that collective worship enables them to flourish spiritually. Links with the local church are strong and mutually beneficial. Clergy play an important role in worship, as well as contributing to RE. Weekly worship in the church allows parents to regularly engage alongside their children. These opportunities are highly valued to the extent that one parent has changed their working patterns to attend. Older pupils who act as worship leaders have a positive impact on worship. They contribute enthusiastically with prayers, readings and lighting the Trinity candles. This supports their spiritual flourishing through personal reflection as they prepare to lead. Prayer spaces within the school environment provide moments for personal reflection and help pupils to feel calm. The peace garden is a space used by pupils and adults to contemplate nature and think of God. This area enriches spiritual growth for all who use it.

The Christian vision shapes the curriculum at All Saints. It supports pupils to be courageous in their learning, enabling them to believe that 'they can achieve anything'. Leaders recognise the need to break down barriers to learning and strategies are in place to do so. The learning needs of pupils are met through the availability of timely and appropriate guidance. Funding is considerately utilised to enhance the educational outcomes of eligible pupils. Learners enjoy a vast range of clubs, experiencing sports, computing and learning Japanese. Trips beyond their locality broaden the horizons of pupils and enhance learning. Staff successfully maximise spontaneous times of awe and wonder. However, as these opportunities are not systematically planned for, spiritual moments are sometimes missed. This limits spiritual flourishing.

The wellbeing and mental health of members of the school family is of paramount importance to leaders. Love, empathy and compassion run abundantly through each day strengthening relationships. Learners are known and loved as the unique people they are. Where needed effective help is quickly given, meaning those experiencing difficulties feel noticed and listened to. Consequently, attendance and behaviour are good. Parents are directed to external agencies when they request support. As a result, issues they encounter are dealt with in a timely way ensuring they, and their children, know they are valued. Workshops are provided for parents to build their understanding of their child's education. A Christian parenting course provides valuable parenting advice. Such support builds their confidence and enables families to thrive. Staff speak highly of the support given by leaders

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and the positive impact this has on their self-belief. Wellbeing staff meetings create a strong sense of belonging in the school. Staff flourish and thrive in their roles as a result of this proactive approach by leaders.

The vision underpins the school's work to ensure a culture of justice and responsibility. Across the school, staff support pupils to explore their responses to situations they see as unjust. Pupils act with courage as they recognise their responsibility to support those who most need their help. Those engaging with a leadership award are establishing a café in the local community. Due to open shortly, its aim is to combat loneliness. These pupils lead the school in deciding which charities to support and are proactive in providing food for the local foodbank. As a result, pupils are active agents for change in their locality. In school, they take their responsibility for looking after the chickens seriously. They are proud that the eggs are used in the school's breakfast club provision. Exploring current world issues and British values further develops an understanding of justice. Pupils debate and have spirited discussions about how to tackle injustice more widely. They understand the impact of humans on the environment and are active in promoting recycling and conservation. As a result of their actions, pupils are growing in confidence and learning that they make a difference in the world.

Leaders ensure that RE has a high profile across the school. It has a clear impact on the lives of pupils and their personal spirituality. This is seen in the natural way they discuss faith and beliefs. A revised curriculum has been implemented, combining two high-quality resources. These promote deep thinking, and pupils benefit from the challenge that this brings. Big questions, a feature of the RE curriculum, stimulate discussion and reasoning within lessons. For instance, 'Is death an ending or a beginning?' prompts meaningful and thoughtful responses. The curriculum is diverse. It provides opportunities to explore a range of religions and worldviews, including Christianity as a global, lived faith. This ensures pupils are well supported for living in a culturally diverse world. The curriculum is enriched by visitors sharing their beliefs and worldviews. Pupils share their own faith journey with their peers. As a result, they have a deep understanding of the impact of beliefs on people's lives. Impactful links with the diocese ensure training is effective. Staff have strong subject knowledge. Teaching is therefore good, enabling pupils to flourish in RE. Monitoring activities, including floor book scrutiny, pupil voice and learning walks, are beginning to show the depth of pupils' learning and inform teaching. Evidence of opportunities to reflect upon what they have learnt and consider how this affects their understanding is clear. Currently, teachers are not able to accurately track pupils' progress in RE. This is because a recently introduced assessment procedure is not embedded.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Church Street, Runcorn, Cheshire. WA7 1LD		
Date	29 January 2025	URN	111314
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	96
Diocese/District	Chester		
Headteacher	Joanne Robertson		
Chair of Governors	Kim Smith		
Inspector	Anna Brooksbank		

