



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Christ Church CofE Primary, Spitalfields	
Address	47a Brick Lane, Spitalfields, E1 6PU
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)	Excellent

School's vision
<p style="text-align: center;">'Starting the journey well'</p> <p>As a Church of England community school, we believe we can impact God's world for good, grow in learning, love, wonder and faith and seek together to flourish in the fullest way possible.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong, principled and dedicated leadership has driven a Christian vision that is fully inclusive and enables pupils and adults to flourish. The vision has been significantly developed over recent years and underpins the life and work of the school. • Vulnerable and SEND pupils flourish particularly well. Barriers to their learning such as low literacy and reading fluency are removed through effective teaching and specialist intervention. • Pupils are inspired to be the best they can be and behave exceptionally well. Pupils are encouraged to be leaders and have good opportunities to reflect on their responsibilities in the wider world. However, the impact of them understanding and living out their role as courageous advocates can be developed further. • Collective worship is enjoyed and valued by the school community. There are meaningful opportunities for prayer and reflection. Pupils actively lead and review collective worship, however their involvement in its planning is limited. • Pupils make excellent progress in RE. Through a creative and engaging curriculum, pupils gain a strong knowledge of world faiths. Precise feedback and skilful questioning move learning forward for all learners, whatever their starting point.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen pupils' understanding as to why courageous advocacy is important, so that the impact of the vision is further strengthened. • Extend the opportunities for pupils to plan and fully evaluate collective worship, so that they can further flourish in their spiritual development. • Continue to share the excellent practice in RE with other schools.

Inspection findings

The Christian vision of this vibrant church school community enables pupils and adults to flourish. The school has a strong and trusted reputation, with up to three generations within families having attended the school over many decades. Leaders are committed to ensuring that all pupils 'start the journey well' so that when they grow older they will 'not turn from it' (Proverbs 22:6). Pupils of all ages are developed holistically through very strong teaching and an impressive pastoral care and support framework. This is at the heart of the vision. Equipped to be independent learners, all pupils are encouraged to 'believe, grow and seek'. A culture of curiosity, reflection and high aspiration has been effectively cultivated. Leaders, including governors, know the pupils and their families extremely well. They ensure that the vision celebrates the diversity of faith and belief within the school community whilst distinctively upholding the Christian theological teaching that underpins the vision. Adults, including parents, value the leadership of this school and speak about it being a place where all are cared for. In particular, the Christian ethos of the school made a difference during the pandemic. Leaders ensured that all pupils continued to flourish during this challenging time. Resources were protected for the most vulnerable and all families received the academic, emotional and spiritual support they needed.

Pupils experience joyous and harmonious relationships with each other and adults. They interact with love, kindness and empathy. Adults share with pupils how they themselves 'believe, grow and seek' through their own journey of faith and belief. Pupils use the character and teachings of Jesus as a strong example to follow in terms of their character development and conduct. Adults use restorative justice approaches, underpinned by Christian theology, to help children resolve conflicts and achieve reconciliation and forgiveness. Pupils are taught how to disagree well. They talk about adults helping them grow and develop: they 'build you up' and 'help you learn from mistakes'. An important part of this development is pupils' growing appreciation of courageous advocacy. Pupils support a range of charities. This increases pupils' sense of agency and their desire to see justice for those less fortunate or marginalised. Although they are aware of their responsibility as courageous advocates, their understanding of why it is important and the nature of their impact could be developed further.

Learning is well planned and sequenced across the curriculum, allowing pupils to achieve and flourish. There is a powerful focus on 'forever knowledge' in all subjects. This is knowledge that pupils need to acquire to be successful in present and future learning. Pupils' thinking is deepened through questioning and this growth in learning is a key facet of the school's Christian vision. Pupils are encouraged to 'see, think and wonder', which supports their academic and spiritual development. Pupils with SEND flourish well. The school draws on invaluable expertise such as speech and language therapists and the lived experiences of parents who have children with autism (ASD) to lead SEND awareness days for the whole school community. All classroom teachers and learning support assistants have regular training to support the progress of all learners, including those who are vulnerable, more able and have SEND. Learning behaviours of all pupils are extremely strong, displayed by even the very youngest pupils of the school. Pupils listen actively, respond well to questioning and remain engaged at all times. The school's work in developing oracy is excellent and transformative. Pupils are equipped with a rich vocabulary that is subject specific as well as cross-curricular. This helps to remove barriers to learning as pupils of all abilities are able to access subject content through their growing vocabulary acquisition. Pupils can talk about




how they learn and readily take on different roles in discussions. This supports pupils to 'seek' to improve and flourish in their learning, rooted in the school's Christian vision. The school has an excellent partnership with a local law firm. They provide invaluable expertise, sponsorship and opportunities for pupils to develop their public speaking skills. Community partnerships like these deeply enrich the life of the school and are characterised by generosity and grace.

The school's partnership and work with its local parish church allows pupils and adults to flourish particularly well, especially through collective worship. The rich 300-year history of the parish church is valued by the school community. Having regular services there, with its passionate clergy, beautiful architecture and engaging liturgy, creates awe and wonder for pupils. Collective worship is a priority for school. It is at the heart of the school's Christian vision and is organised to explore the vision's theology and the associated Christian values. Collective worship also marks very important observance days on the Christian calendar as well as other cultural and religious festivals. Collective worship is inspirational, invitational and inclusive. It is fully interactive and pupils really enjoy it. It helps to develop pupils and adults' spiritually and both value opportunities to pray, reflect and think deeply. The school effectively led a prayer week during national mental health awareness week. This connected spiritual well-being to mental health and helped pupils appreciate why their flourishing mentally and spiritually was really important. Drama, music and moving image is used readily, making collective worship interactive and creative. Pupils enjoy a diverse range of songs from different Christian traditions and genres. Pupils do review and evaluate worship, however this process is in development. There are limited opportunities for pupils to take on a consultative role in collective worship planning.

RE is a beacon of excellent practice at the school. Pupils thoroughly enjoy RE and develop extremely strong religious literacy of world religions. Pupils particularly value the discussion and debate that is facilitated in RE. Teaching is creative and highly enriching. Pupils experience very meaningful trips and visits to religious places of worship. The subject leader shares impressive assessment and curriculum practice with other schools. When teaching the topic of religious liturgy, the school held a powerful inter-faith service. Pupils and their parents were able to draw on their own diverse religious history and practices and contribute to the service in a meaningful way. This unified all through the inclusive Christian vision, enabling all to flourish.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>Pupils' progress in RE is excellent. Teaching is responsive and the curriculum is meticulously planned. Pupils respond to the subject extremely positively. Through the RE provision, pupils celebrate other faiths and beliefs and develop the values of tolerance and respect. This includes more vulnerable pupils and those with SEND. Learning is effectively monitored to ensure pupil progress is not only strong, but that their achievements surpass expectations.</p>			
Information				
School	Christ Church CofE Primary, Spitalfields	Inspection date	7 December 2022	
URN	100944	VC/VA/ Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	London	Pupils on roll	188	
Headteacher	Jessica Williams			
Chair of Governors	Simon Walsh			
Inspector	Andrew Wignal	No.	2118	