

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Oxton St Saviour's Primary School				
Address	Holm Lane, Prenton, Wirral CH43 2HT			
Date of inspection	20 June 2019	Status of school	Voluntary Aided	
Diocese	Chester	URN	105066	

Overall Judgement	Grade	Excellent
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?		
Additional Judgements		
The impact of collective worship	Grade	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Grade	Excellent

School context

Oxton St Saviour's is a primary school with 248 pupils on role. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below the national average. The proportions of pupils who receive support for special education needs and/or disabilities is below the national average. In March 2019, Ofsted judged that this was a good school. The current headteacher was appointed in January 2018 and the deputy head joined the school in September 2018.

The school's Christian vision

Live in peace with each other.

Love the lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength and love your neighbour as yourself.

This, the greatest commandment, inspires our community to grow together in Christ our Saviour, to love and serve one another, to reach out in witness to our neighbours, live in peace with one another and promote life in all its fullness.

Key findings

- The school's deeply embedded Christian vision is exceptional in the way that it infuses all areas of the school's life, community and work. This profoundly and positively influences relationships, decision-making, policy and practice throughout the school.
- The personal Christian commitment and passionate leadership of the headteacher, along with his highly dedicated and enthusiastic staff, create and sustain a school in which all flourish and attain strong academic success.
- All pupils are individually known, nurtured and inspired in a highly supportive environment of challenge and a firmly held commitment to inclusion. This results in extremely positive and purposeful relationships throughout the school, founded in Christian love.
- Particularly strong, mutually beneficial links with the parish church, other local schools and the diocese contribute significantly to the school's Christian distinctiveness.
- The leadership of RE in the school is highly skilful and gives the subject a high status. It is very much enjoyed by pupils who have a clear understanding and appreciation of Christianity and other religions.

Areas for development

- Further strengthen systems for governors to monitor and evaluate the school's Christian distinctiveness to inform future developments.
- Extend pupils' involvement in the planning and leadership of collective worship in order to further promote their spiritual development.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

The whole community of Oxton St Saviour's School is passionate about living and breathing all elements of its deeply embedded Christian vision which infuses everything that is done. It is driven by the strong commitment of the headteacher and his staff alongside very well-established partnerships with the parish church and diocese. It is highly inclusive and ensures that everyone is supported and valued enabling them to flourish and use their God-given talents and abilities to the full. This creates a welcoming, positive, purposeful environment in which pupils develop a deep love of life and learning and strive for excellence in their work and relationships. Senior leaders have established an exceptionally rigorous Church self-evaluation process and vision audit. These result in the school's Christian distinctiveness remaining high profile, relevant and dynamic. At present, governors do not link this into their formal system for whole school monitoring and evaluation. Leaders are involved in the work of other schools in the local area and diocese. This includes highly effective work leading professional development in RE in many diocesan and community schools. As a result, teachers gain increased knowledge and expertise in the subject.

Links with the parish church are very strong and mutually beneficial. Pupils are excited by their regular visits to the church. For many, their involvement extends into Sunday services, the monthly Messy Church events and confirmation. The local vicar, the church's children and families' worker and others from the congregation provide regular support and leadership in worship, governance and pastoral work. This is valued and actively supports the worship, prayer and spiritual life of the school.

Inspired by the school vision, governors and leaders have made bold financial, organisational and staffing decisions to create additional provision for vulnerable pupils. This has further strengthened the keen focus on inclusion and the passion for individuals to live life in all its fullness. It means that early intervention can often prevent problems from escalating. The school's highly effective special needs and pastoral team work tirelessly in their support of vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils. In addition, they champion the importance of good mental health and wellbeing throughout the school. This means that no one who may be struggling goes unnoticed. Adults and families speak of their reassurance and confidence in the strong support that they have received from the church school community. The excellent environment of care, concern and support which is so strongly inspired by the school vision means that all are unfailingly treated with dignity and respect. As a result, all members of the school community thrive.

Imaginative curriculum innovations and an excellent culture of extracurricular provision mean that pupils have a wealth of opportunities to explore and reflect upon spiritual dimensions of the world and develop character. These include forest school, flavour school, mini-mermaids and a broad range of traditional and original outdoor activities enabling all to build confidence and live life to the full. Teaching is very strong, and pupils are motivated and resilient. Standards of attainment for those of every ability and all backgrounds are consistently well above local and national averages. The use of challenging questions helps to develop curiosity and fosters an appetite to further explore important themes. Outstanding floor books and displays of work reflect the high quality and depth of pupils' responses.

The Christian vision promotes a wonderful culture in which difference and diversity, both within and beyond school, are warmly embraced. Everyone loves their neighbour as they love themselves. This results in an exceptionally affirming and positive atmosphere which permeates the school. Forgiveness and reconciliation happen quickly if needed and are well understood. One pupil wrote, 'Forgiving someone makes me feel happy again.' The school vision inspires an extensive range of charitable links. Pupils respond by advocating matters and issues which concern them and through their engagement in social action at local, national and international levels.

Collective worship is at the heart of at Oxton St Saviour's. The Christian vision is powerfully declared by all, with actions, at the start of every act of worship. This demonstrates a wonderful unity of mission, feelings and purpose. The church's year, along with the school's Christian values underpin the vision and provide the framework for collective worship. As a result, pupils understand key events and biblical teaching. Enthusiastic singing, The Lord's Prayer, Bible readings and visual material help to create a very meaningful and relevant worship experience for the whole school. Opportunities to explore the breadth and diversity of worship help pupils to understand the variety of approaches to Christianity as a world faith. Regular services of the Eucharist, attended by the whole school, are

a highlight for many pupils. A pupil commented, 'The special blessing from the vicar made me feel very close to God. He is always there for me.'

RE has a very high status in the school. It has been awarded the RE Quality Mark, Gold standard. It is a subject in which pupils are inspired and where an enquiry approach enables them to ask thoughtful, high-level questions relating to faith and religion. Pupils recognise these lessons as a safe and challenging opportunity to explore and compare religious and spiritual beliefs and practices. Pupils are highly confident and proficient in giving well informed accounts and perspectives about Christianity and other faiths. Christianity and other faiths are well represented in the excellent provision for visits. This greatly enriches pupils' studies and their understanding of the place of faith in modern Britain and globally.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

The planning and teaching of RE are outstanding and this excites pupils to engage very positively in the subject. Pupils are excellently challenged in their exploration, understanding and evaluation of religious belief and practice and of Christianity as a living, diverse, world faith. Lessons are inspiring and imaginative promoting rapid progress in all year groups. Teachers are very skilled in planning work for different needs, making pupils enthusiastic, strongly motivated and challenged in their learning. Attainment is very strong enabling pupils to flourish in the subject. The high quality, committed and passionate leadership of the subject ensures that all teachers are knowledgeable, well-resourced and skilled in their teaching of Christianity and other world faiths. Very high-profile, skilful and committed leadership of the subject extends well beyond St Saviour's and has an excellent impact on the teaching of RE in many local and diocesan schools.

Headteacher	Andrew Ramsden
Inspector's name and number	Peter Coates 937