

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Michael's Church of England Primary School

Vision

Rooted in faith, growing together. At St Michael's we desire to be a community where we inspire and nurture everyone to grow as resilient, empathetic and courageous individuals. Together, we empower all to thrive academically, personally, professionally and spiritually, becoming compassionate agents of change who positively impact the world around them. This is rooted in Luke 8:15. 'The seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it and, persevering, produce a crop.'

St Michael's 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.

Notable Strengths

- The Christian vision underpins and drives the work of St Michael's school. Passionate Christian leaders have established this vision alongside a shared set of values. This positively influences the lives of pupils, adults and the wider community. Rigorous review systems ensure that this vision continues to drive developments.
- The Christian vision is aspirational for pupils and adults. The carefully adapted curriculum and highly inclusive ethos ensure that learners are well supported and enabled to flourish.
- The strong and established partnership with the local church community has an inspiring impact on how the vision is lived out. This mutually beneficial relationship greatly enhances provision for collective worship and contributes to individual spiritual development.
- A range of pupil-led fundraising projects gives them a keen sense of responsibility towards others. They closely link their school values to their role in improving the lives of others through their actions.
- Effective leadership of religious education (RE) and the productive partnership with the diocese ensure staff competently deliver a well-structured curriculum. This ensures pupils gain a sound understanding of Christianity and a range of religions and worldviews.

Development Points

- To develop a stronger understanding of what spirituality means at St Michael's. This is so that pupils and adults have greater opportunities to deepen their own spirituality.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

St Michael's is a school where pupils and adults thrive and flourish. The distinctiveness of this school as a Church school permeates its life. This stems from a strong Christian vision, developed collaboratively by leaders, staff, pupils, parents and carers. It meets the needs of the school and its families well, as do the pertinent chosen values. This is evident, for example, in the empathy and kindness that characterise positive relationships across the school. The values are proudly promoted and celebrated through beautiful artwork and vibrant displays. Partnership work flows seamlessly through school life, relentlessly shaping the vision and values. Incisive and relevant training from the diocese is pivotal in St Michael's ongoing development as a Church school. The vision's biblical roots are highly relevant to the evolving context of this urban school with rising levels of diversity and educational needs. Leaders recognise the role of the school in 'planting the seed of faith.' These determined Christian leaders ensure the school's work is solidly rooted in the vision and values. As a result, individuals are nurtured and allowed to blossom, 'rooted in faith, growing together.'

Vision and Curriculum

The school's curriculum reflects the vision well. Leaders describe it as the 'water' that feeds and enriches the 'soil.' It supports pupils' personal development and enables them to grow spiritually. From the point of entry until transition to high school, pupils gain a wealth of skills and knowledge. Forest school provision provides a safe space for pupils to explore their emotions in the natural environment. Pupils with vulnerabilities, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are swiftly identified and supported. Interventions, including typing lessons, help these pupils access the curriculum with greater ease. Parents and carers feel listened to and value the communications they receive. This helps them support at home and access training, including parenting classes. A range of wider curriculum activities contribute to spiritual development. Pupils care for nature through gardening club, while outdoor adventurous residential visits help them develop resilience. However, not all staff or pupils have a clear and explicit understanding of spirituality. This limits opportunities for a progressive deepening of spirituality.

Worship and Spirituality

The link with the local church community effectively shapes worship planning and provision. This means it is a daily expression and exploration of the Christian vision and values. Consequently, worship has a tangible impact on the way the vision is lived out in school. This learning continues at home, where pupils debate big questions with their families, supporting their spiritual flourishing. As a result, they articulate their beliefs with maturity. Worship is valued as a time to come together, reflect and be still. Younger pupils enthusiastically engage in 'Wiggle Worship,' learning about Bible stories. Pupil leaders present awards at a celebration worship. This gives status to the values and recognises their impact on the lives of others. Pupils visit the local church to celebrate Christian festivals, for example, Easter. This motivates them to attend church family services, linking the school and the church's work. Pupils are invited to pray and find prayer helpful to give thanks or ask for help. They share prayers at home, for example, at mealtimes, demonstrating their own spiritual growth. Visits to an Anglican cathedral give pupils a sense of awe and wonder, deepening their spirituality further. Adults value worship as a space to reflect on their own beliefs and spirituality. It deepens their understanding of the relevance of the Christian values to their own lives. For example, the importance of resilience in times of difficulty.

Vision and School Culture

The Christian vision inspires a culture of trust. Relationships are characterised by care, empathy and respect. Leaders have an 'open door' policy and people are listened to and supported. The school is a nurturing family where morale is high and positive mental health is prioritised. The emphasis on work-life balance and activities, such as mindfulness sessions, benefits staff wellbeing. Staff new to the school are embraced into the caring and supportive community. This enables them to develop and flourish. In times of difficulty, pupils access pastoral support from various channels. This includes the church community, designated staff and outside agencies, for example, bereavement charities. This support improves emotional health and enables pupils to thrive and



succeed in their learning. The focus on the values of kindness and collaboration impacts the way pupils treat each other. Consequently, they display exemplary behaviour.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The vision and values have a profound impact on creating a culture of justice and responsibility across the school. They challenge and motivate pupils to improve the lives of those in need. Pupils collect items for a local foodbank as part of their Harvest celebration. A range of leadership opportunities gives pupils a sound understanding of justice. They recognise the impact of inequality on lives past and present. Pupils learn about inspirational role models during Black History Month. This gives them an understanding of individual freedom and rights. Pupil 'agents of change' demonstrate kindness by organising a wealth of fundraising activities. These inspire other pupils and staff to instigate projects outside of school, for example, sponsored events to raise funds for cancer charities. Visits to Westminster and letters to politicians develop an understanding of democracy. Pupil councillors gain a keen awareness of the importance of taking care of their locality. They plant wildflowers and organise litter picks in the community. They relate this to inspiring individuals, which motivates them to take action to protect the environment.

Religious Education

In partnership with the diocese, skilled subject leaders have developed a broad and balanced RE curriculum. This allows pupils to build up their knowledge sequentially. The diverse curriculum provides a well-balanced diet of Christianity, world religions and worldviews. Younger pupils learn about Christian festivals through creative activities. As pupils progress, they relate the story of the crucifixion to the concept of salvation. They say, 'God sent Jesus to save the world and forgive their sins.' Older pupils compare the biblical account of creation with a scientific worldview, articulating their beliefs with maturity. The curriculum gives pupils a sound understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. They explore similarities between faiths with interest and respect, for example, comparing aspects of Christian and Jewish wedding ceremonies.

The knowledge pupils gain and the progress they make evidence that the teaching of RE is strong. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation systems are in place, which are linked to improvement priorities and professional development opportunities. These include sharing good practice with other local Church schools. This ensures the subject knowledge of staff is up to date. Assessment systems are effective, challenging pupils to make meaningful links across their learning. These provide a clear picture of learning and attainment, which demonstrates how well pupils progress over time.

Information

Address	The Grove, Flixton, Manchester, M41 6JB		
Date	22 October 2025	URN	106350
Type of school	Voluntary aided	No. of pupils	230
Diocese	Manchester		
Headteacher	Lucy Perry		
Chair of Governors	Paul Middleton		
Inspector	Anne Barker		