



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Margaret’s Anfield Church of England Primary School

Address Lower Breck Road, Anfield, Liverpool. L6 4BX

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

Excellent

The impact of collective worship

Excellent

School’s vision

Our vision is our mission. It is rooted in the teachings of Jesus and is the driver for everything we do in school, how we treat people and how we live our lives. It is the heart of our school, and the impact is also felt in the wider community. Jesus said, ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ Therefore, by faith and work, we will be the change we want to see.

Key findings

- The school’s vision and associated values are firmly rooted in the Bible. They powerfully infuse all areas of the life, relationships and mission of the community of St Margaret’s. This results in the thriving and flourishing of pupils, adults and the school’s extended and diverse community.
- St Margaret’s determined and inspirational leaders and staff relentlessly strive to faithfully live out the school’s vision ensuring that everyone is valued and included. This ensures that no one who may be struggling goes unnoticed or unsupported.
- The extremely strong links with the local clergy contribute significantly to the school’s Christian character and impact positively on the spiritual life of all members of the school community.
- Religious education (RE) is very well led, and the subject follows a well-planned curriculum. Effective assessment strategies underpin pupils’ progress in their studies and ensure that pupils are challenged effectively in their learning.
- Pupils and adults benefit from high-quality collective worship which is at the heart of the school’s vision. This promotes deeply poignant opportunities for reflection, spiritual development and prayer.

Areas for development

- Explore ways in which the school’s excellent practice in living its Christian distinctiveness can be shared with, disseminated to and have impact in other church schools.
- Further extend pupils’ knowledge of alternative forms of Christian worship to enable them to understand the variety of ways that Christians live out their faith.
- Extend opportunities for staff and pupils who would like to prepare to receive the Eucharist.

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 St Margaret's Anfield passionately lives and breathes each element of its deeply embedded Christian vision. This creates a highly positive, nurturing environment in which every individual is known, nurtured and inspired. The vision is driven through the profound commitment and dedication of senior leaders. They are strongly supported by staff and through a very well-established partnership with local clergy. Within and beyond its gates, St Margaret's is excellent in living out its vision to 'Love one another as I have loved you'. It is highly effective in meeting the varying and often complex needs of each of its pupils and those in its diverse community. This has led to the school being the bedrock for many in the locality, bringing hope and support and 'being the change we want to see'. Parents and families speak about the school's significant impact before, during and since COVID lockdowns.

Because of its vision, the school has a welcoming, purposeful environment and is highly inclusive. Individuals flourish using their God given skills and talents. Through keenly targeted support, staff work tirelessly to remove barriers to learning. They create imaginative opportunities through an effectively crafted curriculum. There is excellent provision for the learning and spiritual needs of every pupil. This encourages and enables them to have focus, high aspirations and to make strong progress. Because lessons are relevant, stimulating and purposeful, attendance is good. Through the excellent work of the skilled welfare team there is outstanding, targeted additional support and nurture. Motivated by the vision, governors and leaders have made bold financial and organizational decisions to maximise provision for the school's many vulnerable pupils. This further strengthens the school's emphasis on inclusion and its passion for everyone to live life in all its fullness.

Within and beyond the curriculum, and through strong partnerships, the school provides pupils with excellent and varied opportunities. These allow pupils to gain new experiences, explore spiritual dimensions and develop character. A successful culture of extracurricular activities benefits pupils helping them to live life to the full. A host of significant awards and accolades recognise the school's outstanding determination to enable pupils and adults to flourish. These include School of Sanctuary, Archbishop of York Young Leaders' Award, Church School Awards and the Platinum Sportsmark.

As a result of the vision, leaders are unswerving in their determination to protect and support the mental health and wellbeing of all. Extensive provision includes staff mental health first aider training. As a result, adults' and pupils' mental health is protected and where needed, effective support is quickly given. The school's excellent practice is commended by the local learning partnership and recognised through the Wellbeing Award for Schools.

Excellent relationships throughout St Margaret's powerfully demonstrate the vision being lived out. This results in a strong culture in which everyone looks out for one another. It ensures that if someone is struggling, they will be noticed, loved and supported. The school is richly multicultural and difference is embraced and celebrated. On rare occasions when problems do occur, they are quickly and effectively resolved. Exclusions are very rare. The culture of the school is one where people can disagree well and where forgiveness and reconciliation are the norm. This environment deeply infuses the school, enabling each person to feel welcome and safe and to experience dignity and respect. The curriculum, as well as resources and displays, provide opportunities for the whole community to understand and embrace diversity. The school has a strong and carefully planned relationship and sex education programme. This enables pupils to cherish and respect themselves and others as unique individuals who are wonderfully made.

The school vision to 'love one another as I have loved you' is powerfully demonstrated by pupils as they look into and beyond their own community. This is done through their learning about and supporting a wide range of local, national and international charities. These include Love Jasmine, L6 Community, and Christian Aid as well as refugee and environmental charities. Through this work, pupils engage in multiple opportunities to develop their understanding of people and situations in the world where there is need, deprivation or crisis. Consequently, they are powerful courageous advocates challenging injustice and engaging in social action.

Well-informed governors are clear about current thinking and practice concerning Church school education. They offer challenge and have a robust programme of monitoring and evaluating the school's Christian distinctiveness. They are therefore very effective in their support of the school.

Collective worship is at the heart of St Margaret's and a powerful stimulus for the life of the school. A carefully planned programme follows the church year and explores how the Bible presents the generosity of God's love for all people. The whole community feels included and values the transformational impact of collective worship on their lives. The Lord's Prayer and liturgical responses are used widely. Members of the school speak enthusiastically of how they are inspired through various forms of prayer and of its meaning in their experience. Introduced by local clergy, 'Heart Prayer', a way of stilling and reflecting, is used extremely effectively throughout the school. Several pupils describe prayer as a significant and deeply spiritual experience for them. It makes them feel closer to God and brings them a real sense of inner peace and calm. Excellently resourced prayer spaces in every classroom and the large, dedicated prayer cabin are valued for reflection and refocus throughout the day. An effective and enthusiastic pupil ethos team is active in promoting and supporting the school ethos and collective worship.

RE has a high status and is well taught and well-resourced throughout the school. The inspiring curriculum enables pupils to gain a clear understanding of the importance of faith. Pupils develop a strong comprehension of Christianity as a living, global faith. Using big questions, pupils can critically explore and articulate complex themes in an environment which they find to be challenging and safe. Learning is greatly enriched through regular 'experience visits' to the parish church and local cathedral. Through these, pupils encounter the traditions and practices which some Christians use in worship and as they celebrate key life events and festivals. As yet, opportunities to explore a wider breadth of Christian worship styles are more limited. Pupils enjoy studying faiths in addition to Christianity, and this helps them to evaluate, compare and contrast their own understanding of belief.

St Margaret's highly effective work, inspired and directed by its vision, is clearly transformative on the lives of its pupils. In every thought and action, its love and care for each individual is clearly demonstrated.

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	16 November 2021	URN	134245
Date of previous inspection	November 2014		
School status	Voluntary controlled	NOR	443
Name of MAT/Federation	N/A		
Diocese	Liverpool		
Headteacher	Mark Griffiths		
Pupil profile	The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is above national averages.		
	The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is above national averages.		
Additional significant information (if needed)	The headteacher was appointed in September 2021.		
Inspector's name	Peter Coates	No.	937