



## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Ormskirk Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Greetby Hill, Ormskirk, L39 2DP

School vision
Our whole school community strives, through God's love and guidance, to provide a safe and stimulating environment in which all are Inspired, Aim High, Achieve and Shine!

School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly effective leadership and governance ensure that the school's deeply Christian vision and values are at the heart of daily life.</li> <li>• Supportive and respectful relationships throughout the school community stem from a belief in the power of God's infinite love. Inspired by the Christian vision and values, there is a culture of inclusivity and compassion.</li> <li>• The Christian vision permeates all aspects of the school's work. The desire to 'Inspire, Aim High, Achieve and Shine' is reflected in rich learning and extra-curricular opportunities. These are designed to raise aspirations and enable every individual to flourish.</li> <li>• Inspirational collective worship is extremely well-planned, monitored and evaluated. Pupils and adults experience invitational and varied opportunities to praise God, pray and grow spiritually.</li> <li>• Highly effective leadership of religious education (RE) and a challenging curriculum ensure that pupils have rich learning experiences. They successfully develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity, world faiths and world views.</li> </ul>

Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed a whole school shared understanding of spirituality in order to plan opportunities across the curriculum. This is to help identify current strengths as well as plan further high quality provision across all learning.</li> <li>• Extend opportunities to inspire pupils to have the confidence to act responsibly as agents of social and ethical justice.</li> </ul>

Inspection findings
<p>The deeply Christian vision and associated values are central to the life of the school as it serves its community. Leaders are extremely clear that the vision is a golden thread rooted in a desire to raise aspirations and bring hope to all. The safe and stimulating environment encourages everyone to walk in Jesus's footsteps in order to shine in and outside school. There is a true sense of discipleship as people travel alongside each other in God's love.</p> <p>The Christian vision inspires everyone to be the very best they can be and to live life to the full. Leaders make bold decisions to remove barriers thus enabling every member of the school to thrive. A culture of love and compassion supports the community as children of God. Being inclusive and</p>

sensitive to individual needs is a high priority. Senior leaders are supported by a dedicated staff team and knowledgeable governors. Highly effective self-evaluation and development planning ensure that the Christian vision drives all aspects of school improvement. A close relationship with the diocese supports staff and governors in their work.

Visionary leadership responds to the specific needs of every pupil. All have equal access to inspirational learning experiences. These encourage everyone to achieve, aim high and shine. Intervention strategies, mentoring and nurture support make it possible for every pupil to engage in learning. Pupils, including the most vulnerable, show great resilience and determination because of the care they receive. A wide range of extension activities including outdoor pursuits, climbing Snowdon and visiting museums motivates pupils. They welcome these opportunities, becoming more confident and aspirational. The school makes excellent use of its extensive grounds to develop pupils' spiritual response to the wonders of creation. 'Forest School' and opportunities to experience the natural world are integral to learning. They have a positive influence on emotional development. The school is in the early stages of reviewing how spiritual growth can be nurtured in a more meaningful way through the whole curriculum. Pupils enjoy taking on roles of responsibility as prefects, members of the eco committee, school council and library monitors. They engage in a wide range of extra-curricular activities that broaden experience and raise aspirations.

Collective worship is carefully planned so that it is inclusive, inspirational and invitational. It is central to the school's daily life. Planning incorporates themes based on the Christian vision, core values, the Bible, inspirational Christians and major festivals. As a result, the community is constantly reminded of the ways in which everyone can lead a life rooted in the example of Jesus. Pupils value worship and engage well. They appreciate opportunities for silence and reflection which are an important part of the school's approach. Traditional prayers, responses and a clear liturgical framework help pupils to become familiar with Anglican practice. The pattern of whole school and class worship means that they experience formal and informal approaches. As a result, the spiritual lives of all are carefully nurtured. Members of the governing body effectively contribute to worship. They provide a vital link with the parish church that pupils visit for major festivals. Parents value opportunities to be part of worship and this strengthens the life of the community. Clear monitoring and evaluation procedures inform areas for improvement. Professional development and advice from the diocese make a positive contribution to the school's approach. As a result, staff have become increasingly confident when leading worship.

The school's Christian vision and values underpin all relationships. They are at the heart of policies and practice. Pupils behave extremely well. They understand the importance of living out Christian values in their relationships with one another and adults. Pupils feel safe and secure. They know that staff will help and support them in times of difficulty. This results in a strong sense of togetherness and love for one another. The welcoming and calm atmosphere creates a haven for all members of the school community. Everyone feels valued. The loving and inclusive ethos sustains positive relationships with parents and carers. They feel comfortable and supported as members of the school community. They know that they can approach the school at any time for help and reassurance. Support for members of staff is exceptional. This enables them to thrive professionally and ensures that their mental health and wellbeing are a priority.

The school's Christian vision and values are central to developing pupils' awareness of justice and responsibility. As a result, they are aware of the needs of others because the school encourages their knowledge, curiosity and ethical response. Carefully planned discussion enables pupils to consider human rights and how they might become agents of change. The use of specialist resources within planning for worship supports the development of pupils' awareness. The school supports a range of local and national charities. The 'Shine Out!' committee gives pupils an opportunity to share ideas with staff and governors. As a result, they are beginning to consider social advocacy beyond their



locality, although this is at an early stage.

Leaders place RE at the heart of learning. The syllabus ensures that pupils have access to a rich curriculum. They effectively learn about Christianity and major world faiths. They reflect on their own religious and spiritual convictions. Pupils have opportunities to delve more deeply into lesson content, exploring texts, discussing theological ideas and considering challenging questions. As a result, they confidently articulate their knowledge and understanding. Staff use a variety of teaching styles and resources to enhance pupils' learning. Exercise books and class reflection journals show that they experience a range of activities. They develop appropriate religious language and are confident to share opinions and ideas in discussion. Staff are supported in their subject knowledge through continuous professional development. Leaders carefully monitor teaching and learning to ensure a consistent approach.

The inspection findings indicate that Ormskirk Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	15 January 2024	URN	119372
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	403
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Giles Storch		
Chair	Richard France		
Inspector	Jean Forward	No.	625