

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

| St Stephen and All Martyrs' Church of England Primary School                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 |
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| Address                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Radcliffe Road, Bolton, BL2 1NZ |
| School vision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                 |
| <p>Achieve, Believe, Care underpins all that we do: it embodies making learning exciting, engaging and relevant to children's lives in the 21st century. All children Achieve their full potential. We Believe our core Christian values nurture each child within our school family. We Care for ourselves and each other because we are a school community of faith. We believe these are 'God's plans for us'</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jeremiah 29:11</p> <p>Together these principles prepare our pupils to be lifelong learners-creating a recipe for success!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                 |
| School strengths                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong, dedicated leaders are transforming life at St Stephen and All Martyrs' as they live out the deeply embedded Christian vision. Impactful decisions, guided by the vision, are made to support all pupils.</li> <li>• Leaders, including governors, effectively monitor and evaluate the school as a Church school. The shared commitment to the vision supports the flourishing of pupils and adults within a loving and supportive school community.</li> <li>• Nurture and wellbeing are paramount across the school. Pastoral care and support are highly effective.</li> <li>• Collective worship is a special time for the school community. It thoughtfully reflects the vision and values and supports spiritual flourishing.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) is well led. Effective and supportive leadership ensures the curriculum meets the needs of all pupils and supports teachers so that they teach well. Consequently, pupils learn well and make sound progress or better.</li> </ul> |                                 |
| Areas for development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deepen pupils' knowledge of Christianity as a global faith. This is to help pupils to appreciate and value diversity and difference.</li> <li>• Extend pupils' engagement with social action projects so they may become agents of change in the community beyond their local community.</li> <li>• Establish a shared understanding and language for spirituality across the school. This is so that all pupils and adults can readily articulate and share their experiences, enriching spiritual flourishing for the whole community.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 |
| Inspection findings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                 |
| <p>St Stephen and All Martyrs' has a caring, nurturing ethos that is evident from the moment you walk in. The clearly established Christian vision is inclusive and accessible for all. A strong sense of welcome and belonging encapsulates this loving school. Staff and pupils have high aspirations rooted in 'God's plans for us'. Pupils' theological understanding of the vision is enhanced by focusing</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                 |

on a different Christian and associated value, each half term. Pupils are encouraged to develop their resilience and respectfulness and achieve their full potential. The ambition that all pupils 'achieve, believe and care' is woven through every action and interaction. Policies and practices are intentionally created to enable pupils to thrive and succeed. Strong leadership models the vision and values through the unwavering support of pupils, staff and parents. Governors support leaders, through robust monitoring and evaluation. This keeps the vision and values central to the work of the school as a Church school. This is a vibrant school where the vision runs throughout the school like a golden thread.

Insightful leadership responds to the specific needs of the school community. The vision and values encourage positive pupil outcomes through a well-planned curriculum. This is inclusive and aims to meet the needs of all learners. This includes those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. It is designed to support pupils' learning through the development of curiosity about new things. The values are woven into the curriculum, empowering staff to nurture each child to achieve their full potential. Pupils are encouraged to understand the power of resilience when struggling with difficult concepts, encouraged to 'keep trying with learning they find hard'. Inspired by the vision, further opportunities for growth and flourishing are offered through enrichment such as gardening club. This provides an opportunity to appreciate the awe and wonder of nature. These creative opportunities firmly support the vision with many pupils engaging in them.

Collective worship is a special time to meet and a highly valued part of daily life. It is enthusiastically led by a range of adults. Weekly worship includes promoting the school's Christian values, church festivals and current events. It offers opportunities for pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. They speak about the value of this time and the encouragement it gives them as they continue in their daily lives. The significance of worship is deepened by the weekly opportunity to gather to worship in the church. This is a very poignant moment. Pupils become immersed in the worship activities, readily and willingly making their own contributions. Pupils of all faiths and those of no religious faith, are able to engage in personal reflections. However, a shared meaning of spirituality is not embedded across the school. Worship is ably supported by the clergy and members of the church team. Close church links are also enriched with school sharing space for local church groups to meet. The close church links with school create a harmonious relationship which is appreciated by all.

Pupils thrive in this nurturing community. Each pupil is known as an individual. The school ensures, in line with the vision, that pupils develop attitudes to become lifelong learners and build successful relationships. Parents champion the support of the school in a wide range of ways. Unwavering help is given to those in need, with concerns listened to and addressed sensitively. A respectful partnership between leaders, parents and pupils is widely evident. Staff are committed to ensuring all pupils have highly effective pastoral support. A sensory room provides a calm space for those experiencing anxieties. Through the positive education strategy, such as the feelings wheel, pupils are encouraged and supported in regulating their emotions. They also learn how their emotions can impact on others. The leadership recently responded quickly to significant school building challenges. Swiftly adapted spaces ensured minimum impact on pupils' learning and wellbeing. Clear, thoughtful and structured routines effectively enable pupils and staff to work in calm and purposeful learning spaces. Staff speak highly, and with justification, about the support they are given. Leadership actions signal clearly to them that they matter. The redesign of the staff room illustrates one such action. Staff know their wellbeing is a priority.

Pupils understand that by supporting the local community they give hope and a future. Older pupils are given leadership responsibilities. The expectations of those that take on these roles is that they become good role models in serving others. Pupil's champion local charities including the hospice

and foodbank, 'urban outreach'. They talk with pride about their contribution in supporting the wider community with food hampers at Christmas. They are pleased to be part of this opportunity to care for others and serve those locally. The eco group are working in the local community to clean up the river and surrounding environment. They are also leading in school initiatives concerning recycling. These activities exemplify the pupils' commitment to caring for the environment and improving areas in the local community. Through the curriculum, pupils learn about diversity, for example, through opportunities to reflect on black history. However, whilst pupils are working hard in the local community to make a difference, their understanding of how to become effective agents of changes beyond the school and local community is not understood.

Leaders ensure that the RE curriculum is a core subject within school. It is enthusiastically led and effectively taught. Pupils confidently retell Bible stories and respond to big questions. They recently enjoyed a debate about 'do we need a Bible to be a Christian?'. The impact of these searching discussions is that pupils learn to appreciate other points of view and consider different ways people think. Pupils have a sound understanding of Christianity, although they do not understand Christianity as a global faith. They are able to talk, with confidence and respect about world religions and worldviews. Opportunities to visit places of worship and visiting speakers, has enriched the curriculum experience and enhanced the cultural understanding. Pupils' exercise books reflect a range of learning activities, for example, through art and poetry. Lessons are well planned. Staff receive good support with appropriate professional development opportunities. As a result, they teach the curriculum with confidence. A strong relationship with the diocese allows the school to draw upon its expertise and beneficial staff training has been welcomed. Regular monitoring of teaching and learning ensures tasks have a clear purpose and build on prior learning. Regular assessment forms the basis of a learning dialogue between teachers and pupils. This encourages pupils to improve their work and enable them to make sound progress overall, or better.

The inspection findings indicate that St Stephen and All Martyrs' Church of England School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

| Information     |                  |                |        |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--------|
| Inspection date | 7 May 2024       | URN            | 105217 |
| VC/VA/Academy   | Voluntary aided  | Pupils on roll | 201    |
| Diocese         | Manchester       |                |        |
| MAT/Federation  |                  |                |        |
| Headteacher     | Rebecca Unsworth |                |        |
| Chair           | Marcus Chester   |                |        |
| Inspector       | Tina Astley      | No.            | 2205   |