

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Chorlton Church of England Primary School

Address	Vicars Road, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 9JA		
Date of inspection	22 November 2018	Status of school	VC Primary
Diocese	Manchester	URN	105487

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

School context

Chorlton C of E is a primary school with 239 pupils on roll. The school has a low level of religious and cultural diversity and few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is below national averages. The percentage of pupils who have educational health care plans providing social and emotional support is well above national averages. The headteacher and RE co-ordinator have been appointed since the previous Inspection.

The school's Christian vision

Loving to learn; learning to love. An adventure for the mind and a home for the heart.

'You show love for others by truly helping them, and not by merely talking about it.' [1 John 3:18]

We truly help each other to learn and to love.

Key findings

- The school's Christian vision is securely embedded at the heart of all aspects of provision. Leaders ensure that learning to love and loving to learn, showing love through actions as in 1 John 3:18, underpin all decision making and guide the strategic development of the school.
- Pupils and adults are supported and valued as children of God through leaders' passionate belief in the importance of mental health and wellbeing. The care and nurture provided for children with additional needs and vulnerabilities is exemplary. As a result all pupils make excellent progress and achieve high standards.
- Pupils are given responsibilities and leadership opportunities across all aspects of school life. Consequently they are confident to articulate their involvement in community and global actions as courageous advocacy for justice and the dignity and rights of all.
- The school is rightly recognised as a beacon of excellence across all aspects of provision including religious education (RE). Through association with teaching schools, involvement in networks and leadership of professional development, the school models and shares its excellence with other schools.

Areas for development

- Deepen pupils' already thorough evaluation of collective worship so that there is greater emphasis on the spiritual impact of worship on participants.
- In RE, further develop opportunities for pupils to understand the nature of Christianity as a diverse living world faith.

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 vision and values of Chorlton Church of England Primary School are clearly defined and expressed. All members of the school community speak with pride of how they work tirelessly to 'learn to love' and develop a deep love for learning. This vision is not just a vision for the development of pupils. It underpins the way all members of the school family interact and support each other. It ensures that actions speak louder than words. This exemplary community is rooted in Christian values of respect, tolerance, honesty and friendship. School leaders and governors describe how core values underpin all decision-making, provision and partnerships. The school is a highly respected member of the Manchester Teaching Schools Alliance (MTSA), sharing excellent practice with other schools. These partnerships demonstrate the school's ethos of valuing all God's people and seeking to ensure justice and sustainable achievement for all.

School leaders, including governors, systematically and rigorously monitor the effectiveness of Chorlton as a Church school. Academic progress and attainment are consistently well above national expectations. Pupils with additional needs and vulnerabilities also make excellent progress. The above average percentage of pupils who have experienced challenging life beginnings receive exemplary support from teachers, support staff and a full-time therapist. A deep sense of trust and feeling valued permeates relationships between staff, pupils, parents and governors. Staff and pupils feel fully supported by school leaders, by each other and by a deeply genuine care for their mental health and well-being. The school's therapist counsels staff as well as pupils. The pastoral role of the vicar of the nearby St Clement's Church is similarly highly valued by all members of the school community.

The headteacher is tireless in her efforts to develop and sustain the school as a centre of academic excellence. The school offers exciting, creative learning experiences for all pupils, whatever their backgrounds or starting points. 'Our inclusivity is second to none,' declared one of the leadership team. Through early identification of needs and a 'plan, do, review' approach to meeting those needs, pupils of all abilities flourish. One parent described the school as having 'a language of care and respect'. Others added that 'children are lovely with each other' and that they 'want to support each other'. Behaviour across the school is excellent. Pupils are helped 'to get back on track' if necessary and a spirit of forgiveness underpins positive behaviour management. Consequently there have been no exclusions and attendance is above national averages.

Exciting experiences in music, art, sport, visits and 'super learning days' result in exceptional social and cultural development for all pupils. Special projects such as Black History Month and First World War Remembrance broaden their horizons. Collective worship and RE effectively develop pupils' spiritual understanding. Time in the forest school allows pupils to be, as one teacher described it, 'at one with and in awe of nature'. Pupils' curiosity is actively encouraged through worship, RE, across the curriculum and beyond.

Pupils at Chorlton confidently describe how the school's values underpin their involvement with the wider community. Worship themes address significant events and issues. Pupils understand courageous advocacy, one saying 'It means we feel we need to do something.' Pupils demonstrate this through the Rights Respecting Schools programme, the Eco-schools Green Flag Award and participating in pupil leadership groups. Hope and aspiration for themselves and others come through their implementation of the UN rights of children, consideration of Global Goals and organising appeals for local, national and international charities. School and church together organise senior citizens lunches. This partnership was recognised by a Church for a Different World Award.

Pupils speak with pride of being digital leaders, eco-warriors, school councillors, ethos leaders and playground buddies. The emphasis in all these roles is support for others – showing love by truly helping them. Pupils' sense of justice and deeply held values of friendship, tolerance and respect are fostered by projects such as My Planet Our Universe, Show Racism the Red Card and Small Steps to Peace. In a recent survey 100% of pupils said they felt safe in school. Instances of bullying are very rare. Pupils are confident that adults will deal with any issues swiftly and sensitively. The dignity of and respect for all members of the school family come from pupils' understanding that they are individual and unique but part of a community whose values are rooted in God's love for all.

Collective worship has a central role in embedding the school's vision. Both in school and in church, worship invites all to reflect on how the vision is lived out. Worship celebrates and respects the diversity of faith and world views in the school community. Worship is valued by all groups and illustrates the strength of the school's Christian character and its partnership with St Clement's Church. The vicar leads worship in school weekly and the school holds services in church regularly and at key festivals. Members of the church congregation organise an Experience Easter project for Chorlton CofE and other local schools, extending the joint mission of the school and church in the local community. One parent described how worship enables 'parents to feel involved in the spiritual life of the school'.

Varied and lively collective worship includes prayer, reflection, music, praise, drama and story. Acts of collective worship begin with pupils leading a Trinity prayer and lighting three symbolic candles. Pupils have excellent understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A member of the ethos group said, 'the Holy Spirit helps and guides us.' They experience a wide range of Anglican liturgy through traditional and modern prayers, responses, hymns and songs. Pupils and adults value reflection in worship. One member of staff said, 'It gives a feeling of peace and calm.' Pupil leadership groups take responsibility for planning and leading worship weekly. Through daily evaluations pupils play a significant part in the on-going development of collective worship.

Through the RE curriculum pupils develop excellent understanding of a range of faiths and world views. They are less confident in describing the diversity of world-wide Christianity. Teachers provide opportunities for pupils to discuss their own and others' beliefs in a safe atmosphere reflecting the school's values of respect, tolerance and honesty. All statutory obligations for RE are met. The enthusiasm of the RE co-ordinator is inspirational. She shares good practice in the school and leads RE training in the MTSA for teaching students and newly qualified teachers. Monitoring and evaluation of RE demonstrates how pupils apply excellent skills of questioning, analysis and interpretation to a range of concepts and religious texts. Systems for assessment are well planned and ensure all pupils make excellent progress.

At this truly outstanding Church school, pupils and adults flourish in a community where Christian vision and values drive and support excellent achievement and well-being. The school provides exemplary adventures for the mind and a home for the heart where everyone shows love by truly helping others.

Headteacher	Samantha Halliwell
Inspector's name and number	Gillian Rhodes 657