

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

### Queen's Park C of E/URC Primary School

Rivington Road, St Helen's, Merseyside, WA10 4NQ

<b>Current SIAMS inspection grade</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Liverpool</b>
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Local authority	St Helen's
Date of inspection	28 June 2018
Date of last inspection	February 2013
Type of school and unique reference number	Voluntary Controlled 130382
Headteacher	Justine Kellett
Inspector's name and number	Gail Fullbrook 530

#### School context

The school is a two form entry primary school in the urban area of St Helen's. It serves the parish of St Luke's and two United Reformed Church (URC) parishes, Ormskirk Street and Newtown. The percentage of pupils eligible for pupil premium funding is well above the national average. The number of pupils with English as an additional language or from ethnic minority groups is low. The proportion of pupils with additional needs is in line with the national average. The school holds a number of quality marks including the Church and School Partnership Award, the Basic Skills Quality Mark and the Reading Quality Mark.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Queen's Park as a Church of England and United Reformed Church school are outstanding

- The school's high profile Christian vision and values provide the foundation for all aspects of school life. They are fundamental to the ways in which the school nurtures and supports all pupils to thrive and achieve well.
- Pupils' spiritual development is a strength of the school. They show maturity in the ways in which they share their understanding of faith and talk confidently about what it means to them.
- Relationships reflect the school's Christian value of respect. Pupils are courteous in the ways in which they relate to one another and to their teachers and school staff. This results in very good attitudes to learning.
- Well-crafted worship supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. Pupils learn about God and Jesus and readily apply that learning to the choices they make about how they live their lives.
- Pupils share personal prayers spontaneously within worship. They have a secure understanding of why people pray and the ways in which God speaks to them.
- Staff know pupils and their families well and show Christian love in the high level of individualised care and support they give.

#### Areas to improve

- Develop the purpose of classroom reflection areas in such a way that they encourage pupils to ponder, reflect and pray and become a focus for individual worship.

### **The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners**

The school's distinctive vision, 'Together we believe, achieve and enjoy' and the mission statement are deeply embedded within all aspects of school life. They are known and understood by all members of the school community. As a result, the Christian character of the school contributes significantly to the very good academic progress of almost all pupils. Care and support, underpinned by Christian love, are given to all pupils and to their families at a level over and above what might be expected. Well planned additional support strengthens self-esteem and focuses on the particular social and academic needs of each pupil. The school recognises that when pupils do not attend school regularly individualised targeted support can, and usually does, have a significant impact. Staff consistently go the extra mile for pupils and families, illustrating their commitment to nurturing each pupil as a child of God.

Christian values are well understood and are woven into the vocabulary of pupils and staff. Consequently, relationships are excellent and pupils are committed to upholding the values in every aspect of their school lives. The mantra 'knowing you can but deciding you won't' illustrates the self-control and respect evident in pupils' attitudes to learning and their behaviour. They know that their values are rooted in biblical teaching and can talk with ease about the stories that relate to each one.

A widely held belief that pupils can only learn well when they are happy and feel secure is reflected in the ways in which staff nurture and support pupils' well-being and personal development. Pupils engage with a significant number of additional activities that take place before and after school and at lunchtimes. These support pupils in developing awareness of their individual skills and abilities and strengthen self-confidence. The ways in which the school plans for the SMSC development of all pupils is finely tuned. Additional opportunities, such as attending the press launch of War Horse, are offered to those pupils whom the school believes will benefit most. The school supports a number of local, national and international charities and sponsors two children in their link school in Tanzania. This outward pouring of generosity, often from families who struggle financially, illustrates a deep understanding of Christian giving.

The school's partnership with St Luke's Anglican church and the Ormskirk Street and Newtown URC parishes contributes to pupil's rounded understanding of the breadth of Christian worship and expression. This understanding is further enriched by the contact pupils have with a Christian school in Tanzania. Pupils show respect and friendship towards their peers of other faiths and cultures.

Pupils enjoy religious education (RE) and develop a secure knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs, practices and traditions. This understanding, alongside biblical teaching linked to the school's core Christian values, makes a significant contribution to the Christian character of the school. Pupils learn about a number of other faith traditions, often from faith leaders or practitioners themselves. They show understanding of the importance of religion to the lives of believers and recognise the similarities and differences between their beliefs and the beliefs of others.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Worship at Queen's Park is distinctively Christian and central to the life of the school. Pupils enjoy worship and show a high level of engagement. The comment of a Year 4 pupil, 'It's a time when we calm ourselves down and meet God', illustrates the extent of pupils understanding of the nature of worship. Worship themes are carefully planned to develop understanding of the cycle of the Church year, to provide Christian teaching and to develop understanding of the school's core Christian values. This is reflected in the confidence and often breath-taking spiritual maturity shown by pupils when they talk about God and Jesus.

Pupils describe times when reflection during worship has supported them in rethinking the ways in which they relate to and care for one another. Worship is led by staff, leaders of the churches within the school family and by pupils. The pupils themselves are accomplished worship leaders and regularly lead class and whole school worship. Over time pupils develop a clear understanding of the cycle of the Church year and confidently talk about the importance of different Christian seasons and festivals.

Spontaneous prayer is a feature of daily worship. Pupils are confident when sharing their prayers and have a clear understanding of the importance of prayer to people of faith. They know that prayer is a time when they can share concerns with God as well as offering thanks and praise. Pupils understand too, the different ways in which God speaks to them and answers prayer. One child commented, 'I like praying to God because it helps me with my work and with my friends.' Worship makes a significant contribution to the outstanding spiritual development of pupils. Reflection spaces around the school building and in the playground encourage prayer. They support the understanding that people can be with God in many different places. Reflection spaces are well established within classrooms, although the quality of the invitation to pupils to engage with them varies from class to class.

Pupils develop an excellent understanding of a range of Christian theological principles and beliefs. They show clarity in their understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and talk eloquently about why Jesus was crucified and how he lives on within Christians today. The Bible is central to each act of worship and pupils are

familiar with a wide range of Bible stories. They readily share their understanding of the teaching that lies behind each one.

The excellent worship and RE coordinator, working alongside the SMSC and personal, social, health and citizenship education coordinator, effectively leads and manages all aspects of worship. She supports worship leaders, including class worship monitors, to plan and develop worship themes. This ensures that there is continuity in the ways in which pupils' understanding is developed. The evaluation of worship focuses on its impact and is led by the responses of pupils and staff. The information provided makes a positive contribution to the quality of the school's worship provision. Worship in church is rare because Queen's Park is a large school numerically and exceeds the capacity of any one church. However, pupils visit the two closest churches to support the curriculum. The school is currently exploring the possibility of smaller groups of pupils worshipping in the churches which are nearby.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding**

The commitment of school leaders to ensuring that the distinctively Christian vision, mission statement and ethos are central to the provision and decision-making processes of the school is exemplary. An excellent team of pastoral workers supports teachers in making sure that pupils come to school ready to learn. As a result, all pupils are given the support, long and short term, that they need to achieve well and flourish. Christian values lie at the heart of the school's curriculum and are key elements of each term's themes. The curriculum includes a significant number of carefully planned additional experiences that bring learning to life. The pupils' experience is enriched through the school's desire to provide opportunities that might normally lie outside their everyday lives. The number of pupils graduating from the school's Children's University is growing year on year. The University encompasses a rich variety of additional curriculum opportunities as well as the large number of before school, lunchtime and after school clubs. Consequently, the broad and carefully planned curriculum extends well beyond the school day and makes a significant contribution to pupils' SMSC development and to their well-being and personal development.

The procedures in place to support the school in evaluating the impact of its distinctively Christian provision are outstanding. Senior leaders are committed to underpinning everything they do and plan for with love. They regularly refer back to the vision and mission statements to ensure that they do not stray from their core aspiration and vision for the school. Governors are supportive. Through well-structured committees, they ask probing questions and support the staff. Senior leaders and governors are committed to the regular professional development of staff, including Christian leadership development. Staff are given every opportunity to develop their roles within this excellent church school.

Partnerships with all three churches within the school family and the wider community, including other faith communities, are strong and effective. The contribution of this engagement to the pupils' understanding of Christian community is exemplary. Pupils are proud of their community and show great respect for the difference and diversity that it encompasses. The school enjoys good links with Liverpool diocese. This supports the school in keeping abreast of the best in current church school practice and adds to the experience of pupils.

Parents are confident that the school provides the best possible experience for their children and know that this is founded on Christian love. They recognise the care that the school takes of their children and extra ways in which they are supported. Parents comment that, 'the school goes out of its way to help' and 'it shapes children for future life'. They rightly believe that Queen's Park is a caring, highly effective and deeply Christian school.