

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Luke's Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Pepper Street, Silverdale, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 6QJ
School vision	
<p><i>Growing together in strength, love and wisdom, we shine... 'We shine like bright stars in the sky.'</i> <i>'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'</i> <i>Matthew 5:14-16</i></p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision, which is firmly rooted in biblical teaching, creates a strong sense of belonging. In this close-knit community where everyone is valued and cared for, pupils and adults flourish and let their light shine. • The Christian vision provides a culture that supports and nurtures the mental health and wellbeing of the community. Leaders ensure that there is good pastoral and learning support for pupils. This includes those who are vulnerable and who have special educational needs (SEND), and as a result, pupils thrive. • Religious Education has a high profile and is skilfully and enthusiastically led. Staff training, provided by the diocese, has a positive impact on the effectiveness of the curriculum. • Everyone looks forward to worship. It is an important moment of gathering at the end of each school day. It promotes shared reflection through meaningful contemplation and effectively supports spiritual development. • The Christian vision weaves itself throughout the curriculum and is tailored to meet the needs of each pupil. This is enriched by a broad range of extracurricular activities. Together they contribute significantly to the flourishing of pupils. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a shared vocabulary and understanding of spirituality. This is to extend and deepen pupils' and adults' responses to spiritual questions and themes. • Leaders and governors to develop a strategic plan to formally monitor and evaluate the impact of the school's Christian vision. This will support and guide the school's further development. • Promote pupils' understanding of injustice in the world so that they are empowered to be effective agents of change. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>St Luke's is a kind, inclusive and nurturing place where members of the community feel supported and cared for. The school is at the very heart of the close-knit village of Silverdale and is a beacon of hope for many families. The Christian vision is at the heart of the school. Pupils are encouraged to 'shine like bright stars in the sky' and the love and care they have for one another is demonstrable. Pupils and adults are rightly proud about how strength, love and wisdom are an integral part of their daily lived experience. These values are displayed around the building. Together with other symbols, visitors are left in no doubt that this is a Church of England school. Pupils firmly believe that they live God's love through the school's Christian values. It is clear to visitors that these are being lived out</p>	

amongst them. The committed leaders and staff team ensure that the Christian vision is at the heart of all they do. Through the strong culture of inclusivity and aspiration, pupils are able to flourish.

The Christian vision underpins and inspires the curriculum, ensuring that all are valued and supported to reach their potential. It is explicitly linked to the needs of the pupils. The curriculum has substantial provision for the vulnerable and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Learning is adapted for those with additional needs so that they can access all opportunities. Staff know each pupil as an individual and provide them with the skills and support they need to succeed. Pupils recognise and value the love that they receive. The maintenance and enhancement of wellbeing is a priority for the school. Insightful appreciation of the skills and talents of staff, means that they are given the confidence to grow and flourish. As a result of this, everyone is encouraged and supported to be the very best version of themselves. The vision is central to all policies and practice. However, a system for leaders and governors to routinely monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision has not been established.

The school community highly value and draw strength from collective worship which is at the heart of each day. All are invited to participate in opportunities to celebrate and explore the vision and values that unite them so strongly. Pupils and adults enjoy these times of gathering. They enable reflection on things beyond themselves that connects everyone to each other and God and promote spiritual development. The themes, connections, music, songs and prayers are carried from the school day into homes. This is facilitated by tasks that are completed out of school, encouraging conversations with families about worship. Reflection areas in classrooms offer the opportunity for pupils to reflect and pray outside of times of worship. However, these spaces tend to be about feelings than spirituality. Opportunities for spiritual development within the curriculum are in place, but limited by the fact that a shared language and understanding of spirituality is not consistently embedded.

There is a calm and purposeful atmosphere throughout St Luke's. Teachers prepare the pupils well for the next stage of their education. Behaviour is excellent because of the way the school promotes the core values, generating a positive ethos. The impact of the vision is evident in the provision for pupils with additional needs. There is a deep understanding of the link between nurture, acceptance and learning. Pastoral care is rooted in the understanding of individual needs and circumstances. This ensures that all pupils can flourish and make progress, regardless of their starting point. Parents are warmly welcomed into school and overwhelmingly express positivity about St Luke's. They know they can approach leaders and staff when required. Consequently, school is befittingly described by them as a 'loving family where staff go above and beyond'.

RE has a high profile and leaders are committed to ensuring that it meets the needs of all pupils. The school has worked in close partnership with the diocese to make sure that the RE curriculum meets the requirements for the subject in a Church school. It provides a balance of Christianity with a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. It is broad and balanced and prepares pupils for life in an ever-changing world. Planning includes opportunities for pupils to ask 'big questions' and to develop their own understanding in line with the vision. Pupils rightly talk about RE with enthusiasm and look forward to their lessons. They understand and recognise its importance. The RE curriculum provides opportunities to explore different cultures and traditions and as a result, promotes an acceptance and respect for others.

The school has effective partnerships with the local Anglican, Methodist and Pentecostal Churches. Members of these communities are a positive and encouraging presence in school, regularly leading worship and running clubs. They share their work with prayer spaces for schools and support pupils and adults in developing areas for reflection within the grounds. Pupils visit the churches for special services such as Christmas and Easter. The mutually beneficial partnership with local churches has

many positive outcomes. These include an increase in the number of school families that have a regular involvement with their clubs, events and services.

The voices and opinions of everyone matter at St Luke's. Inspired by the vision and values, pupils and staff are passionate about their school. They are encouraged to learn and grow through an authentic commitment to their local community and environment. The school offers many practical responses to national and local charities which pupils have helped to raise funds for. However, pupils are not actively championing responses to injustice themselves to enable them to become agents of change.

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

Information			
School	St Luke's VC Primary School	Inspection date	12 June 2024
URN	124267	VC/VA/Academy	VC
Diocese	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	199
MAT/Federation	Hard federation with Betley CE Primary School		
Headteacher	Sam Ray		
Chair of Governors	Ant Sutcliffe and Helen Finn		
Inspector	Rebecca Walker	No.	c.23/24