



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

Park Street Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2LX

School vision
<p>Flourish and “Let Your Light Shine.” Matthew 5:16</p> <p>These words of Jesus are our school’s vision. They inspire and motivate our whole school community. Jesus reminded us in Matthew’s Gospel that we are lights for the world. As we seek to follow him, we can share his light with others and change the world through our words and actions.</p>

School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school's vision and values, rooted in biblical text, are well understood. They are evident in the daily life of the school and underpin the recently revised behaviour policy. This is having a significant impact on pupils and adults, promoting the flourishing of all.</li> <li>• Inspired by the distinctive Christian vision, adults ensure that Park Street School is a place of love, where uniqueness is cherished. There is a culture of aspiration which impacts positively on pupils and their families. A wide range of extra curricula activities further promote confidence and self-worth.</li> <li>• Thorough curriculum planning and implementation ensure that learning in religious education (RE) is engaging and effective. Teaching effectively builds on prior learning resulting in good progress for all.</li> <li>• Well-established links with the local parish and wider community enhance opportunities for the living out of the vision. Pupils are able to share their shining lights with others on a regular basis.</li> </ul>

Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspire and enable pupils to challenge injustice and become agents of change. This will bring greater confidence to let their lights shine and positively influence the world through their words and actions.</li> <li>• Extend opportunities for spiritual development to be identified throughout the curriculum and wider life of the school. This is to maximise the impact of the range of creative opportunities on offer and ensure that spirituality contributes to the flourishing of all.</li> </ul>

Inspection findings
<p>Park Street School is a place where pupils and families are enveloped in love and support. Following changes in school leadership, the vision has been revised and reinvigorated by leaders who appreciate its central role. It is understood and embraced. The regular presence of governors in school ensures that they know the school well. They have a thorough understanding of the impact that the vision brings. They carefully evaluate this and identify areas for further improvement. The vision is biblically underpinned by the teaching of Jesus to let your light shine. This promotes an emphasis on nurturing the treasured uniqueness of each person. It is further facilitated by the</p>



school's values of love, joy, courage and truth. Pupils confidently explain how the values enable them to shine and reach their potential. They accurately link them to Bible stories and explain the relevance for their lives. For example, they explain that Jesus dying on the cross demonstrates that love can demand great things but also produce significant reward. Likewise, the courage shown by Moses during the exodus from Egypt had a positive impact on others.

The curriculum has been developed with the school's Christian vision at its heart. Lessons are carefully planned to incorporate a range of learning styles to ensure that all have opportunities to succeed. Provision for those with special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND) is bespoke and imaginative. The establishment of a sensory room and outdoor nurture group is illustrative of the breadth of meaningful provision. A focus on identifying barriers to learning and implementing appropriate solutions enables pupils to make good progress. Parents are effusive in their praise for the support that their children receive to meet their individual needs. Pupils are excited by the extra-curricula offer which includes activities such as gardening, singing, drama and sport. These are free and accessible to all. Teachers lead these activities with joy in the knowledge of the flourishing that they bring. Leaders have begun to focus on spiritual nurturing and are enthusiastic about its initial impact. Opportunities for curiosity, for engaging in the natural world and involvement in art and music abound. Pupils acknowledge the joy that moments of awe and wonder have on them. Nevertheless, the way in which they can articulate both a shared and a personal understanding of spirituality is less well developed. Many activities already exist within the curriculum to enrich personal spirituality. However, opportunities to promote and develop these are not currently being adequately utilised.

The impact of collective worship resonates throughout the school. It is recognised as a special time for everyone to come together as a family. Worship invites each person to reflect on the school's vision and values and their impact on individuals and the whole community. Each week a specific Christian value provides the focus. Pupils and adults are challenged to incorporate this value into their daily lives. Bible stories are rigorously explored to develop understanding of the vision and promote spiritual growth. For example, the story of Ruth and Naomi inspires those present to consider how they are cared for and look after others. Pupils articulate how this supports them to better understand themselves and those in their community. They appreciate time to reflect on their uniqueness and how this impacts on those around them. Pupils and adults are invited to offer personal prayers, either during worship or by privately adding a ribbon to the prayer tree. They appreciate moments of stillness, opportunities to sing together and times for personal reflection. Prayer groups for school leaders and parents are also an intrinsic element of the life of the school. This time to pray and be thankful further enhances spiritual development. A close partnership with the local church has a significant impact on the school community. All are welcome to celebrate major festivals, such as Easter, at the parish church. and experience Christianity as a living faith. Consequently, it strengthens pastoral support and nurtures spiritual growth.

Encouraging and respectful relationships are reflected in positive attitudes across the school. A recent revision of the school's behaviour policy encapsulates the importance of positive reinforcement, forgiveness and restorative justice. Pupils appreciate opportunities to reflect on their behaviour and learn from past actions. Instances of bullying are rare but are quickly dealt with if they do occur, restoring relationships swiftly and effectively. Pupil play leaders set an example at break times and provide support when needed. Throughout this inclusive school, everyone is treated with dignity and respect and pastoral support is strong. Parents rightly speak highly of the effective communication and significant time and support provided to them by school staff. They appreciate that their children are valued and known as unique individuals who are supported both pastorally and academically. Emotional health is a priority for all. Leaders are mindful of staff workload and prioritise professional development. As a result, staff feel highly valued and supported. A culture of care and compassion permeates the life of the school. Those who are

vulnerable or facing difficulties, such as bereavement, are surrounded with the love and given the support that they need.

Opportunities to engage with the local community are varied. Strong links with local churches and groups such as a lunch club for the elderly abound. The school's 'pupil parliament' leads activities that make a difference to the lives of others including through fundraising and litter picking. Pupils learn about many inspirational individuals who bring about change. However, they are unaware of ways in which they can act to address injustice and bring about change.

RE is a significant strength of the school. It is led with enthusiasm and commitment. Supportive partnerships with the diocese and comprehensive training opportunities ensure excellent subject knowledge and staff confidence. The curriculum has been expertly developed to promote profound thinking. It provides meaningful opportunities to develop pupils' understanding of world faiths and non-religious worldviews. This begins in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) where, for example, pupils compare Jesus' journey into Jerusalem with their own experiences of celebration. By Year 6, pupils confidently explore profound concepts from different faith and non-faith perspectives. Prior learning is recalled regularly in lessons. Pupils engage in these activities with great enthusiasm and demonstrate what they have learned. Careful questioning ensures that there are opportunities for further development. Curriculum design optimises opportunities, not only to learn about religions discretely, but to make relevant connections between faiths. It challenges pupils to reflect on their own views and beliefs. Those staff and pupils who have personal experience of a different faith share their knowledge and experience. This further enhances opportunities for learning and provides exciting opportunities for discussion. Assessment is carefully planned and any difficulties identified as a result are addressed. Consequently, pupils make very strong progress in RE.

The inspection findings indicate that Park Street School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	29 April 2024	URN	117452
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	140
Diocese	St Albans		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Monique Gregory		
Chair	Barbara Graham		
Inspector	Jo Brookes	No.	2110