

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Saviour's CofE VA Primary School, Walthamstow	
Address	33 Verulam Avenue, Walthamstow, E17 8ER
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
'Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way that you think.' Romans 12:2
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Saviour's deeply rooted vision advocates transformation of pupils and adults' lives. The school changes lives and equips pupils to be change makers in the local community. • The dedicated leadership of the head of school and academy trust enables a wide range of opportunities. As a result, pupils and adults to flourish and live life in all its fullness. • The school contributes meaningfully to the local community through its Young Transformers programme. However, not all pupils have the opportunity to work beyond this in the wider world. • Collective worship is inspirational for both adults and pupils. There is a rich culture of deep spiritual reflection. It lives out the school's vision by providing strong values for living their lives. • Religious education (RE) is exceptionally well planned and taught. Pupils grow in resilience, resourcefulness and success. Its high profile in the school underpins the ethos of everyone flourishing. Assessment of pupil progress is established but it is not externally moderated.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed the community work of the school further so that pupils become greater advocates of change beyond their local community. • Extend the systems to moderate assessment of pupil progress in RE.

Inspection findings

A deeply theologically rooted Christian vision welcomes everyone into St Saviour's. It drives all decisions and shapes the curriculum offered. As a result, pupils, and adults flourish because they are empowered to be agents of change and to seek the ability to transform themselves and others. This is led by a dedicated head of school who is supported by a passionate academy trust team. Together they are dynamic and active in their relentless pursuit of excellence in all they do. Parents really appreciate the vision and work of the school, recognising their children are challenged to think beyond themselves and grow as compassionate, responsible and active citizens. This supports the excellent mental health provision provided by the school. It enables pupils to build resilience and a deep understanding that they can change themselves. Leaders, including governors, have a strong sense of how the school's Christian vision drives its work. Governors monitor the impact of the vision and receive regular reports from the dedicated head of school about its impact. This ensures every aspect of this school's work is rooted back to its vision of transformation; equipping all to be change makers in life.

The Christian vision has enabled St Saviour's to provide a rich, inclusive and innovative learning environment. This enables pupils to flourish and be supported to let their talents shine out. A wide range of experiences are delivered in a highly creative and precisely thought-out way. This enables children to grow their learning and use it to be confident, liberated and free-thinking individuals. Spirituality is systematically planned. As such, it draws everyone to be reflective, to be still and to consider the inherent meaning of the mysteries of life. Opportunities around the school and within collective worship deepen reflection. Every pupil is known as an individual, barriers are actively removed and no ceiling is placed on them. As a result, children with special educational needs, English as an additional language or are disadvantaged, not only flourish but exceed all expectation.

Relationships are the bedrock of this excellent school. Deep and fruitful connections with the local church, diocese, academy trust and other important areas of the community (such as the local mosque) enable the school to be enriched in its offer but also to enrich the community it serves so well. A highly effective relationship and health programme reinforces the value of every pupil as unique in the eyes of God. It is respectful and reflective of the diverse range of beliefs held within the local community that St Saviour's serves. As a result, there is a real and physical sense of the school and community watching over each other. Love is deeply felt and the most vulnerable welcomed, supported and encouraged to flourish. Young Transformers is an example of this practical work. It enables pupils to live out the Christian vision of the school, to grow in their confidence and to deal with difficult issues that face the local community. The work the school has undertaken in collaboration with other schools in the academy trust to sponsor refugees shows the outworking of its generosity and grace. It shares this life changing work with other schools and organisations locally, but it is less developed beyond this in the wider community.

Collective Worship at St Saviour's is excellent. It is centred around the school's Christian vision and enables a sense of respect for others through biblical teachings that are threaded throughout it each day. As a result, the school community finds deep meaning in celebrating the fullness of life. The spiritual life of the school contributes meaningfully to worship, and it provides a richness of love and compassion that is not constrained by the school's own Christian identity. Everyone is invited to be part of worship. Invitational prayer is central to this and is welcomed by all. Pupils see how the invitation to pray can bring them closer to God through the conversations they can have with him on a personal relationship level. A multi-faith prayer space and themed reflection spaces around the school are regularly used

by pupils and adults. Prayer is an integrated part of the daily life in the school and the pupil worship council considers how everyone can be invited to use and feel included in each space. This council has a strong voice and presence in the school beyond leading daily worship resulting in a pride and joy in the work they undertake. The joy and warmth of singing enlivens and enriches daily worship. Weekly class-based worship allows children to pursue aspects of the weekly themes in an age appropriate and personal way. This means every pupil and adult celebrates daily worship, sees its importance and feels fully included. They recognise themselves in daily worship because they feel comfortable in how it invites and includes all, reflecting the diversity of beliefs the community has.

Religious education (RE) is excellent because it is taught in a creative way, making it real and alive. Christianity is understood as a living, multi-cultural worldwide faith because of the carefully planned curriculum that grows knowledge cohesively and innovatively over time. RE meets the requirements of the Statement for Entitlement for RE. Active acceptance and mutual respect underpin challenge and critical thinking – empowering all pupils to question, reason and connect to a range of beliefs. Pupils recognise how it allows them to learn about other people’s beliefs and views and to think critically, whilst it also deepens what they believe themselves. The curriculum draws on high quality resources and builds in visits and visitors from the diverse local community. Assessment is robust but does not extend to moderating the progress pupils make in RE externally. Teaching and learning are rigorously monitored both by the school and trust as well as external experts. High quality and precisely focused professional development for all staff, each half term in RE, enables them to be confident in their teaching and subject knowledge. RE is an excellent example of how the school’s vision to transform is lived out, in enabling pupils to excel.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent
	<p>Children are taught in RE groups that inspire them to achieve well beyond expectations for their age. The quality of teaching and learning is an excellent example of how the school’s vision is lived out, in enabling pupils to frequently exceed what they see as their own potential. As a result, pupils make exceptional progress in their learning. A focus in RE lessons on extending vocabulary and developing pupils’ ability to critically think, analyse and evaluate for themselves makes them strong independent learners.</p>		
Information			
School	St Saviour's CofE VA Primary School, Walthamstow	Inspection date	18 November 2022
URN	144239	VC/VA/ Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Chelmsford	Pupils on roll	338
MAT/Federation	Genesis Education Trust		
Miss	Emma Cherry		
Chair of Governors	Rev Canon Ade Ademola		
Inspector	Christopher Allen	No.	847