



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hanley St Luke's Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Wellington Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. ST1 3QH
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	Good
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision	
Jesus said: 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'. Promoting life-long learning Developing life-giving relationships Exploring life-enhancing faith Inspiring life-enriching aspiration	
Key findings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hanley St Luke's deeply embedded Christian vision, and all its work, is firmly rooted in the Bible. This creates a highly inclusive, learning school family and community in which every individual is known, nurtured and able to flourish. Governors are active and supportive in their role, but do not have a systematic approach to the evaluation of the school's Christian distinctiveness. The school is powerful in its celebration of difference and diversity. This has a significant impact throughout the school and encourages all pupils to have a sense of hope, aspiration and equality. The highly committed leadership of the headteacher is driven by the school's distinctive Christian vision. This motivates leaders and staff at every level in the school. It inspires and unites everybody and ensures that each individual can have life and have it to the full. Excellent and vibrant collective worship is at the heart of Hanley St Luke's, setting the tone for all that happens. Pupils and adults greatly value deeply meaningful opportunities for reflection, joyful singing and inspiration. Religious education (RE) is effectively led enabling pupils to make good progress. Pupils' religious vocabulary is very well developed enabling them to gain a strong knowledge and understanding of Christianity and world faiths. There are limited, planned opportunities for pupils to explore big questions. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend and embed a systematic and rigorous approach for governors to evaluate all aspects of the impact of the school's vision and Christian distinctiveness. This will enable them to be clear about priorities for future development. Promote and embed in the whole curriculum, a deeper, richer understanding of spirituality which extends beyond worship and RE and develops a shared vocabulary. This will enable the school community to fluently explore and articulate its impact on themselves and others. Further develop opportunities for pupils to explore and debate big questions in RE. This will enable a deeper understanding of philosophical and theological ideas. 	
Inspection findings	
The deeply held Christian vision, at Hanley St Luke's, is very much evident and powerfully lived out in action throughout this significantly diverse school community. The vision profoundly influences everything that happens and is the strong foundation which enables pupils to succeed and flourish. The school is located in an area that experiences high levels of disadvantage. Many pupils and families have difficult and challenging lives, circumstances and needs. The warmth and welcome of the school,	

along with the tireless concern for each person as an individual, enables all to be included, embraced and make progress. This brings a purposeful, positive and cohesive atmosphere. A rich variety of backgrounds and cultures are represented in the school community and there is a real sense of harmony and family. All are treated with respect and dignity. This enables everybody to live and work well together in a place where diversity is celebrated, all are valued, safe and truly cared for.

Governors are active, supportive and knowledgeable about the school and its work. Together with leaders, they established the vision with its sound theological basis, and this influences and infuses decisions, developments, policy and practice at all levels. Governors do not currently have in place a robust and thorough process to evaluate the effectiveness of the school's Christian distinctiveness. Successful and supportive collaborations with the diocese have momentum and bring additional direction and clarity for the future. An emerging link with a member of the local parish clergy and her team is having particular impact in helping a number of pupils' parents.

Through difficult social circumstances and demanding local challenges, the school has prioritised and promoted worthwhile partnerships which have a positive impact on the school and its work. The vision inspires leaders to employ imaginative solutions in their relentless and successful work to remove any barriers or hinderances which arise. As a result, highly effective, individual and bespoke support is facilitated for those who are vulnerable or have additional learning and personal needs.


The curriculum is shaped by the vision and is very ambitious for the school's context and circumstances. It recognises the uniqueness of each pupil and enables them to enjoy their studies and make progress whilst developing breadth and experience in their learning. Lessons are calm and purposeful and behaviour is very good. Pupils are able to disagree well and there is a strong climate of respect and looking out for one another. Forgiveness and reconciliation have a prominent place on those occasions when things do go wrong. Extremely positive, affirmative relationships are strongly evident throughout the school. This contributes to the happy atmosphere of encouragement and optimism. Pupils with special educational needs and disability, and those who are most able, have their individual needs met and are challenged in their work. A dedicated team of specialist staff are highly skilled in understanding and making provision for pupils' individual additional needs. A strong and varied extra-curricular programme enriches pupils' lives giving them further valuable experiences and skills. Whilst there are some opportunities to explore spirituality beyond RE and worship, these are not planned within the curriculum. As a result, there is a limited clear, shared vocabulary to explore and articulate spiritual and ethical issues in significant depth. Healthy lives, lifestyles and life choices are promoted throughout the curriculum enabling pupils to cherish and respect themselves and others.

The school vision and values are known and embraced by every pupil. This helps to equip them to navigate their lives and some of the difficult experiences which they may encounter. It helps them to be positive and resilient in their outlook. In encouraging pupils to look and think beyond themselves, they are encouraged to be aware of news issues and concerns in the world. This has given rise to a culture of praying for matters including injustice, inequality and exploitation. Pupils are invited to record these prayers in reflection areas around the school and these often show a depth of awareness, significant empathy and concern. In addition, pupils support local charities and people in need. They have a developing awareness of the necessity for social action and advocacy for the disadvantaged and marginalised.

In living the vision, wellbeing for all is given a very high status and investment. There is an emphasis on equipping pupils and adults to care for their mental health as well as there being a quick and effective response when matters become difficult. As a result, the whole community looks out for one another and no one who needs help goes unnoticed or is left to struggle.

Excellent collective worship is at the heart of Hanley St Luke's daily life promoting the school vision and bringing a tangible sense of family and community. It is deeply powerful in inspiring and uniting each member of this very diverse community. It is warm, invitational, thought-provoking and active, enabling pupils and adults to be fully engaged and challenged. A carefully planned, relevant programme for worship follows the church year. This provides excellent opportunities to explore and embed the school vision and values. It is highly inclusive enabling those of religious faith or none to engage with the joyful singing, readings, interactions and reflections. Prayer is a central element in the life of the school. In addition to the school prayer, the Lord's Prayer and pupils' own prayers contribute to a rich variety of approaches to worship. Pupils are happy and very enthusiastic in their participation in worship, and all are animated as they join in the engaging songs which are complemented by signing. Strong opportunities for discussion, reflection and spiritual development ensure that worship is enriching. Pupils gain confidence through their contributions to the leadership of worship.

Religious education in the school is good. It reflects the vision and has the status of a core subject. This, along with skilled and enthusiastic leadership and the provision of a relevant, up to date course, enables pupils to flourish. The curriculum experience gives pupils a strong knowledge and understanding of Christianity and world faiths and their impact on society and culture. Lessons offer them a safe place to debate and to critically reflect on their own and others' religious and theological convictions. The school uses focus questions, but more demanding big questions to extend ethical, theological and philosophical thinking, are not routinely utilised.

	The effectiveness of RE is	Good	
	The RE curriculum is relevant, rich, engaging and inspiring. Through good planning, work is effectively targeted and up to date enabling pupils of all abilities to enjoy lessons and respond well. They are challenged in their thinking and understanding. As a result, pupils are enthusiastic and motivated in their leaning. Their progress is strong, and specialist subject vocabulary is particularly well developed in several year groups.		
Information			
School	Hanley St Luke's Church of England VA Primary School	Inspection date	20 October 2022
URN	124313	VC/VA/Academy	VA
Diocese	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	422
Headteacher	Lynne Williamson		
Chair of Governors	Adam Thompson		
Inspector	Peter Coates	No.	937