

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Rainford Church of England Primary School

Vision

Learning and Growing Together to Achieve our Best in the Love of God.

Rainford Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- Driven by the clear Christian vision, leaders demonstrate love and compassion. They ensure that Christian values are deeply embedded in the school culture. Pupils and adults feel genuinely valued and welcomed for who they are.
- The Christian vision, to 'learn and grow together in the love of God', is the driving force of school decision making. Leaders passionately and seamlessly embed this into the daily life of the school so that pupils and adults thrive.
- Collective worship, supported well through partnership with the local church, is inspirational and ensures that pupils and adults spiritually flourish.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum is carefully planned and sequenced. This means that pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of world religions and worldviews.
- The school promotes an ambitious curriculum and enrichment programme, driven and developed with God's love at the centre. This ensures that pupils engage in a wide range of experiences.

Development Points

- Deepen and extend pupils' knowledge and understanding of justice. This is so that a wider range of pupils feel empowered to take action. Their actions can then make a positive difference within and beyond their community.
- Consolidate and embed the school's approach to spirituality within the curriculum. This is to ensure that pupils can flourish further and develop a sense of their own growing spirituality.



- **Inspection Findings**

Vision and Leadership

The school's Christian vision to, 'learn and grow together in the love of God' is central to its development. The leadership team actively lives out the vision and the Christian values that underpin it, ensuring they are both evident across the school. The environment reflects the values through thoughtful and meaningful displays. Partnerships with the trust, governors and the church strengthen and support this further, making the vision deeply embedded. Rigorous monitoring systems are in place. Consequently, leaders, including the trust and governing board, check that the vision enables both adults and pupils to flourish. Pupils demonstrate deep and thoughtful responses and actions in response to learning about the Christian values. They explain how these values inspire them to be the best they can be. They show confidence in knowing that they are loved, 'even when they are sad'. The Christian vision is aligned with the trust vision. Together, leaders at all levels, play a pivotal role in enabling adults and pupils to flourish in the love of Christ.

Vision and Curriculum

The Christian vision shapes and drives an ambitious curriculum and enrichment programme, with God's love at its heart. Christian values are woven throughout the curriculum and learning as golden threads. Each value has been carefully considered to show how it connects to pupils' learning. A well-chosen selection of texts further support and deepen pupils' understanding of the values. Leaders know and understand their school community and locality well. There are planned occasions for pupils to access 'essential experiences' at each stage of their learning. This facilitates pupils, including those deemed vulnerable, to flourish. Clear systems are in place to support individuals' learning in ways bespoke to their unique needs. For example, the school has detailed individual profiles for the most vulnerable pupils. Working closely with the trust, the leadership team have begun to embed opportunities for spiritual growth within the curriculum. These developments are at an early stage. Pupils are not confident in articulating some aspects of the approach.

Worship and Spirituality

Worship at this school is inspirational and a treasured time for pupils and adults to come together. In partnership with the church, worship is carefully planned to deepen understanding of the school's Christian values. It also includes a range of opportunities to nurture spiritual growth. Pupils engage vibrantly in prayer, story and hymn, all centred upon God's love. Adults support pupils well to engage and access the worship. The school's worship team evaluate the impact and work collaboratively to plan enhancements. For example, pupils research new songs which promote the school values. Such pupil leadership has also improved prayer spaces across the school. They promote and lead worship time with vigour and pride. Evaluations and monitoring identify the deep responses and reflections of pupils. For example, pupils have created their own worship sessions. Using their initiative and following the school plan, they have confidently brought them forward for leaders to use. Pupils also describe how learning about Christian values in worship influences their behaviour and actions. Adults are adept at ensuring pupils have time for reflection, consideration, prayer and connection to God. The partnership with the church enhances the spiritual opportunities within worship. Adults and pupils are inspired and uplifted by the clergy who visit school to lead worship.

Vision and School Culture

A culture of compassion, care and love permeates the school. Clear expectations are modelled and embedded, making it a lived reality. Strong, positive and supportive relationships are evident throughout the community, creating a profound sense of 'togetherness' and belonging. The trust actively promotes professional development and opportunities for enhanced qualifications. This is embraced by governors and adults in school. This passion for being the 'best that you can be' cascades naturally to pupils, inspiring them to flourish. The school's code of conduct is consistently visible and underpinned by the Christian values it reflects. Pupils are motivated to uphold these principles. Their voices are valued, and their contributions make a tangible difference to school life. Adults act with wisdom and dignity when addressing challenging situations. For example, effective approaches have been successfully implemented to understand and manage complex behaviours. By supporting



staff effectively with professional development, leaders have strengthened the school's culture. This has improved staff confidence and skills while fostering a shared approach.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

At this school, pupils have a wide range of meaningful opportunities to develop a sense of responsibility. There are clear structures in place to support their involvement in school improvement. This allows each Key Stage 2 pupil to join an effective team and experience taking on responsibility. Each group is guided by a dedicated adult with expertise and experience in a specific area of school life. Members meet regularly, develop a shared vision and create action plans to contribute to school development. This has established a strong foundation for responsibility. They are now demonstrating their responsibility on a wider scale. For example, they litter pick across their community and have reduced the level of plastic packaging used within school. However, pupils' understanding of justice is less secure. Many are unclear about its meaning. Consequently, pupils are not empowered to make a meaningful impact on the world around them.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum is well-balanced, encouraging pupils to think deeply and be curious. It has a high priority within the school curriculum. It is well-adapted to meet the needs of the pupils. As a result, it is appropriate and relevant. Lessons are enriched with practical activities and chances to link new and prior knowledge. Learning is carefully monitored, and assessment informs the future planning, ensuring continuity and progression. Strong partnerships with the trust, diocese and local church further enhance the pupils' learning activities. Purposeful experiences, such as visits and visitors deepen learning. As a result, RE lessons are engaging and meaningful. Pupils enjoy RE lessons and are passionate about deepening their understanding and exploring Christianity and other world faiths. The subject is also well-resourced, which supports learning and enables pupils to develop their knowledge effectively.

Information

Address	Cross Pit Lane, Rainford, Saint Helens, WA118AJ		
Date	13 October 2025	URN	148365
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	189
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT	Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust		
MAT Chair	Laurie Kwissa		
Headteacher	Emma Shawcross		
Chair of Governors	Diane Pennington		
Inspector	Rachel Jones		