



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Maxentius Church of England Primary School	
Address	New Heys Way, Bolton, BL2 4AE
School vision	
<p>Believing and Achieving Together</p> <p>‘Be Strong and Courageous, Do not be afraid, Do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go’ Joshua 1:9</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recently introduced Christian vision creates a nurturing and supportive culture. Pupils know that they are cherished for who they are. Staff are exemplary role models of Christian love and treating others well. • The Christian vision shapes the curriculum and the approach to teaching across the school. The emphasis on being ‘strong and courageous’ improves the learning experience for pupils. This includes those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). • Strong collaboration with partners in the Archbishop Temple Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) contributes significantly to the flourishing of pupils and adults. They appreciate mutually beneficial relationships with peers across the family of schools that support them in their roles. • Engaging worship enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. The supportive collaboration with the local church enhances the impact of the spiritual life of the school. • Supported by the work of the MAT, many pupils develop as young leaders. They contribute significantly to the strategic development of the school and are empowered as agents of change. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop the curriculum for religious education (RE). This is to deepen pupils’ understanding of a wider range of religions and worldviews. • Enhance opportunities across the curriculum for every pupil to encounter and respond to injustice. This is to develop all pupils, as well as the young leaders, as agents of change. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Highly effective school leaders have carefully developed a Christian vision that serves the local community. They model the St Maxentius vision in a way which is transformational for staff, pupils and families. In keeping with the school’s foundation, they give their time sacrificially to ensure the wellbeing of the vulnerable. Positive relationships are prioritised. This is evident in the warm, sustaining interactions staff have with one another and those in their care. It is equally visible in the loving ways pupils treat one another. Those who are new to school are warmly welcomed. They are supported well in settling into life in the nurturing school community. When needed, pupils and staff</p>	

find innovative ways to overcome barriers in this process. Equally, adults who are new joiners describe the exceptional assistance they receive from leaders and colleagues. Staff members effectively model how to treat others well. During social times, older pupils are protective of and nurture their younger peers. When friendship or other issues arise, staff successfully help to resolve them. This results in a happy and positive environment in which adults and pupils flourish.

The Christian vision shapes the content of the school's curriculum and the way it is taught. Pupils, including those with SEND, are enabled to flourish. Adults know those in their care exceptionally well. This assists them in personalising the support they provide. The emphasis on being 'strong and courageous' empowers pupils. They have ownership of and are emboldened in their learning. The feedback policy is centred around the school's vision. It inspires pupils and contributes to their flourishing. Resilience and perseverance are the norm. Pupils are clear that this aids their wellbeing and enjoyment of school life. Parents value the bespoke support available and the way it is delivered ensuring the dignity of their children. The team of local governors is well supported by school and MAT leaders. In keeping with the Christian vision, governors are ambitious for the future. They invest time in getting to know the school well. However, systems of monitoring and evaluation are underdeveloped. Consequently, understanding of the impact of the vision for all learners across the curriculum is limited.

Membership of the highly supportive MAT is assisting the wellbeing of adults and pupils. In particular, it powerfully develops those in leadership roles. The impact of collaboration is significant. Subject leaders value working with colleagues across the network of schools, which increases their effectiveness. Leaders in the MAT know the school very well. They look for innovative ways to help it and individual staff members to develop. Adults value the lengths to which leaders go to ensure their welfare. Examples include the 'flourishing' and feedback policies. Pupils benefit from regular mixing with peers in partner schools. This increases their understanding of cultures and backgrounds that are different from their own.

Pupils, particularly those in Key Stage 2, are offered an exceptional range of leadership opportunities. They are expertly guided to grow in these roles. This contributes significantly to their character development. They have a strong sense of justice and a desire to 'change the world'. Their training and knowledge powerfully affects the spirituality and wellbeing of younger pupils. For example, the 'children chaplains' and 'shades ambassadors' successfully support others through difficult times in their personal lives. The 'spirit blazers' are working on a racial justice programme with peers across the MAT. However, character development opportunities for pupils who are not young leaders are less well established.

There are regular opportunities for spiritual development at St Maxentius. Time for contemplation is consistently planned into the curriculum. Staff skillfully use a range of techniques, including challenging questions and rich debate. These provoke deeply reflective responses from pupils. Collective worship is a highlight of the school day. Young leaders are empowered to collect feedback about the impact it has on the lives of pupils and adults. MAT staff provide them with effective training to conduct their work. Reflecting the school's vision, pupils boldly share feedback with adults. In turn school leaders use this information to enhance and enrich worship. It results in a positive experience for pupils, including those with SEND.

Worship is thoughtfully shaped to be invitational, ensuring those from any background can take part with integrity. It is also highly engaging and participative. This helps to make it memorable for pupils who demonstrate detailed recollection and understanding of Bible stories. They can articulate the influence these have on their own behaviour and on others. Staff value participating in and leading acts of collective worship. They appreciate the opportunity it provides for personal spiritual development. It prompts them to reflect deeply and contributes to their wellbeing. The mutually

supportive partnership with the local church enhances the spiritual and worship life of the school. Pupils relish taking part in ‘special services’. They also look forward to weekly acts of collective worship led by representatives from the parish. Members of the church visit school regularly. They invest time developing relationships with pupils. This helps to build the strong sense of community.

RE has a high profile at St Maxentius. Careful planning ensures that the curriculum is challenging and well-sequenced. Close collaboration with the MAT and diocese helps leaders to ensure rigour. Staff have high expectations of pupils. As a result, they make rapid progress in learning about Christianity during their time at the school. They benefit from engaging enrichment days and visitors. However, opportunities to enhance their understanding of religions beyond Christianity are limited. Consequently, pupils’ knowledge of a wider range of faiths and worldviews is underdeveloped.

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

Information			
Inspection date	3 May 2024	URN	146141
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	190
Diocese	Manchester		
MAT/Federation	Archbishop Temple Trust		
Headteacher	Lisa Cousen		
Chair	Jo Haslam		
Inspector	Charlotte Tudway	No.	2115