

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Norwood Green

Vision

The vision of St Mary's is grounded in the Parable of the Sower, Matthew 13: 3-9

The parable of the sower inspires us to ground our children in the teachings of Jesus so that they can grow well in love, faith, respect, perseverance and service, flourishing in their learning to reach their full potential and give back to their communities hundred-fold. Through our Christian values, we teach children to hear, understand and live the word of God, growing to love and serve the world as global citizens. As every child is uniquely created in God's image, we nurture their individual development through a holistic approach to all aspects of life.

St Mary's 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

- Dedicated leaders ensure that the Christian vision has a powerful impact on the school's strategic development. Well-focused evaluation and successful partnerships enhance St Mary's effectiveness as a Church school.
- The curriculum reflects the school's vision well. Leaders equip pupils to grow and flourish in life. Pupils' spiritual growth is enriched alongside their learning and personal development.
- Highly effective leadership of religious education (RE) ensures a broad and well-sequenced curriculum. Interesting lessons and effective assessment result in pupils making strong progress.
- Collective worship is inspiring and joyful. Varied opportunities for deep thinking and reflection support the spiritual development of pupils and adults. Strong relationships with local churches nourish this school community.
- Harmonious relationships amongst pupils and adults ensure a positive learning environment. Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are included well in the life of the school.

Development Points

- Expand opportunities for pupils of all ages to think creatively about issues affecting themselves and their community. This is in order to empower them to act positively and independently for justice.
- Strengthen the range of evaluation of collective worship in order to guide its development.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Dedicated leaders ensure that the Christian vision drives both the ethos and strategic planning of this richly diverse multi academy trust. The parable's image of the sower preparing 'good soil' reflects their determination to create conditions in which pupils can grow spiritually, morally, socially and academically. Leaders at all levels monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision. Trustees consequently make bold decisions, for example, to establish 'Ecclesia', a partnership with three other small Church schools. This enables both professional training for staff and sharing of resources across schools. As a result, pupils are provided with a holistic, values-based education. The school's Christian values of love, faith, respect, perseverance and service are positively celebrated and enrich daily life. These enhance pupils' appreciation of people's diverse experiences and personal responsibility towards others. Pupils with SEND and additional needs are therefore included and supported well. This culture of kindness promotes harmonious relationships amongst adults and pupils, which extends to families.

Vision and Curriculum

The curriculum reflects the school's vision well. It is creative and enhances pupils' social, personal and cultural development. Nurturing their spiritual growth is a priority and is woven throughout the curriculum. Lessons and displays consistently feature interesting and challenging questions. For example, pupils consider how people in ancient Egypt believed the river Nile to be a divine gift. This prompts them to reflect on aspects of the environment that they are grateful for. Every class participates in 'forest school'. This outdoor learning provides both structured and informal opportunities for spiritual growth. It celebrates God's creation while enabling pupils to gain practical skills. They relish the sensory experience and time for reflection and stillness in nature. Each individual is regarded as valued and worthy in keeping with Christian belief. Pupils with additional needs receive bespoke support and thrive alongside their friends. Carefully selected literature strengthens pupils' awareness and appreciation of diversity and the histories of under-represented groups. Their horizons are broadened through activities alongside pupils from other schools in the Ecclesia partnership. For example, being part of a joint choir attending a major schools' event at Wembley is a highlight. Such opportunities boost pupils' spiritual and social development and extend ambition.

Worship and Spirituality

The Christian vision, grounded in the teachings of Jesus is the heartbeat of this vibrant school. Collective worship brings the school community together and many are clearly uplifted by joyful sung praise. Pupils and staff participate in ways that are personally meaningful, whatever their faith or worldview. Bible stories are used to explore the school's Christian values, helping pupils to reflect on their own actions. Class worship facilitates deeper discussion, for example about how Jesus served people humbly. Pupils link this with their own examples of showing kindness, perseverance and respect. Strong relationships with the parish and other local churches provide a rich variety of worship and spiritual experiences. Whole school services and seasonal celebrations in church boost pupils' understanding of Anglican traditions and the Church calendar. Class ambassadors value their involvement in worship, particularly when they lead and show spiritual leadership to other pupils. Prayer is embedded in school life. Each classroom includes a reflection space, inviting pupils and adults to pray quietly or simply take time for stillness and contemplation. Evaluation of the impact of these wide-ranging experiences is not fully developed. Nonetheless, pupils and adults' spiritual development is deeply enriched through the combination of worship and opportunities for reflection.

Vision and School Culture

The values of love, faith, respect, perseverance and service are key drivers of positive behaviour and attitudes throughout this school community. Leaders live out the vision through their compassionate approach. They show care for staff by providing high quality training, together with personal support when needed.



Collaboration across the Ecclesia partnership builds professional networks alongside workload efficiencies. Parents and carers value the care staff show and the way they work proactively with families. A parent workshop on children's mental health helps them with guidance and supportive discussion, for example. Pupils are taught about how to recognise and manage their emotional reactions to help maintain their wellbeing. They are able to seek specialist adult support when needed. When disagreements arise, adults help pupils to understand and reflect on how their behaviour impacts others. This leads to actions that rebuild trust and restore relationships. Older pupils live out the school's values by spontaneously supporting younger peers and those with additional needs in the playground. Others help with reading and in providing worship activities. As a result of the school's Christian vision, the culture of growing well in God's love permeates relationships.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils explore issues of justice, responsibility and stewardship through the curriculum. They are encouraged to consider ethical questions and reflect on how Christian teachings can inspire action. Older pupils offer service to the community through leadership roles. The school council and ambassadors embrace responsibility by considering improvements, co-ordinating events and guiding other pupils. Regular involvement with litter-picking with a local charity provides a focus for pupils taking responsibility in their community. This experience inspired the school council to meet with the local councillor and chair of trustees to discuss fly-tipping. Year 6 prefects proposed and assist with weekly 'stay and play' sessions, demonstrating responsibility, service and care for younger pupils. Visits to a local care home help pupils understand how their actions can positively affect others and strengthen their sense of social responsibility. Meaningful opportunities for pupils to be change makers are valued but are mostly limited to older pupils.

Religious Education

RE has a strong profile as expected in a Church school. Highly effective subject leadership means the RE curriculum is very well-planned and sequenced. Collaboration across the Ecclesia partnership and with the diocesan network contributes well to this expertise. Alongside Christianity, pupils study a wide range of faiths and worldviews that are explored through carefully designed resources. The curriculum is effectively sequenced so that pupils can build on their previous learning and deepen their religious literacy. They are confident in exploring a range of religious texts and evaluating them through different disciplines. For example, pupils consider who decides rules and responsibilities in society. They then consider what the story of the Garden of Eden tells Christians about God's authority. RE is an expression of the vision as pupils grow in wisdom and deepen their knowledge of global faiths and worldviews, including Christianity.

Pupils benefit from engaging teaching, so are enthusiastic and remember their learning well. High-quality lessons challenge them to answer big questions, such as 'what did Jesus mean when he said, 'I am the bread of life?' Seeing and using religious artefacts brings the study of world faiths to life. Visits to places of worship and workshops with visitors include a wide range of world religions and Christian traditions. These help pupils connect with and understand the lived experience of people with varying beliefs and worldviews. Pupils' RE work is impressive. They learn to evaluate their own work from an early age. Teachers include extra questions when providing feedback, which helps them to improve. As a result of effective teaching, feedback and assessment, pupils make strong progress. They appreciate the importance of RE as a vehicle for understanding diversity in the local and global community.

Information

Address	26 Tentelow Lane, Norwood Green, Middlesex UB2 4LE		
Date	09 June 2026	URN	140963
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	160
Diocese	London		
MAT	St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Norwood Green		
MAT Chair	Victoria Kemble		
Executive Headteacher	Rachel Blake		
Head of School	Alison Nettleship		
Chair of Governors	Victoria Kemble		
Inspector	Rachel A Jones		