



## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

The Beacon Church of England Primary School, Everton	
Address	Heyworth Street, Everton, L5 3QG
School vision	
<p style="text-align: center;">Learning Together, Following Jesus</p> <p>Jesus is the light we follow to provide our children with as many opportunities as possible for a positive future. Through living out our Christian values, we grow as a strong community. We have high aspirations for both ourselves and the children and believe in being committed to the development of every child in our school, demonstrating love and respect daily.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.' John 8:12</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compassionate, determined leaders bring the deeply rooted Christian vision to life. They aspire to unlock each pupil's God-given potential so all can find the light of life. The impact is often transformational.</li> <li>• The Christian vision shapes an ambitious, inspirational curriculum. Pupils embrace all that the school offers. As a result, they flourish exceptionally well in their learning and personal development.</li> <li>• Within this inclusive Church school community its differences are its strength. Pupils thrive as all are treated with generous love, dignity and respect. The school lives out a strong Christian mission to nurture the vulnerable and disadvantaged so all can flourish.</li> <li>• Christian values are at the heart and soul of the school. Pupils flourish as they embrace a wide range of leadership responsibilities. They model for others how to live out the school's Christian values.</li> <li>• A special, mutually enriching partnership exists between the school and neighbouring church. United, they are a beacon of hope in the community they serve.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how knowledge builds progressively across the religious education (RE) curriculum towards clear end goals. This is to enable pupils to revisit previous learning and build on their prior knowledge within a range of religions.</li> <li>• Build on good practice by agreeing a shared approach and understanding of spirituality. This is to enable teachers to deepen experiences across the curriculum.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>The Beacon radiates high aspirations across its school community. The deeply rooted Christian vision to follow in the light of Jesus, drives all that the school does. Leaders know their community well. They strive to overcome disadvantage and transform lives. All actions aspire to unlock each pupil's God-given potential so all can find the light of life. As a result, pupils flourish in all aspects of</p>	

their development. Christian values are at the heart and soul of the school. Grounded in examples of Jesus' life and teaching, they are the framework for how the school operates.

The school is part of the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust (LDST). The trust embeds a culture of collaboration and shared practice. This enriches and sustains the school's Christian character. The Beacon is central in the sharing of its aspirational, vision-driven practice. School improvement priorities flow from the vision and effective systems are in place to monitor and evaluate the impact. Evaluations involve trust officers, the local governing board and diocese. This process of quality assurance and self-evaluation drives improvement in all aspects of pupil flourishing.

The Christian vision shapes an ambitious, inspirational curriculum. Pupils engage with all that the school offers. This has a far-reaching impact on their academic and personal development. Enrichment experiences and extra-curricular activities widen pupils' horizons. These include ensemble music making, sports clubs and residential visits. Character development is a strength. Pupils embrace a wide range of leadership roles. These empower them to live out Christian character virtues. For example, acting as ethos ambassadors, worship warriors, playtime guardians and joining the caring community team. Spiritual growth is prioritised. Reflection areas in classes and the wider learning environment stimulate moments of reflection and prayerful contemplation. Staff weave spiritual experiences across the curriculum. However, these do not reflect a shared understanding or consistent planning approach. This means that opportunities to deepen response are missed. The curriculum is sensitively adapted to support pupils with additional needs. Every effort is taken to overcome barriers to learning. Particular care is taken to nurture those new to the school with English as an additional language. Leaders' relentless determination to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged changes lives for the better.

A varied pattern of inclusive collective worship unites and inspires all members of this Church school community. All participate eagerly and sing with enthusiasm. Rooted in Christian values, worship influences pupils' attitudes, actions and relationships. Parents report seeing the positive impact at home. Worship is also a time when pupils learn about issues in the world around them. Increasingly, this triggers them to social action and courageous advocacy. For example, their recent support for a local homeless charity. Gospel stories are explored regularly and pupils relate this teaching to their own lives. The nursery children engage in child-friendly worship. The use of biblical figures, puppets and other resources is innovative. Pupils build confidence by choosing to plan and lead worship. This supports their spiritual and character development. Invitational prayer is embedded across the natural rhythm of each school day. In worship, pupils calmly engage in set prayers, personal prayers and moments of quiet reflection. These moments are enriched through the involvement of the local church. The vicar is actively involved in the life of the school. Worship is led in church weekly and Holy Communion is available for the oldest pupils. Across the year, the school and church work together to celebrate key festivals in the Christian calendar. The wider school community are invited. The LDST also leads worship. Adults report this to be a spiritual and moving experience. Regular evaluations of the impact of collective worship mean that it continues to be relevant to everyone's needs.

The Christian vision drives an embedded culture of love and acceptance. Rich diversity is embraced and all are treated well with equity, dignity and respect. This results in a happy learning environment. The school has School of Sanctuary status. This recognises good practice in fostering a culture of welcome and inclusion. As a Rights Respecting School, this places children's rights at the heart of the curriculum. Behaviour is exemplary with practice rooted in the Christian practice of forgiveness and reconciliation. The school supports others as a Department of Education (DFE) Behaviour Hub. A high level of support is in place to ensure positive mental health and wellbeing. Adults draw strength from each other during difficult times. They appreciate the discrete, sensitive support that leaders provide.

This Church school lives out a mission to serve others. Social action and charity work are testament to pupils' desire to follow in the light of Jesus. During 'we serve weeks' they choose causes and charities to support. Recently, this has included the local food pantry, refugee action and dementia UK. Curriculum and worship experiences shine a light on local and global justice issues. Pupils want to create a fairer world and make a difference. For example, their support for Toilet Twinning stems from a knowledge of water poverty. Increasingly, pupils are moving beyond a sense of compassion to independently act as advocates for justice. This good practice is recognised through a silver Global Neighbours accreditation. A range of partnerships facilitate the school's ministry to families in crisis. The school and local church together act as a beacon of hope in the community they serve.

RE is regarded as a core subject. The curriculum is structured to amalgamate aspects of the Liverpool Agreed Syllabus with the Liverpool Diocesan syllabus. Both are enriched with visual resources from the Understanding Christianity Resource. Plans are adjusted so that pupils encounter a range of religions. They are ambitious in specifying the key knowledge and vocabulary to remember within each unit of work. Visits to places of worship provide a good understanding of the living religious traditions in the local area. This contributes to pupils' wider understanding of diversity. Opportunities for spiritual development are consistently woven across RE lessons following an agreed approach. Deep questions prompt pupils to safely express their own ideas, thoughts and beliefs. However, this approach is not applied across the breadth of the curriculum. Currently, it is unclear how knowledge across a range of religions is progressively sequenced. The joining of both syllabi creates an incoherent curriculum structure. In some religions pupils do not regularly revisit previous learning and build on their prior knowledge. The LDST provides ongoing support for RE through the provision of professional development and subject leader network meetings.

At the Beacon leaders aspire to transform their community with the light of Jesus. Their Christian vision lights pupils' paths to a brighter future.

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

Information			
Inspection date	12 October 2023	URN	145086
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	477
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation	Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust		
Headteacher	Ann Charters		
Chair	Maggie Swinson		
Inspector	Alison Lloyd	No.	2141