



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Farnworth Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Pit Lane, Widnes, WA8 9HS

School vision

At Farnworth, we all grow together and we have a voice. As a faith community, we are inspired by God to be our best - to be good people who see and celebrate the goodness in others too. Our gifts and talents are nurtured and we are all valued and cared for in a community filled with love and the hope that as followers of Jesus, we can bring his light to the world. Here we learn, laugh and love as our lives are shaped by our values, our faith and our experiences together. Ready for the journey ahead.

'If we walk in the light as He is the light, we have fellowship with one another. 1 John 1:7

School strengths

- Leaders at Farnworth are fully invested in, and committed to, the school. Motivated by the vision they go to exceptional lengths to create an inspirational place where all are welcome.
- Adults live out the vision through their commitment to enable pupils to thrive. This is effectively used to support them to be the best they can be through innovative and imaginative practices.
- Leadership is supportive and nurturing. Wellbeing is a priority. The positive interactions throughout the school exemplify this culture.
- Collective worship is carefully planned. It thoughtfully reflects the vision and values. Wonderful and varied opportunities deepen spiritual experiences for all members of the community.
- Religious education (RE) is effectively led. The curriculum is broad and relevant providing a space for deep thinking. Pupils have a broad understanding of worldviews and faiths.

Areas for development

- Extend pupils' engagement with social action projects. This is so that they can become agents of change in their community and beyond.
- Enhance systems of monitoring and evaluation of collective worship. This is to strengthen leaders' understanding of its impact and effectiveness to inform future planning.

Inspection findings

An aspirational Christian vision coupled with inspirational leadership support this thriving and nurturing school. The vision and values are central to the work of the school. Leaders, governors and staff know the community well. They intentionally create policies and practices to enable everyone to nurture 'gifts and talents'. Decisions are made relevant to the context, preparing pupils for the future. Governors support leaders, through robust monitoring and evaluation. Members of the school community speak highly of the effective support they receive. They feel loved in a deeply inclusive environment. It is a cheerful and positive place to be.

Pupils' learning is supported effectively. This is shaped by the vision. Thoughtful wider curriculum design contributes to pupils' learning experiences. Enrichment activities are embedded within the timetable. These provide imaginative opportunities for pupils to explore their 'gifts and talents'. They are supported in engaging in new interests and creativity is actively nurtured. This strategy is inclusive of all pupils. This includes those with special educational needs and/or disabilities or who are vulnerable and/or disadvantaged. The impact of this is good attendance and positivity towards learning. These enriching opportunities also support the continuing professional development of staff as they learn from specialists within their field. The vision driven curriculum transforms the lives of the pupils. Extracurricular activities are well attended giving further experiences to explore and grow unexplored talents and gifts.

Collective worship is highly valued as part of daily life. The variety of opportunities offer a range of spiritual experiences. These encounters are enhanced with pupils invited to share prayers spontaneously as a way to speak with God. This also has a positive impact on the adults in the school community. Every classroom has a dedicated reflection area and these are actively used. Pupils benefit from leading class worship. They speak with pride about the opportunities to contribute to the spiritual growth of others. Vision ambassadors support the wider worship programme. They enjoy planning and delivering worship regularly. Further opportunities for spiritual development happen through year group activities. One example is that older pupils sing together in the gospel choir. Exceptionally strong partnerships with the local church support the provision and spiritual development opportunities offered at Farnworth. The recent 'walk of light' highlighted the strong school, church and community links. It is an opportunity to join together in worship, linking school with church and home. There is a shared determination that these partnerships thrive and are mutually supportive. Systems to monitor and evaluate collective worship however, are less developed.

Respectful partnerships between leaders, parents and pupils are widely evident. Relationships are very positive. Learners thrive in this aspirational community. Parents recognise the dedication of the staff. They appreciate that the values are accessible and encourage pupils to be 'ready for the journey ahead'. There are numerous examples of how each child is known and seen as an individual. The school is supportive of specific pupils individual needs. Pupils champion the encouragement they receive to grow their gifts and talents. The school motto 'learn, laugh, love' embodies the atmosphere in the building. This is seen through excellent behaviour and positive relationships. These qualities are nurtured and shaped through trusted relationships, underpinned by the values. Disagreements between peers are dealt with effectively and resolved with respect. A commitment to wellbeing is seen through the pastoral support available through staff and church links. As a consequence, pupils feel safe in school and know they will be listened to. Staff speak highly of the high quality support they receive. They describe working at Farnworth as joy-filled and inspiring. They flourish, because they know leaders care deeply about their wellbeing.

Pupils regularly engage in opportunities to learn about charities and wider global issues. These support them to make positive contributions to society. The school is involved in supporting those in need. Pupils actively engage in supporting charitable causes in a variety of ways. Work across the curriculum offers examples of inspirational people who challenge injustice. As a result of this learning, pupils are developing an understanding about taking action to make positive changes to support others. They are in the early stages of becoming active citizens. Pupils are exploring opportunities to be agents for change through the school council and the wider leadership roles available to them. Pupils who take on leadership roles are expected to be good role models. They confidently, in line with the vision, 'walk in the light' for others to follow.

RE is well planned and sequenced. Subject leaders work supportively with staff. Valuable training is



provided by the Diocese, enhancing staff knowledge and building confidence. Pupils value what they learn about in RE. They have a good knowledge of Bible stories. They have a wide understanding of world views and faiths. Their books reflect the range of learning styles that are used to actively engage pupils' interest. They are enthusiastic about answering big questions and appreciate how this challenges them to think deeply. Pupils benefit from visits to places of worship and visiting speakers enhance these opportunities. The inter faith panel event allows learners to ask questions about various faiths and beliefs. This is an annual event. It is used to support pupils understanding of similarities and differences of a range of faiths. They are challenged to think deeply and as a result express well reasoned ideas and opinions. Pupils are respectful and enjoy learning in more detail about a range of practices.

Farnworth Church of England Primary school is a place where all are cherished. Pupils 'walk in the light' and provided with a firm foundation 'ready for the journey ahead'.

Farnworth Church of England Primary school is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	23 April 2024	URN	111394
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	415
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation			
Acting Headteacher	Heather Whitfield		
Chair	Joanne Reynolds		
Inspector	Tina Astley	No.	2205