

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St. Margarets Church of England Primary School

Vision

Our vision is to be a Church of England primary school where every individual will be valued. Inspired by the teaching, "Let us love one another for love is from God," we seek to defend the cause of the needy, build common ground, and serve the community. We are a nurturing, inclusive church school, providing space for everyone to flourish. Our values will empower all to be agents of change, embracing diversity, thus fostering a school community where each person's unique gifts are celebrated and respected.

St. Margarets 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.

Strengths

- Effective leadership has created an inclusive learning environment with the Christian vision at its heart.
- The school's overarching value of love ensures that there is a tangible culture of care in the school and the wider community.
- The religious education (RE) is well planned, delivered and monitored. This ensures that pupils have a balanced understanding of Christianity as a global faith. They also have a powerful knowledge of other world faiths and religions.
- The culture of openness and trust at St. Margaret's supports meaningful staff development, strengthens partnerships with the church and fosters positive, engaged relationships with families.

Development Points

- Further embed the school's shared understanding of spiritual development. This is to ensure purposeful opportunities are planned across the curriculum to enable all pupils to flourish spiritually.



Inspection Findings

The Christian vision is central to St. Margarets' school. It guides decisions, relationships and everyday practice. Leaders and staff live this out through care for pupils and support for families. As a result, lives are transformed. The school is a close-knit community, embracing pupils, staff, and parents. Pupils and parents feel welcomed, valued and included. The vision builds a caring and nurturing environment where pupils are encouraged to succeed. Staff are supported both professionally and personally. Leaders care deeply about staff wellbeing and personal situations. For some families, the school is a 'lifeline', offering support, stability, and hope. Governors play a key role in school life and in developing the vision. They monitor and evaluate the school's work as a Church school. This has led to bold actions, such as free after-school provision.

Leaders at St Margarets' have designed a curriculum that nurtures the development of the whole child. Learning connects to real-life experiences and promotes reflection and empathy. Pupils are encouraged to think deeply and act with kindness. This helps them grow into confident, thoughtful, and compassionate individuals. As a result, pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, flourish academically and socially within a loving and inclusive community. Following diocesan training, staff have developed a growing confidence in identifying and responding to spiritual opportunities. This has led to a shared, evolving understanding of spirituality across the school. Pupils are encouraged to explore big questions and reflect deeply. Texts and themes, such as work on refugees, prompt thoughtful discussion and emotional engagement. While spiritual moments occur naturally, they are not yet consistently planned across all curriculum areas.

Worship is a central and valued part of daily life at St. Margarets'. It is inclusive, invitational, and rooted in the school's Christian vision and values. This empowers pupils to understand their meaning and application, guiding their choices and actions. In turn this shapes daily interactions, encouraging kindness and respect, building a culture where values are lived, not just taught. Worship enables pupils to grow spiritually, morally, socially, and culturally in a nurturing and reflective environment. Leaders, staff, and clergy regularly lead acts of worship, providing variety and relevance. Pupils engage well and understand how the themes in worship underpin the way they live and treat others. This influences daily school life positively, creating an environment where individuals feel respected, valued and cared for. Worship invites all to pause, reflect, and encounter the presence of God. Reflections often focus on national and global issues, linking faith to real-life concerns and celebrations. This inspires adults and pupils to act with generosity and responsibility in their daily lives. An understanding of global needs motivates pupils to organise fundraising for charities and community projects. For example, pupils gave up their Saturday mornings to work on a project to support the homeless. In this way they develop empathy and a sense of shared responsibility beyond the school. All classrooms have a dedicated area, offering pupils a quiet space to pray or reflect when needed. This helps them manage feelings and find inner calm. A positive relationship with the local church enriches worship. Regular involvement of the clergy brings variety, depth and real-life connection to Christian teachings.

The school has a strong culture of aspiration, underpinned by its core values. These are known, understood, and lived by the school community. Such values actively shape pupils' character development and promote a deep sense of responsibility and unity across the school. Pupils benefit from a well-structured approach to emotional wellbeing, including access to skilled support through programmes such as 'Place2Be'. They are confident in identifying how to manage their mental health and know trusted adults are always available to support them. This helps reduce anxiety and builds emotional resilience creating a safe and secure environment. Staff wellbeing is



prioritised, with leaders investing in professional development that empowers staff to lead and teach effectively. A shared sense of belonging contributes to high levels of trust between families and the school. Behaviour across the school is exemplary, reflecting strong relationships, mutual respect, and effective systems of support. The school's approach to inclusion is a notable strength, enabling pupils to feel accepted, celebrated, and respected.

The Christian vision is rooted in justice and encourages pupils and adults to be agents of positive change. The vision is clearly lived out through purposeful partnerships with organisations addressing inequality, climate responsibility, and community wellbeing. Collaborations with Manchester City Council, Members of Parliament, the local mayor and local climate groups have been set up. These inspire pupils to act on issues affecting society and the environment, recognising their responsibility within God's world. The curriculum actively nurtures ethical awareness and pupil agency, particularly through PSHE and 'philosophy for children'. Pupils confidently articulate their views, explore moral dilemmas, and challenge injustice. For example, members of the 'Whalley Range Climate Action Group' have led school-wide initiatives to raise awareness about environmental issues. Pupil leadership is a strength of the school, with ambassadorial roles inspiring pupils to serve and influence change. This includes, pupils serving breakfasts at a local church to raise funds for refugees. They also visit care homes where they engage with residents. The school's commitment to inclusion and service is seen in work with interfaith partners, including the British Muslim Heritage Centre. These experiences go beyond awareness, fostering a lived understanding of diversity. This encourages pupils to become compassionate, active citizens who recognise their ability to make a positive difference in their communities.

Leaders make RE a central part of learning. Effective leadership ensures teachers are well supported so that pupils are challenged and engaged in RE lessons. The curriculum is carefully planned and sequenced to help pupils understand Christianity and other world faiths. The school has created tailored schemes of work to meet pupils' needs. RE supports pupils' ability to think deeper across the curriculum. It is well resourced, and thoughtfully delivered by confident, supported staff. Teachers receive regular training and guidance to maintain quality RE teaching. Pupils enjoy RE and speak thoughtfully about what they learn and how it applies to their lives. High-quality learning is reflected in books that showcase the creative and engaging way RE is taught. Pupils are proud of their RE work and understand its role in fostering respect for different beliefs. RE is enriched by visits to places of worship, including the Gita Bhavan temple. Visitors from Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism and Hinduism share beliefs, practices, and answer pupils' questions, helping deepen understanding of different faiths.

Information

Address	Withington Road, Whalley Range, Manchester M16 8FQ		
Date	11 June 2025	URN	105493
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	662
Diocese	Manchester		
Headteacher	David Hunter		
Chair of Governors	Mariam-Al-Bayati		
Inspector	Nadia Caserta		