

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

### St Paul's Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

'Shine Like Stars in the World,' Philippians 2:15

Our school is one family, united in love and deeply rooted in our Christian values, where together on life's journey we flourish, striving for excellence in all that we do. Inspired by the transformation of St Paul, and enlightened by the glory of God, we will shine like stars to make the world a better place.

St. Paul'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.

#### Strengths

- The Christian vision, firmly rooted in biblical teaching, underpins all aspects of school life and leadership. It guides thoughtful decisions and actions, meeting the needs of pupils, staff, and the wider community. Consequently, the school develops with purposeful momentum, and pupils, staff, and families flourish.
- Inspired by the school's vision, leaders have planned a curriculum which motivates pupils and captures their imaginations. Rich opportunities for exploring diversity and spirituality result in inspired, reflective pupils who engage deeply with their learning and the world around them.
- Collective worship is a much-loved part of school life. It inspires a strong sense of togetherness and belonging. It also promotes inclusive, diverse expressions of faith, sensitively nurturing spiritual growth.
- Religious education (RE) is a curriculum strength, offering relevant, diverse, inclusive content and given high priority in school life. It challenges pupils and develops an accurate knowledge of beliefs, values, and diverse faith traditions. Pupils show great enthusiasm for the subject and demonstrate impressive understanding of denominational Christianity and world religions.
- RE is exceptionally well led. Staff are inspired through highly effective CPD. This empowers teachers to deliver the subject confidently and consistently. Aspirational, immersive teaching ensures clear progression through creative and interactive methods. Pupils build resilience and independence alongside deep understanding, leading to striking outcomes.

#### Development Point

- Deepen pupils' understanding of non-religious worldviews to complement their robust knowledge of Christianity and world faiths. This is to further strengthen their ability to engage thoughtfully and confidently in a diverse society.



## Inspection Findings

The school's Christian vision, 'Shine like stars in the world,' draws on biblical themes of light, hope, and transformation. It creates an inclusive environment where pupils and adults are supported to flourish personally, academically, and spiritually. Leaders explain how St Paul's transformation and Jesus' call to live faithfully inspire integrity and purpose. This vision shapes daily life and forms a nurturing culture where values are lived out with consistency. Pupils and staff feel known, valued, and united in their commitment to shared values and growth. The school badge, with the lamp of learning and crossed swords, symbolises enlightenment, courage, truth, and Christian faith. The motto, 'zeal with truth,' reflects a shared determination to foster resilience and moral strength. Rooted in Christian love, this welcoming community embraces all, regardless of background or belief. Governors know the school well and show strong commitment to its Christian foundation and the flourishing of pupils and adults. They make strategic decisions that reflect the vision and uphold the school's character. By monitoring and evaluating areas such as worship and religious education, they ensure alignment with the school's ethos. Governors support leaders through rigorous self-evaluation and hold them to account with wisdom and compassion. As faithful stewards, governors nurture a vision that continues to inspire and transform the whole school community.

The curriculum enables pupils to flourish academically, morally, and personally by encouraging deep thinking, open debate, and reflective learning. Carefully planned visits and a rich extra-curricular programme broaden pupils' horizons and deepen their understanding of the Christian vision in action. For example, the residential trip fosters independence, resilience, reflection, and community, while visits to places of worship inspire awe and spiritual awareness. Similarly, visits to an animal sanctuary encourage reflection on compassion, care, and the value of life. These thoughtfully chosen experiences contribute meaningfully to pupils' spiritual development and growth as whole individuals. Planning ensures pupils, including those with additional needs, can access these opportunities. As a result, pupils engage with enthusiasm and imagination, rooted in the school's Christian values.

An integral part of the school community is a deeply valued, dedicated group of cross-denominational clergy and ministers. They support the RE curriculum and worship with integrity and purpose. This provision is intellectually and spiritually beneficial to staff and pupils alike. Worship in school reflects the breadth of Christian belief, revealing Christianity as a global and diverse faith. A worship about John the Baptist showed how his feast day is celebrated worldwide, enriching pupils' understanding of the diverse ways in which Christian festivals are expressed. Worship is both inclusive and invitational, offering space for all to engage meaningfully regardless of background. Those present are warmly invited to participate, encouraging unity, confidence, and spiritual growth. Participants respond enthusiastically, and in doing so, take ownership of their personal faith journey.

Pupils and staff learn and work together in a positive, supportive environment reflecting the school's Christian vision. Leaders ensure pupils can participate in a wide range of activities by removing barriers to involvement. Policies promote mental health and wellbeing across the whole school community. The restorative behaviour policy encourages forgiveness, reconciliation, and responsibility, helping pupils reflect and restore relationships. This nurtures empathy and accountability, strengthening the community rooted in Christian values. Pupils access counselling through art and drama therapy and small group support. The school works with external specialists and supports initiatives promoting mental health and neurodiversity awareness. Its mental health plan helps pupils understand emotions and build resilience through zones of regulation, grounded in Christian compassion. Regular wellbeing surveys enable leaders to respond promptly and ensure pupils receive appropriate support, including external services when needed. Pupils have safe spaces to express thoughts and concerns openly. Their voices are



heard through the School Council, keeping wellbeing and inclusion central to the school's vision. Ongoing feedback enables adaptations to meet pupils' evolving needs effectively.

The Christian vision fosters a culture of justice, responsibility and respect. It inspires pupils to act with compassion and integrity as engaged citizens. This is evident in initiatives like the Year 6 and Reception buddy system, and charitable efforts reflect this commitment. The school lives out its vision to 'shine like stars' through pupil-initiated outreach, which is supported by a dedicated staff member. Projects such as Year 4's recycling ambassadors and Year 5's rainforest study develop understanding of global and local issues. Pupils build respect and compassion through visits to a local care home. Fundraising efforts highlight both national and global concerns. Valuing pupil voice encourages learners to lead change. Partnerships with other schools enable joint campaigns to support those in need.

The RE curriculum gives pupils a deep understanding of Christianity as a global faith. It also offers rich exploration of world religions and beliefs, fostering respect, empathy, and appreciation for diverse traditions. This promotes inclusivity and tolerance throughout the school community. Visits to places of worship enhance pupils' understanding of the local and global religious landscape. Rooted in the Christian vision, this nurtures cultural understanding and a commitment to justice and equity. Pupils show compassionate, respectful, and enthusiastic engagement with diversity, recognising the dignity of all people. They understand their role in building a fairer, more inclusive world. Pupils demonstrate strong knowledge and zeal, clearly articulating key concepts. They discuss important events and figures with thoughtful engagement and share their own beliefs and celebrations, strengthening mutual respect. For example, pupils explained the use of prayer mats and compared Islamic customs with other religions, demonstrating reverence and respect. However, limited opportunities exist for pupils to develop a deep understanding of non-religious worldviews. This impedes their appreciation of the full range of contemporary beliefs.

Leaders have implemented robust systems to monitor, assess, and evaluate the impact of RE. These strategies empower teachers to provide timely academic and spiritual support, securing significant progress. Pupils demonstrate a deep understanding of religious concepts and confidently build on their prior knowledge. They recognise the subject's importance and appreciate its relevance to understanding a range of beliefs and worldviews. Creative and challenging teaching encourages reflection on life's big questions, helping pupils think more deeply about faith and belief. RE provides a safe, purposeful space for pupils to consolidate knowledge and develop critical and reflective thinking skills. Pupils enjoy exploring similarities, respectfully accept differences, and develop a growing awareness of their own spirituality. This ability to question meaningfully and engage deeply supports their growth as thoughtful, independent learners.

## Information

Address	Ringwood Way, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 2RA		
Date	24 June 2025	URN	102035
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	420
Diocese	London		
Executive Headteacher	Cathryn Mann		
Head of School	Clare Cresswell		
Chair of Governors	Theresa Davis		
Inspector	Pamela Gough		