

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

<b>Nutgrove Methodist Primary School</b>	
Address	Govett Road, St Helens, WA9 5NH
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
<p>'My Best, Always, Everywhere.'</p> <p>This is based on Jeremiah 29: 11. 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christian vision is deeply embedded in the school and wider community. As a result, the vision meets the context and needs of the school exceptionally well.</li> <li>• Extremely strong Christian leadership and positive, trusting relationships ensure the vision relentlessly drives the strategic direction of the school. This enables pupils and adults to be aspirational, flourish and succeed.</li> <li>• The impact of the school's engagement with formal partnerships is excellent. This means that areas of innovative practice within the school are shared, affecting the lives of pupils in other schools. Opportunities to share a wealth of knowledge around global partnerships are limited.</li> <li>• The Christian vision seamlessly weaves through collective worship and the bespoke curriculum. This leads to a progressive, deepening spirituality for pupils. Curriculum opportunities to deepen this further in the natural environment are not yet fully developed.</li> <li>• Provision for religious education (RE) is excellent. Experienced subject leadership and an enquiry based curriculum result in pupils who confidently reflect on the impact of Christianity on people's lives and on their own.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide further opportunities to develop the enquiry based curriculum, through learning outside the classroom. This will further deepen pupils' spirituality in the natural world.</li> <li>• To further develop and share the school's experience of global partnerships. This will ensure the school continues to have a transformative impact beyond the school gates.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

The Christian vision is sung from the rooftops by all who come into contact with Nutgrove school. Leaders ensure the biblical roots and underlying values of the vision are current and relevant to the school community. There is a strong sense of pride and ownership of the vision. Its highly aspirational nature results in pupils striving to do 'My Best, Always, Everywhere,' whether it be in their learning or leisure activities. Pupils speak eloquently about the vision and link it to John Wesley. They explain the significance of the scallop shell on their emblem saying, 'Every line is a journey to God.'

At the heart of this deeply Christian school are highly effective leaders. They believe in the strength of the team, meaning all adults are nurtured and developed. This fosters a culture of distributed leadership, which extends from senior staff to pupil leaders. New staff receive induction training. As a result, all are challenged and able to thrive and flourish.

Governors play a key role in monitoring the effectiveness of the Christian vision. A robust schedule of monitoring and evaluation gives an accurate view of the school's effectiveness. This feeds into the incisive way the strategic direction of the school is plotted. Membership of a multi-academy trust challenges and extends thinking and practice. The Epworth Education Trust ensures the Methodist foundation of the school continues to be embraced. The vibrant learning environment is a celebration of the vision and values.

The school is not afraid to reach out and look beyond itself. The strength and impact of formal partnerships demonstrate the commitment to the vision. The established link with a local nursery benefits early years practice and transition to school. Partnerships with the Methodist Academies and Schools' Trust, and an Anglican diocese, spread the skills and knowledge of staff far and wide. Leaders work with local authorities to review and write RE policies. Staff share good primary practice in RE in local high schools. Engagement with a local RE cluster group extends and develops provision further. RE provides an abundance of opportunities for pupils to ponder 'big questions,' explore world faiths and critically engage with text. This encourages pupils to reflect on their own beliefs and develop a good knowledge of the Bible and the life of Jesus. Samples of pupils' work appear as exemplars in published materials.

Parents are highly complimentary of the school and describe how their children proudly live out the vision at home. The vision and admission policy reflect the highly inclusive nature of the school. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), or who may be vulnerable, are welcomed, valued and receive the support they need to progress and achieve. Parents of pupils with SEND say the school has high expectations of them. Investments in pastoral support and learning interventions have a transformational impact. Targeted support for vulnerable families dramatically improves attendance and improves living conditions.

Staff describe themselves as one big family. They say the school is a wonderful place to work and link their professional journeys to the biblical roots of the vision. They strive to reflect the Christian vision and values in all they do. They feel well supported by leaders. Good mental health is promoted and pupils and adults have access to therapeutic services. This has a positive impact on both well-being and attendance. Staff access a range of professional development opportunities. These include RE training and visits to other schools and contribute to the high quality of RE teaching. Christian leadership programmes develop future church school leaders in the school.

Collective worship is excellent. It makes an impressive contribution to spiritual development. It is a daily expression of the vision and an opportunity to explore the core values in depth. Staff say it sets the tone for learning and they reflect on key messages with pupils during the




day. Worship ambassadors work enthusiastically with the church community to plan worship. Pupils have countless opportunities to participate in worship. Its inclusive and invitational nature ensures they listen respectfully to the views and beliefs of others. Pupils confidently lead spontaneous prayer, sing joyously and reflect with maturity. They teach their families the John Wesley rule about 'doing all the good we can' and choose to pray at home, for example, at bedtime. Pupils' prayers are published in the 'Methodist Prayer Handbook.' Thorough ongoing evaluation and input from the church community results in high quality worship. Pupils participate in ecumenical services for schools of different denominations and leaders work in other schools to develop prayer.

The mutually beneficial partnership with the church community impacts considerably on the school's success. There is high church representation on the governing board and members volunteer to teach reading. Representatives from different churches visit school to lead exciting and engaging collective worship. The church community are a regular and reassuring presence around school and play a key role with pastoral support. 'Coffee and faith' breakfasts provide a safe space for staff to reflect and pray.

Acts of worship seamlessly link to the Christian values of love, hope and respect. The school has a clear understanding of spiritual development and this threads through learning. Very young children learn about the festival of Pentecost using birthday candles, windmills and streamers to represent fire and wind. They say 'If the Holy Spirit is in us we act nice, not nasty.' Older pupils explore the impact of inspirational people, for example, Nelson Mandela. They study major historical events affecting world faiths, including the Holocaust. They discuss these with sensitivity and compassion. The varied and vibrant curriculum provides a rich diet of experiences. Residential visits to Wales build pupils' character and resilience while trips to parks and lakes produce a sense of awe and wonder of the natural world and further deepen spirituality.

Pupils take on many leadership roles and are not afraid to stand up to injustice. They are proud to be courageous advocates for change. For 'The World Reimagined' project, pupils accompany their artwork to exhibitions, change understanding of the transatlantic slave trade, and promote racial justice. A global partnership with 'Edukid' provides insight into childhood poverty in Uganda. A 'toilet twinning' project leads to pupils funding a toilet block in Malawi. Pupils instigate a range of charity projects. These include raising money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and supporting a diabetes charity. Pupils visit a local food pantry to learn about the needs of their local community and prepare for Harvest celebrations. They serve the community by writing letters to the elderly and singing in a local care home. Pupils sum up the impact of the vision. They say, 'We can be our best, everywhere doing good things.'

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>The Christian vision ensures the quality of teaching and learning in RE is excellent. The rich and engaging curriculum gives pupils a deep understanding of Christianity as a living world faith. Exploration of core theological concepts show progression across year groups. The rigorous monitoring system, and careful planning around religious literacy and major world faiths and worldviews, ensures pupils make good or better progress.</p>			
Information				
School	Nutgrove Methodist Primary School	Inspection date	14 June 2023	
URN	146120	VC/VA/Academy	Academy	
Diocese/District	Methodist	Pupils on roll	203	
MAT/Federation	Member of Epworth Education Trust (Multi-Academy Trust)			
Headteacher	Rachel Bottell			
Chair of Governors	Paul Hatton			
Inspector	Anne Barker	No.	959	