

Keeping On Track

School	Archbishop Blanch Church of England High School
Inspector	Jane Griffiths
Date	24.11.21
School's Christian Vision	As a Christian school, we strive for all to reach their full potential both academically and spiritually, making for a compassionate, forgiving, hardworking and trusting community. We aim to 'not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth' (1 John 3:18), as we serve not only each other but the wider community through our service to charitable causes.
To what extent have the area(s) for improvement from the previous SIAMS inspection been addressed and with what impact?	In response to its relocation to a new building in a different area of Liverpool, the school was set a target to ensure that its Christian ethos evolved within the new context of increasing diversity. This has been embraced enthusiastically to the extent that it has become a real strength of the school, articulated well by all stakeholders and evident in the school's values, curriculum, worship, policies and day to day experience and practice. "Our school is united in its diversity."
Agreed current strengths	<p>1. Vibrant Christian leadership at all levels. The dynamic vision of the Headteacher inspires and directs improvement and ensures that the school's Christian distinctiveness and purpose are of the highest priority. She is strongly supported by her dedicated leadership team, the Religious Studies and Worship Lead, the Chaplain, the governing body and the student worship leaders. The Staff's commitment to the shared vision and values ensures that they are effective role models and have helped to provide an environment in which all have the opportunity to flourish.</p> <p>2. The manner in which the school embraces, supports and celebrates its diversity is palpable. Students and staff speak eloquently about the way the school routinely puts its belief into action that all members of the community are "respected as unique children of God, precious in His sight and of infinite worth". A significant number of practices have been introduced to ensure that all members of this richly diverse community feel valued and safe. These include the appointment of a Diversity Coordinator and an increase in the PAN to admit more members of the multi-faith and local community.</p> <p>3. Worship is an integral part of school life. It is rich, varied and well planned. Ample opportunities are given to all members of the school community throughout the year to encounter inclusive, invitational and inspiring worship in both formal and more relaxed settings. Resources of a high quality are available to staff and student worship leaders and are used on a daily basis throughout the school. The rich variety of opportunities range from small voluntary communion services and form group worship, to whole school worship and Eucharists and to thanksgiving services in the Anglican Cathedral. Student leadership of worship is developing well in an environment in which they feel safe to express and explore their faith. A weekly lunch</p>

	<p>club, facilitated by a youth team from St James in the City, includes a Christian Union and Youth Alpha Course. Dedicated prayer spaces provide peaceful, secluded areas for reflection for students and adults of all world faiths. The school benefits from an inspirational and experienced Chaplain and strong associations with local church communities; these are enriching the experience and variety of collective worship. Governors maintain a keen interest in collective worship and Religious Studies and regularly monitor and evaluate the provision. The main worship area has been relocated to the open-plan centre of the school building, securing its place and importance at the heart of the community's life.</p>
<p>How is the school's Christian vision enabling pupils to flourish?</p>	<p>The Christian vision, created by representatives of all the school's stakeholders, inspires and empowers the community to provide an environment in which all students are given the opportunity to reach their full potential, both academically and spiritually. Great care has been taken to provide a broad and balanced curriculum; this includes an alternative curriculum to ensure all students' needs are met. It is clear that the vast majority of students of all abilities achieve their academic potential. The vision is supported and underpinned by carefully chosen values, which impact powerfully on the students' spiritual development and understanding of successful community living. They flourish in a cohesive and inclusive environment, with a genuine sense of mutual respect. This is a school which recognises that instilling vision and values into the students is as important as academic success. They are actively encouraged to share their concerns and opinions in the knowledge that their voice will be taken seriously. The community aims to fulfil its responsibility to "nourish those of the faith, support those of other faiths and challenge those of no faith" [Lord Runcie] and students feel safe to practice their faith openly, Christian and non-Christian alike, or to question and explore respectfully where there is doubt. The vision encourages the school community to seek out each student's God-given talent and skill, enabling them to flourish in this nurturing and supportive Christian environment.</p>
<p>How is the vision enabling the adults to flourish (staff, parents and governors)?</p>	<p>Leaders are keen to ensure that the wellbeing and the professional and spiritual development of the adult members of the community are as important as they are for the students. On a professional level, high quality CPD enables staff and governors to advance their skills and staff new to teaching in a church school receive in-house and diocesan training in maintaining Christian distinctiveness and leading worship. This training is refreshed regularly throughout their time at the school. The school has much success of "growing" future leaders. The spiritual life of the adults is enriched by access to voluntary Communion and Reserved Sacrament services, quiet spaces for reflection and ready access to the Chaplain on a one-to-one level.</p>

	There is a real sense of belonging to a caring and vibrant Christian community among the adults – a place where they can flourish.
Thinking about Covid-19. How has the school’s Christian vision sustained the school community and how is it helping the school build back afterwards?	The Christian vision supported and guided the school through the challenging and often difficult times during the pandemic. Much was put in place to ensure that a real sense of this supportive and cohesive Christian community could continue, particularly during the lockdown periods. Strong communication links were maintained with all students and staff and particular care was taken with the vulnerable. High academic standards were maintained and the community were sustained with varied and accessible worship and reflections throughout this time. The school suffered the loss of a much-loved member of staff during the early days of the pandemic and it was its Christian distinctiveness, faith and community spirit which supported them through this difficult time. The influence of the Christian vision has been evident during the past two years in the area of courageous advocacy. Both students and adults have taken to heart their chosen biblical passage of “not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18) in the manner in which they have seized opportunities to support those in need within the school family and the local community.
Agreed areas for development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To continue to ensure that the Christian vision is embedded, articulated and celebrated by all members of the school community and that it remains the driving force and inspiration for the school’s continuing journey. 2. To continue designing and implementing a Key Stage 5 Core Religious Studies curriculum. 3. To complete the relocation of the worship area to the open-plan centre of the school building, securing its place and importance at the heart of the community’s life.
<i>Signed Headteacher</i>	
<i>Signed Inspector</i>	