

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Peter's Church of England Academy

Address	Fenton Manor, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2RR		
Date of inspection	26-27 September 2019	Status of school	Academy inspected as VA Woodward Academy Trust (WAT)
Diocese	Lichfield	URN	136824

Overall Judgement	How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	Grade	Good
Additional Judgements	The impact of collective worship	Grade	Good
	The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Grade	Good

School context

St Peter's is a secondary school with 989 students on roll. Many pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is above national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is above national averages. Members of the school family speak 43 different languages.

The school's Christian vision

The school's vision drawn from 1 Peter 4: 8-11, calls for everyone to live a life that's enriched, to love (care) for each other deeply, to show hospitality to one another and to use the gifts we have to serve others.

Key findings

- The school commits wholeheartedly to the vision living it out through the core Christian values that underpin all aspects of daily life. Based on 1 Peter 4: 8-11, it effectively calls all members of the school family to live and grow together as a nurturing, caring community.
- The strong Christian leaders and staff of the school form a team of excellent role models for the students and families they serve. They actively cultivate close relationships to create an inclusive, cohesive, stable environment in which their students flourish, driving rapidly improving academic outcomes.
- Worship is central embedding and reinforcing the vision and core Christian values daily, whilst thoughtfully supporting the spiritual lives of the richly diverse school community. However, although prayer is an important aspect of all worship, it lacks spontaneity and the impact is inconsistent.
- Religious education (RE) is a very strong core subject, which effectively develops and challenges students' understanding of faith and culture in relation to a range of global religions.
- Students are inspired to develop as leaders in many contexts. Although they regularly deliver and actively support worship, they are not yet enabled to make decisions about worship experiences.

Areas for development

- Build more time for prayer in worship, including spontaneous prayer led by students and staff.
- Expand the existing leadership roles of students to enable them to make decisions about worship to support and drive the spiritual life of the school

How effective is the distinctive Christian vision established and promoted?

- St. Peter's succeeds in uniting its richly varied community into a cohesive, inclusive family that respects and celebrates its diversity
- Consequently, attitudes to learning are positive and behaviour is consistently good
- The environment created is harmonious and conducive to learning
- Leaders, supported by the academy council, have made bold decisions about the curriculum to ensure it is meeting and fulfilling the needs of the students.
- All students feel safe and confident that, 'they have a voice and are understood by their teachers'.
- Bullying is rare and students are guided effectively, by their values, to resolve any conflicts which might occur.
- Quality teaching enables students to be successful learners
- Rigorous monitoring and clear expectations led by the Principal and staff team accelerates progress against national averages
- Targeted interventions address additional need effectively, through 'joined up' systems and structures, driven by the vision and values. These enable all to flourish spiritually, emotionally and academically
- Mental health issues are of paramount importance to the Principal. He and his leadership team have raised the awareness of work life balance to staff and pupils through training and support.
- Staff speak very highly of his vision for the school and share his desire to build an aspirational and hopeful culture. Staff stability reflects their commitment to their students and the school
- Links with the Church are strong and effective and core Christian values underpin worship
- Tutor led sessions, called 'Rock', provide an uplifting start to the day, where students explore current affairs and social issues through worship
- St Peter's is a school that has been on a long and difficult journey. Current leaders are harnessing effectively the passion to shine as a Christian beacon to the community

How effective is Religious Education (RE)

- RE is a strong and effective core subject that is well led
- Teaching is consistently good. Lesson plans and structures drive the vision and values through posing big questions to build skills of enquiry and reflection, that challenge students to think deeply about faith and religion
- The RE leader is empowered by the Principal to monitor the quality of this subject rigorously to drive high standards
- Students explained, 'RE helps us understand where others are coming from, reducing the likelihood of racism'

Headteacher/Principal – Michael Astley

SIAMS Inspector and No. – Marianne Phillips 586

