

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

Middleton St Mary's Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Moor Flatts Road, Middleton, Leeds, LS10 3SW
School vision	
<p>Believe, Belong, Achieve</p> <p>‘Through God’s love, we are the rich soil where roots grow and seeds flourish.’ Luke 8:4-15</p> <p>We are the rich soil that enables our children to develop their own roots and flourish. Our aim is to ensure that all of our children enjoy their life at St Mary’s, celebrate their individuality and grow to fulfil their potential. We aim to create a safe place where children and staff are Believed in, Belong, and Achieve well.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school’s vision is rooted in the needs of pupils and adults as well as Biblical teachings. It drives bold leadership decisions that enable them to flourish here.</li> <li>• Collective worship is expertly led and clearly reflects the school’s Christian vision. Carefully planned themes support pupils in times of challenge and positively impact on how they care for one another.</li> <li>• Middleton St Mary’s provides a steadfast safe haven where all feel a sense of belonging. Leaders are aspirational for pupils and for the community the school serves.</li> <li>• Staff are supported and invested in. Their professional development is skilfully planned for and wellbeing is highly valued.</li> <li>• Staff subject knowledge in religious education (RE) is strong and results in high quality curriculum planning. Experiences are devised to develop pupils’ understanding of religions as living faiths.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formally develop and record cohesive planned opportunities for spiritual development. This is to enhance the spiritual flourishing of pupils and staff.</li> <li>• Develop pupil-led opportunities to address injustice. This is to enable them to experience being authentic agents of change.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>Middleton St Mary’s is a haven of strength and stability for its community. The school offers a sense of belonging that extends beyond its gates and into the surrounding areas. It is a place where pupils know that their voice matters and that they are believed in. As a result, they feel safe, powerful and flourish here.</p>	



Driven by a resolute focus on the school's Christian vision, leaders have worked tenaciously to raise aspirations and attainment. This underpinning has brought successful changes to the premises, policies and curriculum. As a result, pupils and staff have access to an environment that enables them to grow personally and academically. Governors fulfil their responsibility to monitor and evaluate the impact of Middleton St Mary's work as a Church school. Effective training from leaders and the diocese have enabled them to be impactful in this role. They ensure that those who are vulnerable have a nurturing environment in which to learn, including through effective deployment of skilled staff. School leaders skilfully plan for the development of adults, both personally and professionally. Through effective partnerships, staff access a range of training and are nurtured as individuals. Leaders are courageous in giving them ambitious opportunities whilst carefully supporting them to flourish in these. Staff feel trusted and valued. As a result, they offer the same ambitious care for their pupils.

Middleton St Mary's curriculum is shaped by its vision and context, creating rich learning experiences from which to grow. The school is committed to providing a wide range of opportunities for its pupils, including the most vulnerable. They relish the challenge of climbing a mountain, learning in the forest and visiting London for the first time. Like staff, pupils step out of their comfort zone, safe in the knowledge that school supports like a safety net. As a result, they grow in confidence, self-belief and trust. Pupils are proud of their achievements. There is also room for personal moments of wonder and reflection. For example, when they see a big city for the first time or feel stillness after a long climb. Pupils also benefit from immersive experiences to promote their spiritual development and effective partnerships successfully support these. Their practical exploration of the Easter story enabled them to reflect on ideas of service and sacrifice in a meaningful way. However, leaders have not planned for these opportunities in a clearly articulated and cohesive way across the curriculum. As a result, pupils struggle to verbalise their own understanding of spirituality.

Leaders at all levels are committed to ensuring that pupils and adults succeed at Middleton St Mary's, including the most vulnerable. Caring staff are 'always there' to provide effective help in times of challenge. They are clear that nurture is a whole school culture. It is seen as fundamental in providing the 'rich soil' in which all pupils flourish. Families are also supported through difficult times. The school's food bank is well used and parents are actively signposted towards specialist agencies. Staff work hard to nurture these relationships. Consequently, parents and carers trust them to help.

Collective worship is carefully planned to enable pupils to live their lives to the full. Thoughtful links support them to talk confidently about the school's Christian vision and what it means for them. Staff value the opportunity to take time to reflect. They join in thoughtful moments with pupils as equals. Junior worship leaders read stories from the Bible and some are grateful for the opportunity to share their own faith. They are clear that these opportunities help them to develop spiritually. All participants are clear that worship is invitational. It is rich and varied so there is something for all to engage with. Worship at Middleton St Mary's is a joyous and respectful time. The school community readily shares their ideas with God and each other as well as taking time to be still. In this way, pupils and adults are supported to flourish spiritually.

Pupils behave well at Middleton St Mary's because they value each other and celebrate that 'everyone matters'. They are quick to offer friendship as they know it is important to feel that you belong. This is embedded through explicit teaching in the curriculum and worship. Pupils understand the importance of forgiveness and appreciate the 'fresh start' they are offered when things go wrong. In this school, pupils are known as individuals and their unique gifts are celebrated.

Pupils are concerned for the wellbeing of others. The Middleton St Mary's curriculum successfully

raises awareness of the injustices of the world. Opportunities exist for pupils to take on positions of responsibility. These have helped them to understand how their decisions affect others and to make ethical choices. However, the vast majority of these initiatives are adult-led. Consequently, pupils have limited experience of independently identifying issues of injustice they are passionate about and acting on them. As a result, they do not readily experience being authentic agents of change.

Leaders have ensured that the school's RE curriculum is well sequenced and detailed to support accurate subject knowledge. The subject has a high priority in school and pupils are clear about its relevance to the modern world they live in. RE is well resourced and staff have been supported through training linked to the school's curriculum. Through carefully planned visits and visitors, pupils engage with places of worship and people of faith first-hand. This successfully develops their understanding of religions as being dynamic and diverse. Pupils value the opportunity to have their questions answered. The curriculum is clear that not all people belong to a faith community. There are many opportunities to reflect on personal worldviews and those held by others. Impactful coaching and diocesan support are in place for leaders. This is providing capacity to continue to build on the successful developments that have taken place.

Staff and pupils at Middleton St Mary's have worked hard to successfully establish secure roots. They are ambitious for the future as they grow and flourish in their vision together.

The inspection findings indicate that Middleton St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	11 March 2024	URN	108002
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	426
Diocese	Leeds		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Naomi Wood		
Chair	Liz Singleton		
Inspector	Vikki Wilson	No.	2249