

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Christ Church Primary School

Vision

'Let your light shine'. Our school vision comes from Matthew 5:16. To let your light shine so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Christ Church 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 of 'let your light shine', drives school provision and is monitored effectively by leaders and governors. Pupils and staff recognise and celebrate their talents and achieve goals and aspirations.
- Adults and pupils are welcomed, nurtured and respected in school as unique and special individuals.
- Collective worship is inspirational, inclusive and engaging. Strong relationships between the school and church unite the community and enhance the impact of worship for adults and pupils. Through deep and meaningful opportunities for reflection in worship, the spiritual life of the school is enriched.
- The vision supports staff and pupils to tackle the root causes of injustice, through meaningful action. The school engages with strategies to reduce poverty and works with local charities to tackle food insecurity. Pupils take action to care for God's world.
- The newly planned religious education (RE) curriculum is challenging, creative and well sequenced.

Development Points

- Develop a structured approach to opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum. This will enable pupils to flourish on their spiritual journey.
- Embed the implementation of the new RE curriculum. This will support pupils to deepen their learning, regarding diversity within belief, practice and traditions.



Inspection Findings

Christ Church Primary School is underpinned by hope, love and service. The Christian vision of 'let your light shine' is rooted in the Bible and encourages adults and pupils to follow the light of Jesus. It allows them to celebrate God's love to all, recognise unique talents and achieve personal aspirations. Leaders and governors, ensure the vision is a core driver for the strategic direction of the school. Robust monitoring and evaluation is in place. This enables them to effectively measure the impact of the vision on the flourishing of pupils and staff. Pupils enjoy their learning and engage in the wider life of the school. Professional and pastoral support is valued by staff. Parents and carers praise the high quality of provision. Strong partnerships exist between the school and the diocese. This further enhances the impact of the vision, through engagement with training opportunities and the sharing of best practice.

The vision and associated Christian values shaped by pupils and staff, drive an inclusive curriculum and wider enrichment programme. The school guides pupils to 'shine' and helps to remove barriers to learning. This includes the development of the 'nurture nest' and wider bespoke provision for those who have additional needs. Through staff modelling the vision and values, an encouraging learning environment is created. Pupils work collaboratively, show thankfulness, and value being part of this special learning community. There is a shared understanding of spirituality in school. Pupils are guided to reflect inwards to let their light 'shine', look outwards to others and observe the awe and wonder of the world. Leaders encourage pupils to look upwards, to reflect on the big questions of life. Opportunities for spiritual flourishing are starting to be implemented within the curriculum, but there is currently not a structured approach to this. Staff engage with high quality professional development through local learning partnerships and educational research, to further enhance the impact of the curriculum and enable pupils to 'shine'.

Collective worship is an inspiring and special time of the school day when pupils are encouraged to flourish spiritually. Pupils value others and reflect on their place in the world. There is a focus on the Anglican tradition, participation in Christian festivals and exploration of Christianity as a global world faith. Spirituality is unlocked through music, joyful singing, prayer and reflection. The strong partnership with the local church enables the school and local community to worship together. This common purpose of love and service enhances the planning and delivery of worship. The school visits the church each week with parents and carers, who enjoy joining in worship and spiritual reflection. There are wider opportunities for pupils to engage with the church to further enhance spiritual development, including an after-school club.

The vision has created a respectful and inclusive learning community, in which diversity and difference is celebrated. Adults and pupils are welcomed, known and valued as special individuals. As a result of positive relationships, the bespoke needs of pupils, staff members and families are known and well supported. Effective mental health and wellbeing services are in place. Pupils enjoy school and feel safe in a caring environment. There is a high percentage of pupils joining the school mid-year. Pupils and their families state they are immediately welcomed and helped to integrate into school life. Parents and carers praise staff for their encouragement, warmth, care and compassion and view the school as a 'second family'.

To respond to the vision, the school participates in significant action. Through this Christian fellowship of serving others, those who are most vulnerable can be helped to thrive. Pupils and staff reflect upon God as a refuge for



those in need and as a shelter from the storm. The school shows compassion, through working closely with families, the Cedarwood Trust and the Fishermen's Mission, to tackle injustice. There is a daily Fare Share food bank, for those in need. The vision underpins a culture of welcome and safety. In recognition of the work undertaken to support those who are marginalised and displaced, the school has achieved the 'School of Sanctuary' Award. The school is located within a coastal community affected by climate change and pollution. Pupils and staff drive climate justice through plastic reduction strategies, to protect the marine environment.

RE is well resourced and valued as a core subject in school by staff and pupils. Staff access regular training to build their subject knowledge and to design and deliver the curriculum effectively. With guidance from the diocese, staff have designed a new high quality and appropriately challenging RE curriculum, which is broad and balanced. There is a focus on big questions to stimulate thinking and the study of key texts and traditions. Careful thought is given to the order of topics, to enable pupils to build on prior knowledge and develop their skills. The new curriculum is not yet fully embedded. Pupils currently have a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity. However, they are less certain as to how people within the same religion may have slightly different beliefs, practices and traditions.

Pupils benefit from confident and creative high-quality teaching in RE and enjoy their learning. A safe space is created in which pupils can reflect on their personal knowledge. Pupils enjoy learning from religious objects and texts, working collaboratively and participating in expressive arts in RE. Pupils hear from visitors representing different religious and non-religious traditions and visit places of worship. Pupils show respect and tolerance for different religions and worldviews. Teachers make effective use of assessment linked to units of work, to monitor pupil progress and further refine the curriculum. Leaders regularly monitor the quality of the curriculum. As a result, pupils including those with additional needs, hold informed conversations and are making progress in their learning.

Information

Address	Kielder Terrace, North Shields, NE30 2AD		
Date	22 November 2024	URN	108614
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	189
Diocese	Newcastle		
Headteacher	Louise Bradford		
Chair of Governors	Diane Leggett		
Inspector	Katherine Humpleby		