

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

<b>Evenwood Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	New Road, Evenwood, DL14 9QZ
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

School's vision
<p>'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)</p> <p>Our vision guides us in all that we hope to be, enabling every part of our community to grow and develop. This means growing in body, mind and spirit in order to flourish, and experience the joy and hope of 'life it all its fullness'</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The life of the school is deeply rooted in a strong Christian vision which is understood by all. It permeates all aspects of daily life, making Evenwood a beacon of hope in the community. Dynamic leadership ensures the vision is shared and promoted by all and through all and is transforming lives.</li> <li>• A deep understanding of Christian education has led to an innovative curriculum that focuses on the whole child. This ensures the flourishing of all pupils. Spiritual development is a golden thread entwined throughout.</li> <li>• This is a school that cares very much for the local community. It is a place where watching over each other with love is the norm. Pupils share enthusiastically and with pride how they support and care for each other and engage in social action locally.</li> <li>• Collective worship is an important and valued part of each day, a moving spiritual expression of the school's vision. Both pupils and adults talk with passion about how it supports their spiritual development and helps them live out the school vision and reflect on their own lives. Pupils are involved in all aspects of worship, however they are keen to take even greater responsibility for leading.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) is innovative and exciting. High quality teaching and learning offers every pupil the opportunity to succeed. Deep questions challenge children's thinking and develop a culture of disagreeing well.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To further strengthen the newly formed local advisory board of One Excellence Trust, in ensuring church school distinctiveness remains pivotal through the outworking of its vision.</li> <li>• To further develop pupils' role in leading worship in order that they can contribute more fully to their own spiritual development and that of others.</li> <li>• To further strengthen pupils' belief in themselves as leaders of change both locally and globally.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

Evenwood is an excellent church school, living out its distinctly Christian vision in every way. All members of the school community are empowered to 'live life in all its fullness'. Pupils and staff talk openly about how the story of the Good Shepherd links to the vision. Pupils, parents and staff agree that this is a school where nobody is left out or left behind. Leaders and staff know their pupils and parents well. Like the 'Good Shepherd', they will go well beyond normal expectations to ensure that all flourish. Staff unequivocally talk with passion about the support that is offered to ensure that every pupil leaves Evenwood with the belief they can achieve more than they thought possible. This is a school where that exceptional support does not stop at the school gate but extends out to families and the wider community. The school value of koinonia, Christian fellowship with God and others, is evident in all that they do. Parents are keen to share how comfortable they feel approaching staff when they have a problem. The parent support advisor knows the needs of families well and works with local trusts and charities to provide support where it is needed. This help includes the provision of winter coats, weekly fruit and vegetables and healthy family meals. The school organise a weekly parent and toddler group and coffee morning, giving the community a chance to come together.

Transformational leadership, led by an inspiring executive headteacher and head of school, make bold decisions to ensure strong partnerships within One Excellence Trust MAT and beyond. This has stimulated the professional development and flourishing of all staff, both academically and spiritually. There is a strong belief that working together provides better outcomes for everyone. Staff at all levels value the opportunities they have, both in school and across the trust. Close involvement with Durham school centred initial teacher training (SCITT), ensures high quality training for all staff. There are strong links with the Diocese of Durham, who regularly signpost schools to Evenwood for support, particularly due to its significant role with the English Hub. Building on the firm foundations laid by the trust, monitoring the school's Christian distinctiveness is a priority for the newly formed locally agreed board (LAB) of governors.

The development of the whole child is paramount. The spiritual development of all at Evenwood is a golden thread throughout an ambitious curriculum that is enriched with many extra-curricular activities. Pupils are equipped not only with knowledge, but skills that will be transferable throughout life. They talk with enthusiasm about the skills they develop, for example on the school residential. There are many opportunities for pupils to explore their own identity and personal values as they become more aware of the concept of the physical and creative world through their learning. Regular forest school sessions within the school grounds support this. Quality texts enable pupils to explore and appreciate diversity. Relationships education supports the flourishing of all ensuring that they live harmoniously and respectfully as a community. Pupils' tell how visits from pupils and staff from the secondary school and local industry help prepare them for life after Evenwood. Pupils believe that this is a school where everyone is empowered to have hope and aspiration for what they can achieve. One pupil said, 'our school gives us the very best education and treats us all as equals. Without an education we won't be able to do anything with our lives'. They talk openly and sensitively about how they support and encourage each other and have the opportunity in lessons to challenge themselves and explore each other's points of view. They say 'we discuss deep questions, without right and wrong answers, like why am I here?' Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are supported closely through



individual support plans and flourish very well at the school. Pupils are offered and value sensory spaces that serve as a calm sanctuary when needed. This is because mental wellbeing is a priority of the school for all pupils and staff.

Pupils value and care for their local community and actively work to ensure it is a better place for all to live in. This is seen in their regular litter picks, both in the village and school grounds and in their work with 'Evenwood in Bloom'. As young citizens they are courageous advocates in improving the environment. Close links with the local church enrich pupils' spiritual development and further deepen relationships with the village community. Pupils are excited to share plans for their forthcoming Harvest Festival in church. This would not only involve collecting for the local Foodbank but also inviting parents and members of the community back to school to share in a soup lunch.

Collective worship is highly inclusive, invitational and inspiring. All major Christian festivals as well as those of other faiths and international and national events are acknowledged and celebrated. Big questions are introduced to explore difference and diversity and are sensitively explored. All themes flow from the school's Christian vision and values with many opportunities for pupils to reflect on what particular values mean to them and how they live their lives. Pupils enter with a sense of excitement, yet calm anticipation and are greeted by the pupil 'worship warriors' who share the peace of God with them. Music is an integral part of worship and all pupils engage with great enthusiasm and reverence with their singing and signing. The worship warriors support staff in planning the gathering music, songs and word of God but are keen to develop their role of leading worship further. All pupils are involved in the evaluation of worship and are invited to contribute their comments to the 'worship wall'. Parents value the Friday celebration worship which is very well attended. Collective worship was a constant during the pandemic, delivered remotely every day and was a life line to families.

Strong leadership in religious education (RE) ensures all teachers have the confidence and skills to teach to an excellent standard. It is taught first thing on Monday morning to 'set the tone of the week'. The well-constructed and progressive curriculum follows the locally agreed syllabus and is supplemented by Understanding Christianity. An enquiry based approach offers deep thinking to challenge pupils' ideas and develop a culture of disagreeing well. Year 5 and 6 pupils were making comparisons with the good news shared by the prophets in the Bible with what they had previously learned about the Torah in the Jewish faith, for example.



Information			
School	Evenwood Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	20 October 2022
URN	148853	VC/VA/Academy	
Diocese/District	Durham;Newcastle	Pupils on roll	89
Head of School	Mrs S Rand		
Chair of Trust Board	David Bowes		
Inspector	Susan Thackray	No.	979