

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Whinmoor St Paul's Church of England Primary School				
Address	Whinmoor Crescent, Leeds LS14 1EG			
Date of inspection	20 June 2019	Status of school	VA primary	
Diocese	Leeds	URN	108051	

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	Excellent
Additional Judgements	The impact of collective worship	Grade	Excellent
	The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Grade	Excellent

School context

Whinmoor St Paul's is a primary school with 220 pupils on roll. The school has a low level of religious and cultural diversity. Approximately one fifth of 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 (SEND) is in line with national averages. The very experienced headteacher joined the school as permanent leader 21 months ago, prior to the last monitoring inspection which recognised the effective improvement plan.

The school's Christian vision

At Whinmoor St Paul's Primary School we believe that every child is respected as a unique child of God, the future adults in society, and live in a world God has made.

Key findings

- The deeply embedded Christian vision which is promoted and lived by leaders, shaping and informing all aspects of school life and providing motivation for the whole school community.
- Christian love, care and support lived out by the whole school community in the way they tirelessly support each other and strive to achieve.
- Deeply embedded Christian values including love and respect have an extremely strong impact on pupils' exemplary behaviour.
- The school provides a wide curriculum through which religious education (RE) and collective worship permeates, firmly underpinned by Christian theology.
- Meticulously planned collective worship which nourishes pupils and adults enabling spiritual growth.

Areas for development

- Pupils have further opportunities to demonstrate their explicit Christian values in their individual response to global issues.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

The highly effective leadership at all levels at Whinmoor St Paul's ensures that the distinctively Christian vision is well-embedded and rooted explicitly in theology. Leaders speak with passion about their Christian vision and its impact. The inspirational school leaders effectively ensure the vision shapes policy and drives strategic direction. Inclusiveness, Christian love, respect, care and compassion for the school and the community it serves, ensures its overtly Christian mission is highly effective, appreciated and makes a difference to people's lives.

There is an extremely well-coordinated approach to meeting the needs of all pupils. School enjoys strong partnerships including those with the diocese and working with a cluster of schools to support their community. It has made bold decisions in a climate of limited finances, by creating a post of family support lead. This role has had a significant and exceptional impact in supporting pupils' emotional and mental health needs. This has resulted in significantly more vulnerable pupils being able to access learning so that they too can make good progress. The school lives out their overtly Christian values. Going significantly above and beyond what would be seen as good practice. School is truly inclusive, welcoming every child into the school family and never giving up. Parents speak of times when every member of staff has gone 'over and above' what they would expect of them to support the needs of their families and children. Christian love and care runs intrinsically through the whole school.

Governors and school leaders clearly articulate and demonstrate how all key decisions, processes and policies radiate from their shared Christian vision. They are responsive to the changing demographics of the school. Through careful tracking processes, gaps in learning are identified and interventions are put into place so that all can achieve. Vulnerable groups are clearly identified and supported effectively. This has resulted in the Christian care and support the school gives to the most vulnerable pupils and their families, including those with special educational needs, being one of its strengths. Leaders have ensured the school priorities are acted upon and have seen rapid improvements leading to data being in line with national averages. The most able, through the innovative and exciting curriculum, are challenged to achieve their full potential.

School leaders including governors, rigorously scrutinise and evaluate whole school data. Focused interventions and support are put into place, supporting their Christian vision for each pupil being recognised as a 'unique child of God'. Because of this all pupils have excellent opportunities to reach their full potential leading to trends being on an upward projectory.

Nourishing and profoundly spiritual acts of worship show the distinctly Christian vision in action. Leaders plan meticulously ensuring worship provides a rich range of opportunities for all. Christian values are at the core of collective worship. Pupils play an active role in delivering, planning and evaluating the impact of collective worship, ensuring the area to improve from the last inspection has been fully addressed. The whole worshipping community, both adults and pupils, have the opportunity to reflect on weekly themes. Informative written and verbal responses are used consistently by the head teacher to measure its impact, which is significant and feed into future planning. Pupils frequently take a leadership role and contribute to developments. Worship has an extremely high priority across school. The head teacher has invested significant time and resources into it, resulting in the staff and pupils being confident and exceptionally well-equipped to lead worship. Opportunities for reflection and prayer are abundant and valued. Links to the church, who share the building, are enhanced by the weekly sharing of prayer requests. The prayer request box in the entrance hall enables both worshipping communities to support each other in prayer.

Pupils behave exceptionally well. The few who struggle are nurtured and loved by staff and peers reflecting their shared Christian values. All pupils have access to areas where they can find support. They know that they will be given space and strategies to help them to work through their feelings with someone they trust, resulting in them feeling more resilient. Pupils describe how accessible and valued the reflective areas and quiet spaces in their classrooms and around school are. They are appreciated and recognised as places where they can be close to God. Leaders have identified creating opportunities for the deepening of personal spirituality as a priority. As a result, the supportive and respectful harmony of the school is spiritual, effective, inclusive and impressive.

Attendance is sympathetically managed. Staff rigorously but sensitively track and follow up absences resulting in attendance overall being at the national average. Pupils value school and understand how important it is to attend every day.

The school's curriculum, which is broad and balanced, is crafted around the needs of the school community and is reflective of the uniqueness of the child as stated in the school's Christian vision. Spiritual growth naturally develops across the entire school because of this effective curriculum. Its distinctive personal, social, health and

citizenship education (PSHCE), worship and religious education are linked to the wider curriculum and support the school's clear Christian vision. The adoption of the Understanding Christianity resource alongside the Diocese of Leeds syllabus for Religious Education has ensured prior learning is systematically built upon. Termly biblical themes, Christian values and RE permeates the whole curriculum. This allows for excellent cross-curricular links to be made. Pupils are regularly challenged to answer life's 'big' questions. They show maturity in their responses, effortless questioning and demonstrating a real love of learning and a though understanding of topics. Pupils know the Bible well, making links to the Bible stories shared during worship, and make mature comparison to other religions and cultures. The school community's respect for each other, their environment and for themselves has a significant impact across the whole school. Attainment and assessment of progress in RE are in line with other areas of the curriculum. A tracking system to support assessment, which was a priority in the last report, has been fully implemented and ensures all pupils flourish.

Everyone works extremely hard to build upon and nurture this very special and unique school community so that all can flourish. Diversity is embraced and celebrated by all. As a result of living out the school's clear Christian values, the pupils themselves challenge prejudice of any kind. Pupils receive appropriate relationships and sex education (RSE) that engenders informed respect and inclusion.

Pupils show Christian love and care through their mature response to the social action activities they are involved with. They speak passionately about things they have done that have made a significant difference to the lives of other people. At their own instigation they regularly donate to a local foodbank and hold a strong desire to enhance their own environment and support worldwide ecological issues. School supports local refugees and the homeless through established links. Globally, school compassionately responds to need in an area in the Caribbean regularly devastated by hurricanes.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

Pupils are passionate about RE, as is the curriculum leader. Planning for RE is extremely effective and thorough. The curriculum including the Understanding Christianity material ensures that RE challenges pupils to think profoundly and consider other viewpoints. Key themes are built upon in an age appropriate manner. Theological discussion is encouraged. Evidence shows challenging themes are addressed extremely thoroughly including such themes as the triune nature of God. Pupil responses show considerable maturity in thinking and include higher order questioning. The highly effective curriculum ensures themes are built upon as pupils move through school. Clear cross curricular links reinforce thinking and learning in RE. Leaders ensure that the teaching of RE is of high quality and impacts on learning. Assessment of each unit shows a significant development in pupils understanding and knowledge.

Headteacher	Margaret McBride
Inspector's name and number	Angela Knowles 497