

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Barnabas Church of England Primary School, Leicester	
Address	St Barnabas Road, Leicester, LE5 4BD
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	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
<p>Our vision is for all children and adults in our community to flourish.</p> <p>We will teach our children the knowledge and values to flourish. We will nurture them to develop a sense of belonging, respect and hope. We will celebrate them and help them experience life in all its fulness (John 10v10)</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply embedded Christian vision is built upon a shared understanding of this diverse school community. It is the driving force that enables pupils and adults to flourish. • Strong and dynamic leaders are aspirational for the school to be the best it can be. As a result the distinctive practice of the school has been reinvigorated despite a number of foundation governor vacancies. • The vision underpins relationships at all levels so that this diverse community can live well together. Knowledge and understanding of a variety of communities, different to the pupils' own, is not as well developed. • Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. It encourages active spiritual development. Teachings received in worship are further reflected on throughout the school day. This is so that everyone is clear how they can live out those teachings in their own lives. • Religious education (RE) provides pupils with a safe space to explore their own and others beliefs ensuring everyone's faith and culture is respected. There is not yet sufficient guidance in place to ensure that pupils make required progress across their learning.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the diocese and local church to increase provision of foundation governance. This will enable the Christian vision and values to more fully impact the work of the school at a strategic level. • Ensure curriculum progression and assessment documentation is in place in RE . This is in order that staff have a clear direction and purpose for pupils learning. • Facilitate more opportunities for pupils to explore a variety of communities both locally and internationally. This is so that their understanding of their place in a diverse world wide community can develop further.

Inspection findings

Adults and pupils at St Barnabas Church of England school flourish. School leaders are committed to ensuring that everyone has opportunities to experience 'life in all its fulness'. Associated values which include respect, hope and service are central. This vision is treasured by everyone. It is the powerful driving force behind the decision making of leaders at all levels. It inspires staff to work with dedication and determination, and pupils to live well together in this ethnically diverse community. As a result, pupils and adults in the school flourish and the school community is one that thrives.

Guided by the school vision, the headteacher, senior leaders and governors lead with energy, insight and focus. They ensure the wellbeing of staff and pupils is central. Professional development supports staff in engaging with developments. Support offered by the diocese has been key to developing the school's understanding of its role as a Church school. A buddy system ensures that staff always have a colleague to turn to in times of celebration and challenge.

Pupils are proud of the school. They speak of it as a place 'where we always belong'. They share in the ownership of the vision and values and appreciate the support they get from adults and from one another. Pupils are confident and eloquent. They listen to one another and learn from one another. A deep understanding of different faith and cultural traditions is demonstrated. 'If my Hindu friend comes to play but he says he needs to go to temple then I understand why,' said one pupil.

Pupils are passionate advocates of equality and fairness and the celebration of difference, embodying the school vision that all should flourish. Where pupils are given opportunity to lead, such as by being ambassadors, they do so with responsibility and enthusiasm. Ambassador roles linked to school values enables those pupils to have a deep understanding of what it means to live by that value. They pass on that understanding to others. Ambassadors for hope enjoy serving younger pupils whilst ambassadors for joy engage in social action. They encourage others to challenge injustice. Pupils see themselves as agents of change recognising that as they serve others, so they flourish themselves.

Behaviour is very good throughout the school, characterised by respect and care for others. Pupils understand and articulate this as being an outcome of the vision and associated values. They demonstrate high expectations of themselves and their peers, resulting in a happy and positive learning environment.

Collective worship plays a central role in the life of the school. Pupils confidently talk about their understanding of the Christian values. This is because collective worship explores these in engaging ways, making the biblical basis of values very clear. Regular monitoring by staff and pupils ensures that developments in worship are ongoing. Worship is structured around Anglican practice and tradition which encourages reflection. It provides opportunities for spiritual development for pupils and adults. Pupils are enthusiastic about leading worship giving them opportunity to reflect on how their faith tradition supports their flourishing.

Opportunities for spiritual development go beyond worship. There is a shared understanding of what spiritual development means and the ways in which it can be nurtured. Interactive reflection areas in classrooms are used by staff and pupils. They provide physical space to consider how the teaching in worship can be lived out in their own lives. 'What I learnt about hope helped me to persevere in my Mosque exam' was the reflection of one pupil.

The curriculum is challenging and creative. Varied learning opportunities engage and stimulate pupils. As a result, they flourish in their learning. Care is taken to support and

nurture those who are more vulnerable, ensuring they too can thrive. Parents strongly value the support given to all pupils and that staff give equal weight to the character development of pupils as much as to academic progress. Parents from a range of faith traditions and none value the schools' strong focus on values. As one said, 'the Christian values here are important - just like the Muslim values we teach at home. We couldn't ask for anything more.'

RE is an important part of the curriculum. The leadership of it is strong and effective. Advice and support is provided for class teachers to develop and improve classroom practice. As a result, pupils flourish in their learning. Knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a world faith is strong. Through a whole school RE focus, pupils talk about Christianity across the world and suggest key beliefs for Christians wherever they might be. 'God is God and he is with you wherever you are' being one such belief. Development of the content of the RE curriculum has been significant. However, the coverage and sequencing of learning in RE, integrated with assessment, is not fully developed.

Decision making by the governing body is driven by the school vision, with the flourishing of all at the centre. They take courageous action to ensure this happens. Despite external pressures they decided not to proceed with proposed developments which would remove already limited outdoor space. Governors have a strong commitment to the school's role in the community making the building available to a Gujarati Christian church for worship. Whilst they have some capacity to monitor the impact of the vision this is currently limited due to a lack of foundation governance.

Effective partnerships enrich the life of the school. Until his recent move to another parish the vicar was a much valued support to the school. A lay representative provides continuing support. The school is seen by the community as a place where everyone, regardless of religion or culture, can flourish. Opportunities for pupils to appreciate a range of different communities are still developing.

'Let's flourish together' reverberates through all that the school does. It is seen in the genuine care shown by staff for one another. It is recognised by parents in the inspiration given by the school to all pupils. It shines clearly through the daily life of the school, driven by the determination of leaders that St Barnabas C of E school should be a place where everyone can flourish.

Information			
School	St Barnabas Church of England Primary School, Leicester	Inspection date	3 October 2022
URN	120187	VC/VA/ Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Leicester	Pupils on roll	331
Headteacher	Steve Nash		
Chair of Governors	Jason Gregory		
Inspector	Jane Lewis	No.	27