

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

The Curzon Church of England Primary School	
Address	Church Road, Quarndon, Derby DE22 5JA
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
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision
<p>We ASPIRE to be the best we can be and reach our full potential. We BELIEVE in our abilities to learn and flourish together. We CARE for one another as the Curzon family.</p> <p>Our Christian values permeate through the life of the school, compassion, respect, friendship, forgiveness, perseverance and truthfulness.</p> <p>'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision and values, firmly rooted in the Bible verse Matthew 5:16, impact on all areas of the school's life and works. The vision shapes school policies and actions. • Wellbeing is a particular strength. Pupils and staff feel safe, happy and confident. They treat each other with dignity and respect, having high hopes and aspirations for the future. • Pupils talk positively about spiritual experiences. However, these are not explicitly planned for across the wider curriculum. • Pupils and adults enjoy inclusive and invitational collective worship, although pupils are not regularly involved in its planning, leading and evaluation. • In religious education (RE) lessons, pupils understand key Bible stories and can apply their meaning to their own lives. RE is planned effectively but difference and diversity are not explicitly explored across the wider curriculum.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan opportunities for spiritual development across the wider curriculum to enable a shared and deeper understanding of spirituality. • Ensure that pupils as well as adults engage in the regular planning, leading and evaluating of collective worship so that they expand their understanding of the nature of Christian worship. • Foster a deeper understanding of difference and diversity through explicitly planned experiences across the curriculum, including worldviews and faiths other than Christianity in RE.

Inspection findings

At The Curzon, the inclusive Christian vision underpins all aspects of school life, enabling pupils and adults to flourish, feel safe, confident and happy. Motivated by the inspirational headteacher, leaders and staff promote the vision and the six related values of compassion, respect, friendship, forgiveness, perseverance and truthfulness at every opportunity. Governors describe an ‘honesty in management’ when they work with the headteacher, including their shared understanding of how they should model the vision. This creates an ethos of caring and support in the school, described by stakeholders as the ‘Curzon Family’. The vision is firmly rooted in the Bible verse Matthew 5:16 ‘let your light shine’. The vision and values are displayed extensively around the building, expressed in collective worship and taught throughout the curriculum, making sure they are visible to all.

The school benefits from positive partnerships with families and the local Church community. Relationships are fostered through regular communication via the school website and newsletters. The newly formed parent teacher association plays a key role in raising funding for enrichment opportunities. Pupils’ work is also displayed in the local area, which illustrates how the vision is promoted beyond the school grounds. The Christian vision was developed collaboratively by governors, parents, local church leaders and pupils. This also demonstrates how the community engages together creatively. Through strong and positive relationships with the Diocese of Derby, leaders and governors access training, such as for future church school leaders, which supports the aspirations of staff. A recent visit to the school from the Bishop of Derby and diocesan leaders gave hope and encouragement.

The Christian vision encourages caring relationships where the health and wellbeing of staff and pupils is a priority. After a recent theme day about positive mental health, pupils shared strategies to support their wellbeing with each other. Care for all pupils is also demonstrated in behaviour policies that are based on restorative practice. This strengthens pupils understanding of forgiveness and supports positive relationships.

The key values underpinning the school’s vision are promoted widely as part of character development. Perseverance and friendship are lived out regularly by pupils. School council members shared the joy of welcoming a new child and encouraging them in learning a new language. The school library provides a variety of texts to develop an understanding of difference and diversity. In lessons pupils express their ideas and learn to disagree well through open and honest discussions. They consider British Values and the effects of global injustice. However, learning about difference and diversity across the curriculum is not always explicitly planned for.

Pupils demonstrate courageous advocacy and compassion in action by initiating food collections at harvest time and writing postcards to those who receive parcels, for example. Letters of appreciation from members of the community demonstrate the positive impact they make. Older pupils support younger ones by walking alongside them to visit the Church and sharing their experiences as wellbeing champions. They act as role models and say they ‘follow the example of Jesus’ in showing love to others.


The vision drives the curriculum, raising aspirations. It is designed to meet the needs of all. Pupils enjoy learning and say their lessons are inspiring. There are frequent opportunities for challenge. Teachers strive for pupils to be the best they can be and that their ‘lights can shine’. Parents speak of the positive impact quick responses by staff make to their children’s needs, providing effective support and reassurance when needed.

Pupils talk enthusiastically about spiritual experiences. For example, when accessing the peace garden, they like to listen to the birds or read a book quietly. Classrooms have reflective spaces which include literature that encourages spiritual development. Pupils talk about the school prayer displayed in these spaces and how it guides their thoughts and responses. However, opportunities to learn more about spirituality are limited across the wider curriculum. A shared understanding of spirituality among the school community is limited.

Inclusive and inspiring collective worship is at the heart of school life. Collective worship includes varied Anglican traditions and is led by the curate, the Church children and families worker and the Open the Book group who lead worship weekly. This helps pupils appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using silence, story and prayer. However, opportunities for pupils to share in the planning and review of worship remain limited. Pupils express their joy through singing and music and reflect upon its meaning for their lives.

Worship is invitational and pupils appreciate the significance of each class carrying a candle as they enter, representing their involvement in a space where light shines. During lockdowns, provision was made to ensure worship was shared online for families. The church contributes to special events such as an interactive Easter experience that enriches pupils' understanding of the life and resurrection of Jesus. Links are made between the worship in school and the provision of children's work in the parishes such as sharing Bible stories to promote a consolidated approach. Families welcome being invited to be part of festivals and special occasions.

Development of the RE curriculum is given a high priority and pupils demonstrate pride and joy in their work. The locally agreed syllabus and Understanding Christianity are used to ensure that learning is sequential and builds on prior knowledge. This includes Bible stories featured in collective worship, enabling a deeper understanding. However, pupils recall and understanding of faiths other than Christianity and different worldviews is less well developed. Active and practical lessons enthuse pupils. In Early Years, role play strengthens learning. Older pupils are proud to share their RE work, demonstrating knowledge of key vocabulary. They engage in detailed debate around philosophical and theological concepts. They also reflect positively on big questions which allows them to consider the wider meaning of life.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Good	
	<p>The policies and planning of the curriculum meet the statutory requirements. Most pupils reach age related expectations. Provision is inclusive to allow all pupils to flourish, including vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs. Assessment is used robustly to allow both leaders and teachers to support and challenge learning effectively and enable pupils to identify next steps in their development of skills and knowledge.</p>			
Information				
School	The Curzon Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	12 October 2022	
URN	112981	VA	VA	
Diocese/District	Derby	Pupils on roll	126	
MAT/Federation	Not applicable			
Headteacher	Amanda Fletcher			
Chair of Governors/Trust Board	Leanne Gelderd			
Inspector	Keith Farquhar	No.	C1905	