

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Maryport Church of England Primary School	
Address	Camp Road, Maryport, CA15 6JN
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>To 'teach children to choose the right path and when they are older they will remain on it' - Proverbs 22:6 . We live out our vision by 'Teaching children to remain on the right path...'.We strive to develop character for our children to become good global citizens. We create a happy, safe, successful learning environment which will clearly reflect Christian values. As a Church of England School we encourage our children to live a life rooted in faith and love.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The image, within the vision, of the ‘right path’ provides a shared language which impacts positively on all areas of school life. The way that pupils and adults can articulate how this is biblically rooted is less secure. • Exceptional nurturing and caring relations permeate all areas of the school. These relations are grounded in a sense that everyone is important for the unique person they are. The impact of this is all feel valued, cared for and loved. • The Christian foundation of the school inspires strategic decisions by senior leaders, including governors. Directly resulting from this, provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) enables them to flourish. The way governors monitor the Christian effectiveness of the school is less developed. • Collective worship is enriched through positive relationships with the local church and diocese. Worship provides meaningful moments of togetherness and reflection which enhance adults’ and pupils’ spiritual development. The school's shared understanding of spirituality is less well developed. • Religious education (RE) provides valued opportunities for pupils to develop a good understanding of Christianity as a living world faith. Pupils display an inconsistent knowledge and understanding of biblical stories.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a shared understanding of spirituality throughout the school. This is to enable clearly planned opportunities within the curriculum and reflection time for spiritual development. • Establish a more formal cycle of monitoring around the impact of the vision on school. This is to ensure that the distinctively Christian foundation enables all to flourish. • Enhance pupils’ knowledge and understanding of biblical stories within RE and collective worship. This is so that all can readily articulate how they explicitly link to the vision and its associated Christian values.

Inspection findings

A culture of care and compassion, inspired by its Christian foundation, is lived out at Maryport. This enriches the lives of pupils and staff, impacting on families and the wider community. At the very core of the school's Christian vision is the image of the right path. This is deeply embedded throughout the school and is the everyday language of adults and pupils, inspiring and directing all. Pupils articulate how walking on the right path guides them in their behaviour and learning decisions, leading to them flourishing. Despite explicitly referring to 'children' in the vision, adults coherently express their sense of being God's children. Governors and staff clearly express how the vision enables their own flourishing as well as that of the pupils in school.

The governors' and leaders' bold decision to amalgamate with their neighbouring infant school has united two separate learning communities into one family. The strategic decision to create one Church of England primary school provides a sense of togetherness in which adults and pupils flourish. Ongoing support from Carlisle Diocese is valued by the school. This beneficial partnership supports staff, leaders and governors in developing the Christian distinctiveness of the school. Training in collective worship and RE enhances the professional development of adults and impacts positively on pupils' experiences in these areas. Governors' and leaders' investment in the development of staff prepares them to be future Church school leaders. The impact of this is evident in the appointment of a former member of staff as headteacher of a local Church school. Opportunities for staff to flourish and take on new roles inspires and motivates them, impacting positively on the whole school. Governors know their school well and are actively invested in ensuring all flourish. Robust processes for monitoring the Christian distinctiveness of the school are less well developed.

The vision and its associated values are the lens through which governors and leaders view the strategic decisions they face. The impact of the decision to appoint a learning mentor impacts positively on staff, parents and pupils and enhances wellbeing. A rich culture of nurturing and care is treasured by all members of the school community. Support for pupils with SEND and those deemed to be disadvantaged or vulnerable enhances lives and enables them to flourish. Staff clearly articulate how the vision to, 'teach children to choose the right path,' guides this nourishing culture. Pupils trust adults in school to keep them safe and know that they will encounter a listening ear if they have problems. Parents value the care from school including where this has gone 'the extra mile' such as support during a bereavement. Parents, pupils, staff and governors echo each other's words that the compassionate heartbeat of the school comes from its Christian foundation.

Opportunities to engage in social action excite and empower pupils. A recent climate change protest demonstration planned and actioned by older pupils demonstrates their passion to be courageous advocates of change. Pupils articulate how their Christian values and understanding of the need to protect our world inspires them into action. Within the local community, pupils look beyond themselves with active support for the foodbank. Pupils have initiated their own support for Diabetes UK and articulate how it demonstrates their living out of their values of responsibility and compassion. The way in which they can describe a biblical underpinning of these actions are evident but less well developed. School leaders are highly sensitive to the financial pressures families face and are resolute that all pupils should have the same opportunities. Christian values of responsibility and compassion drive the actions of leaders within school and the local community so all flourish.

Collective worship is a special time of togetherness where pupils and adults have the opportunity to reflect. Worship is invitational and provides moments of stillness, singing and time to encounter biblical stories. Pupils' knowledge and understanding of biblical stories is inconsistent. This impacts on the extent to which they can link their school values with Bible stories and the teachings of Jesus. Christian festivals such as Easter and Christmas are celebrated in school and also at the local church. Active partnerships with St Mary's Church and Solway Network Youth Church enhance the provision of collective worship. Members of these partnerships who also volunteer as governors make a significant impact on the Christian distinctiveness of the school. The use of 'I wonder' questions and prayer spaces by external worship leaders enhances pupils' engagement with

Bible stories. All pupils are welcome to volunteer to be part of the worship group who help to lead worship in school. Pupils enjoy this responsibility which further enhances their character development and their engagement with worship. Pupils and staff share how worship impacts on their own spirituality, although this area is less developed.

Occasions for pupils and adults to develop spiritually are evident within reflection areas around school which include invitations to pray. Pupils share how their outdoor reflection areas provide them with moments for peace and time to reflect. They can describe how doors, windows and mirrors enable them to develop spiritually. There is no shared understanding of spirituality and no specific school policy. Consequently, planned and spontaneous opportunities for spiritual flourishing within the curriculum are inconsistent. Leaders are aware of this and have started the process of developing a spirituality policy to address these areas.

RE is well led and carefully planned following the local syllabus supplemented with the Understanding Christianity resource. RE provides pupils with a safe space to reflect on faith and develop their knowledge of world religions and worldviews. Pupils speak enthusiastically, and with understanding, about a range of different faiths. Professional development provided by Carlisle Diocese supports the leadership and teaching of RE in school, enhancing the provision for pupils.

The Christian vision inspires pupils to live and learn well together. They describe how the language of the vision encourages them to choose the right path at playtimes. Where pupils fall out, the school's value of forgiveness supports reconciliation within relationships. Leaders' and governors' bold decision to enhance outdoor play with the Opal play initiative creates joyful moments of creative play. The positive impact on pupil behaviour is evident as pupils live out their values of collaboration, respect and friendship. Pupil and adult wellbeing are actively championed by school leaders, staff and governors. Nurturing and caring relationships, rooted in the Christian distinctiveness of the school, permeate throughout Maryport Church of England primary school. This creates a culture where pupils and adults are enabled to flourish as the unique person they are.

Information			
School	Maryport Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	02/12/2022
URN	112274	VC/VA/Academy	VC
Diocese/District	Carlisle	Pupils on roll	279
Headteacher	Joanne Ormond		
Chair of Governors	Steve Newton-Lister		
Inspector	Paul Rusby	No.	938