

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hambleton Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Gateforth Lane, Hambleton, Selby, YO8 9HP
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>We are respectful We are creative We are resilient We are truthful We work as a team We are compassionate</p> <p>Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak. Their roots will go down into God's love and keep them strong. Isaiah 40:31, Ephesians 3:17</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The distinctive Christian vision underpins and drives the school's work. The Christian values are known, understood and lived out with commitment by all. Governors know the school well, but have not yet re-established a scheduled programme of self-evaluation activities to ensure continued effectiveness. • The needs of vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are met especially effectively. By following the Christian vision, adults and pupils recognise and respond to each other with compassion and as unique individuals. • Pupils and adults have multiple leadership opportunities that have demonstrable impact on their development and enable them to flourish. In some areas of the wider curriculum there are fewer opportunities for pupils to understand, respect and celebrate difference and diversity. • Collective worship is dynamic and engaging. Pupils and adults reflect on the relevance and application of biblical teachings to their own lives. This supports their spiritual development. The consolidation of spiritual experiences across other aspects of provision is in the early stages of development. • Religious education (RE) is led with passion. Pupils have a deep knowledge and understanding of diverse major world religions and world views. Their knowledge of the diversity of belief and practice within religions and in different communities and cultures is less well developed.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For governors to ensure there is a robust self-evaluation process in place to continue to maintain the effectiveness of this Church school. • Consolidate the approach to spiritual development across all aspects of provision so that pupils' spirituality is nurtured and enhanced. • Extend opportunities for pupils to learn about different people, communities and cultures in this country and abroad. This is so that their understanding of difference and diversity is enhanced and their aspirations are heightened.

Inspection findings

The school's motto, Roots to grow – Wings to fly, is known well and articulately expressed by all in the school community. This also applies to the six chosen Christian values, each of which is rooted in the Bible. Other Christian values are intentionally explored and lived out at all times by pupils and adults. This contributes to the welcoming and warm Christian relationships experienced by those who learn, work or visit here. As one pupil said, 'there is always someone to pick you up when you fall over.'

Staff wellbeing surveys are an example of leaders evaluating the impact of the Christian vision and acting on their findings. Leaders base their practice on research-based evidence. Governors are welcome familiar faces in school and support staff and leaders with dedication. However, they have yet to re-establish a robust schedule of monitoring and evaluation. They make purposeful appointments to the board to supplement their skills, thus exemplifying the teamwork aspect of the Christian vision. Living out the vision of 'giving wings to fly', the headteacher and governors recognise the importance of staff development. There is a thriving embedded culture of shared leadership. This results in some staff moving to leadership positions in other Church schools. The culture has been further enhanced by the successful temporary collaboration with a nearby Church school. This has given leaders the opportunity to step up to take on more senior responsibilities. Teachers benefit from sharing good practice in Church school education. New staff who are committed to enriching the Christian foundation of the school have been recruited.

There is a mutually beneficial and nourishing relationship with St Mary's Church, despite there being a vacancy for a vicar. Members of the church community and the retired vicar are much-appreciated visitors in school. She has provided valued sessions for staff and governors to supplement their understanding of the biblical roots of the vision and values. The relationship with the diocese is deep-seated and effective. Other partnerships are informed by the Christian vision and foundation of the school. One example of this is the students from York St John University.

The school has rightfully gained a first-class reputation amongst parents, not least for those of pupils with special or additional needs. There is an innovative approach to learning for these pupils. They are loved, nurtured and enabled to thrive, flourish and make progress in their learning. Their achievements are praised and celebrated. Pupils are commendably recognised as unique individuals. An inclusion day ensures that pupils are very familiar with how children may be different to themselves. They readily speak about such things as dyslexia or autism and how each person is special. Parents enthusiastically express to staff their deep affection and appreciation of the Christian family ethos. They describe the school and church as being at the very heart of the community.

The mental health and wellbeing of pupils and adults has a significantly high profile. Gold Healthy Schools Award status has been attained. Demonstrating the Christian vision, staff work together as a team and support each other in meaningful ways. One parent gladly described 'how much staff know about and care for the children.' Another explained that care generously extends to whole families.

Pupils behave with abundant courtesy and respect. Parents say there are very few issues, but any that do occur are quickly and effectively dealt with. A new approach to behaviour management, based on the Christian vision, is currently being embedded. A group of pupils discussing rules said they should follow all the Christian values. Weekly 'wise owls worship' is extremely popular. In it, pupils are recognised and rewarded for demonstrating the Christian values, both in and out of school.

Pupils delight in the multiple visits and visitors in the curriculum, as well as in the wide variety of clubs on offer. For example, they thoroughly enjoy singing in the school choir. There are an impressive number of different leadership opportunities for pupils. These contribute to character development, encourage

independence and decision making. Pupils excitedly learn about enterprise and engage in social action. The Christian vision inspires pupils to challenge injustice and to be active advocates for change.

There are big questions and time for personal reflection in many subjects. Such opportunities contribute to pupils' spiritual development. These result in pupils and staff reflecting on and talking sincerely about their own personal spirituality or beliefs. As one pupil said, 'spirituality is about reflecting on how close you might be to your God or your belief.' Leaders and staff are in the process of consolidating their understanding and provision of spirituality across all aspects of the school's work.

Daily collective worship makes a hugely valuable contribution to pupils' understanding of the Christian vision and associated values. Pupils thoroughly enjoy participating in and contributing to worship. They joyfully sing the school song about the Christian vision. The pupil worship warriors actively contribute to the worshipping life of the school. They regularly lead worship. There are opportunities for prayer at different times of day and in the reflection spaces in each classroom. Pupils have a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the big story of the Bible and of individual Bible stories. There are enriching regular visits to St Mary's Church. Selby Abbey and York Minster are also visited. These visits help to ensure that pupils have a good understanding of local Anglican practice. Some, but not all pupils, learn about other branches of Christianity represented in school.

Leaders are passionate about RE and it has a high priority. They have reflected deeply on the most effective long-term plan for the curriculum. A revised plan is ready to be introduced. It still prioritises Christianity. But, in line with the expectations for the subject in Church schools, includes extra time for other major world religions and non-religious world views. Leaders willingly share good practice with other local Church schools. As a result, they are now trialling an improved and more purposeful approach to assessing pupil progress and attainment. This approach takes account of teacher workload and champions wellbeing. A world beliefs day included visitors from five major faiths or world views. Pupils enthusiastically learn about the similarities and the differences between religions and to respect people of all faiths and of none. They know that people of many faiths and none observe the same values. Visits to the places of worship of major world faiths other than Christianity are being established.

This is undoubtedly a Church school where pupils and adults flourish. The outliving of the Christian vision ensures everyone has 'roots to grow and wings to fly.'

Information			
School	Hambleton Church of England VC Primary School	Inspection date	19 January 2023
URN	121566	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary Controlled
Diocese/District	York	Pupils on roll	180
MAT/Federation	N/A		
Headteacher	Timothy Williams		
Chair of Governors/ Trust Board	Andy Reed		
Inspector	Janet Tringham	No.	2134