

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Whitfield St James Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Chadwick Street, Glossop, SK13 8EF
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	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
<p>Working together to achieve our best to reach our God-given potential.</p> <p>We provide an excellent education enabling all to flourish. Together with our behaviour motto, "Treat others the way you want to be treated" we prepare pupils for life in all its fullness in this world and the world to come.</p> <p>'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29 v.11</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's Christian vision has been the catalyst for significant whole school development. Leadership is tireless in ensuring that it drives on-going improvement. • The curriculum is engaging, vibrant and memorable. However, the school is yet to fully develop a shared understanding of spirituality to enable a rich culture of reflection. • The vision enables the school to flourish. Being part of this deeply loving community equips pupils and adults to become compassionate agents of change. • The school's distinctive Christian vision is embedded in collective worship. This enables pupils and adults to reflect upon the school's Christian values. Collective worship is invitational and eagerly enjoyed by pupils and adults alike. Pupils do not currently take responsibility for planning worship. • Religious education (RE) enables pupils' skills and knowledge to flourish. Pupils articulate a high level of understanding of world faiths and world views. They delight in considering 'big questions'.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop ways in which the pupils organise and lead collective worship to enhance their spiritual growth. • Establish a common understanding of spirituality so that it can be planned for across the whole curriculum.

Inspection findings

The school's vision has been the springboard for transformative school improvement. It has created a strong Christian identity for the school. The school's leadership team work tirelessly. School leaders and governors actively reflect and, following rigorous self-assessment, embrace opportunities for improvement. Through the vision they have created the inspiration, energy and resilience for the whole school community to raise standards. The vision is deeply embedded into every aspect of the school's practice. Staff adapt their support for each pupil to enable everyone to achieve their best and to reach their God-given potential. Leaders have made wise, strategic and courageous decisions. They consistently place the pupil at the centre of all decisions. This robust commitment to the school's vision enables all to flourish. Pupils and adults prosper because together they have become a strong family with clear direction and shared purpose. This community enables lives to be lived to the full. Transformations happen as part of the school's regular practice.

Leadership at all levels ensure that the school is nourished by the local Christian community. The school reaches out for collaboration. Enrichment activities for pupils occur in partnership with St James' church children's and families leader. The school's vision provides the foundation upon which this partnership is built. This strong relationship is ongoing.

Governors ensure that a continuous self-evaluation process is in place. They are frequent visitors, monitoring developments holding the leadership team to account. They base their decisions upon evidence and analysis. Governors care deeply about how their decisions enrich pupils' lives. They are eager to develop their knowledge and skills.

Leaders leave no stone unturned to enable others to thrive. All staff actively seek to ensure that everyone flourishes by consistently living the vision in their practice. Every person in this community is cared for, everyone matters, including those with special educational needs and disabilities. The range and depth of provision enables inclusive opportunities for learning experiences. The school consistently ensures that the specific need of each pupil is met. School leaders and governors make it explicitly clear that pupils come first. All are treated with dignity and respect, demonstrating the strength of Christian love felt for all.

Pupils enjoy their learning. They have a deep thirst for knowledge. They confidently demonstrate their understanding and are pleased to share their achievements. Staff consistently nourish curiosity. Lessons are designed to enable pupils to achieve their best and to reach their God-given potential. Through their knowledge of every pupil, staff plan a holistic curriculum, enabling everyone to flourish.

RE lessons are memorable. Pupils are able to recall their learning and engage in discussion. They confidently explain why Christianity is a world faith. Pupils articulately share their learning about world faiths. Their knowledge of Hinduism and Islam is impressive, for example. The school provides dedicated spaces for reflection. However, the current lack of a shared understanding of spirituality limits how pupils and adults articulate their insights.

Pupils are confident and active participants in their learning and demonstrate resilience. They speak of how they 'bounce back' when they find something difficult. Referring to the vision pupils explain that it is important to be resilient. They reflect that this is 'because we need to achieve our best.' They demonstrate positive learning behaviours and know how to resolve their differences, maintaining dignity and respect at all times. They speak about forgiving each other on the rare occasion when the need arises. Pupils are polite and courteous, treating others as they wish to be treated.

The school responds to social need through carefully chosen Christian international charity



organisations. Pupils are introduced to significant need and experience how compassion drives action. This enables them to become increasingly reflective and 'to have the courage of their convictions'. Ideas are valued and encouraged. Concerns about environmental matters are raised at the pupils' parliament. They actively seek solutions, overcoming barriers as advocates for positive change. Resilience is shown by exploring solutions despite occasional initial setbacks. Pupils have instigated collaborations with Police Community Support Officers, the local food bank and recycling projects. This includes raising public awareness of safe car parking around school. Through pupil action the local foodbank receives donations. Pupils challenge how school equipment is recycled. Leaders make the school building available to accommodate community initiatives and organisations. Consequently, the school reaches out compassionately and with generosity to enable this community to thrive.

Staff refer to how the vision has been the foundation of the school's improvement. They are proud to belong to a mutually supportive family. Staff firmly believe that everyone has the ability to achieve and actively develop that self-belief in every learner. Together staff have embraced change. There is a deep sense of teamwork amongst staff colleagues. They appreciate that the school vision helps them develop both professionally and personally. Staff are intrinsically motivated to become the best that they can be. They embrace opportunities for professional learning. Many are pursuing nationally accredited qualifications to enhance their practice which also supports the school's drive to continually improve. Leaders have been proactive in reaching out to other schools for mutual benefit, enhancing practice. By developing high levels of expertise staff sustain a culture of learning and continuous development. They are quick to recognise that leaders listen and value their opinions. Adults reflect that school leaders have faith in everybody's contribution to enable the school to prosper.

Leadership, prompted by the vision, ensure that parents and carers are well informed. They are visible and approachable, building trusting relationships within this community. Staff take every opportunity to celebrate pupils' success with their families. Parents seek out expertise within the school for advice and support when needed.

The school's distinctive Christian vision directs collective worship. Together with the values, it is embedded into this precious time. Collective worship is a focal point each day for reflection, prayer and coming together as a school family. The school's vision and the range of Christian values are integrated into this precious time. Collective worship is invitational and eagerly enjoyed by pupils and adults alike. The whole school reflects upon the vision, considering God's plans for them to live life in all its fullness. Prayers are said throughout the school day and enhance opportunities for spiritual reflection. However, while some pupils introduce and close worship they are yet to engage in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship.



Information			
School	Whitfield St James Church of England VC Primary School	Inspection date	9 February 2023
URN	112818	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Derby	Pupils on roll	309
Headteacher	Craig Woodward		
Chair of Governors	Emma Whitehead		
Inspector	Mark Millinson	No.	2121