

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Burley St Matthias Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Burley Road, Burley, LS4 2HY
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>'Everyone is Special' (Psalm 139, Luke 12)</p> <p>Burley St Matthias School is a learning, living, loving community, founded on Christian principles, to welcome and serve pupils and families of all faiths, beliefs and backgrounds in a family atmosphere where all are known, celebrated and nurtured to grow and where everyone is special.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burley St. Matthias is an inclusive school that meets the pupils' needs exceptionally well, with tangible care and compassion. It is characterised by strong support for pupils and their families, enabling them to flourish. The Christian vision drives an inclusive school where everyone is encouraged to be kind and forgiving to all. The biblical links are understood by all; however, the theological underpinning of the vision has not been sufficiently developed. Pupils behave well and demonstrate dignity and respect towards each other. They care for one another and take on responsibilities within the school. Pupils' understanding of themselves as courageous advocates is underdeveloped. Collective worship is engaging and welcoming, involving the whole school community. It is planned carefully to link to the vision and associated values. Currently there are not enough opportunities for pupils to lead and evaluate worship. Religious education (RE) is well resourced and systematically planned. Pupils enjoy RE and talk positively about the impact it has on their lives.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the theological roots of the Christian vision in order to drive the school's improving journey as a Church school. Raise the profile of global issues of inequality and injustice within the curriculum so that pupils feel inspired to act as agents for change. Enrich pupils' active experience of leading and evaluating worship by enabling them to take a greater lead in its development within the school.

Inspection findings

Encouraged and inspired by the inclusive Christian vision, leaders, including governors, care deeply and proactively for the diverse, transient school community. Collaboratively determined, the Christian vision, 'Everyone is Special' is embedded in policy and practice. The nine associated values of learning, special, caring, awesome, challenge, believe, friendly, respect and fun underpin the vision. Pupils and adults communicate how the vision applies to them, motivating them to be respectful and inclusive. Pupils live out the vision but are not entirely certain about its source. The vision is lived out in the close relationships within its school community enabling all to flourish. Leaders and staff have high aspirations for their pupils. As a result, priority is given to continuous professional development for all staff. In this way, staff know they are highly valued as individuals and as a team. The vision drives collaborative leadership ensuring strategic decisions are consultative, reflecting leaders' determination to learn together. This is demonstrated through staff engaging in research projects improving pupils' learning. Partnerships between the school and its families are strong, nurturing and affirming. Parents appreciate the school's welcoming and listening approach, focusing on resolving concerns. Equally, partnerships with the diocese and local church are highly effective and supportive such as engaging in training and supporting the disadvantaged families.

The school nurtures pupils, including the vulnerable, so that they flourish. This led to the appointment of a learning mentor who is passionate about enabling the most vulnerable pupils to thrive. Provision for pupils with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) reflects the uniqueness of the individual in line with the vision. Staff listen to parents, act quickly to resolve difficulties and treat pupils as individuals. Parents feel the school supports them well such as providing opportunities and resources for family learning. During the pandemic, the school proactively maintained regular contact with families and provided additional resources for remote learning. Vulnerable pupils are given support tailored to their needs such as managing their mental and emotional health and access to wider agencies. Pupils are aspirational about their futures and can talk about how the vision and values influence these.

The school's broad and balanced curriculum is designed with the vision at the centre. Opportunities for spiritual development are encapsulated within it such as the awe and wonder of growing seeds. The curriculum is continually adapted and enhanced to meet the needs of each pupil enabling all to flourish, such as using translating technology for pupils who do not speak English. Staff work collaboratively to ensure curriculum progression and opportunities to extend learning through visitors, and visits are regularly provided. However opportunities for them to challenge injustice and inequality as agents of change are limited.

Pupils are observed to behave well both within and outside classrooms. When disputes arise, restorative practice supports reconciliation. Pupils report that the vision and the values, inspire them to be kind and forgiving. This is underpinned by biblical explanations of forgiveness and acceptance which are reflected in the school's behaviour policy. Planned opportunities provide pupils with the skills to disagree well. They articulate a culture of listening to each other and respecting differing views. All members of the school community are accepted and valued as people created in the image of God. Parents, pupils and staff who are new to school report that they quickly feel part of the community. Leaders draw on opportunities to encourage pupils and staff to talk about their own experiences to enhance the learning of others.

Collective worship is invitational, inclusive and inspirational, providing opportunities for spiritual growth for members of a range of faiths and none. It is central to daily life uniting the

whole school in line with their vision, with Key Stage 1 pupils attending worship in the Key Stage 2 hall. Worship themes root the school's Christian values in biblical stories and the Christian calendar. It allows the opportunity for pupils to reflect on the school's vision and values and to respond to national and international issues. Anglican practice is embedded by formal greetings and responses, including the Lord's Prayer. Staff and pupils say that worship makes them reflect on their own actions such as challenging themselves to do better. The worship crew lead worship, although there are still limited opportunities for them to plan and evaluate it. Links with the church are very strong and members of St Matts actively support the work of the school, including leading worship. The church is visited for significant festivals where the opportunity to gather as a wider school community is embraced. Class based reflective spaces and times of stillness and prayer further promote opportunities for spiritual development. This also happens through the regular use of 'Big Questions' to promote discussions and share ideas. Pupils talk of using prayer regularly in their own lives and its importance.

Pupils enjoy RE, resulting in good levels of engagement with the subject. It is well led by senior leaders and following the local and church requirements. The long term plan was reviewed to ensure progression in learning and skills and subsequently has been shared widely across schools in the local area. RE provides pupils with opportunities to learn about a variety of faiths and worldviews. Work is regularly marked although pupils do not always respond to questions raised and opportunities for development are lost. Pupils enjoy sharing their views in RE recognising it as a safe space to respectfully disagree. Learning is enriched by visits including churches and mosques. This fosters developing pupil appreciation and knowledge of the diversity of life and religion in modern Britain. Pupils of differing faiths and none share and celebrate their heritage demonstrating their improving cultural awareness.

The distinctively Christian vision and supporting values underpin everything the school does. As a result, pupils and adults at Burley St Matthias school are supported to flourish as unique children of God.

Information			
School	Burley St Matthias Church of England VC Primary School	Inspection date	2 March 2023
URN	108001	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Leeds	Pupils on roll	186
Co-headteacher	Kate Cameron / Debbie Dettmar		
Chair of Governors	Hahmiz Butt		
Inspector	Joanna Dobbs	No.	2136