

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Christ Church Church of England Primary School	
Address	Shieldfield Green, Shieldfield, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE2 1XA
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	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
<p>Reach for the Stars – Living life in all its fullness (John 10:10) Thriving on diversity, and underpinned by Christian values, Christ Church is an inclusive school where everyone is welcome and valued. Our vision is to shepherd each other in a safe, loving environment, while building a solid foundation to encourage and inspire us to reach for our own star.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspirational leaders at Christ Church are the stewards of a transformational school. Through their aspirational and inclusive vision, all are welcome and lives are changed for the better. • Religious education (RE) is exceptionally well led. The resourceful and vibrant approach to RE provides rich moments for pupils to develop their understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multi-cultural faith. • Active acceptance of all creates a deeply loving and mutually nurturing school community. Leaders model social action through their outward looking drive which gives a voice to the voiceless. They seek every opportunity to advance this further. • School leaders, governors and staff create an environment which recognises learners' uniqueness. Life enhancing bold and ethical decisions enable all pupils and staff to flourish. • Collective worship is a joyful manifestation of the school's distinctly Christian vision. It is deeply inclusive, celebrates diversity and enriches the flourishing of pupils and adults. A developing language of spirituality enhances the curriculum and worship.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop the shared language of spirituality throughout the school to enhance the spiritual flourishing of all. • Continue to deepen the role that social action plays to inspire further challenging of injustice and inequality.

Inspection findings

Christ Church Church of England Primary School is an oasis of togetherness where ‘nobody is different because everybody is different’. Inspirational leadership from the headteacher and senior team empowers adults and pupils. Bonded together by the vision, a culture of welcome permeates through the school. Lives are transformed in this school community due to its distinctive Christian vision which drives all actions. ‘Reach for the Stars – Living life in all its fullness’ is wholly understood by the wider school community. The Bible story of the Parable of the Lost Sheep reinforces this vision. Both adults and children talk passionately about being the shepherd or the sheep; guiding or being guided. A pupil explained how the school ‘shepherded me and guarded me’ when he started at Christ Church having come from another country. The nurturing image of the shepherd within the school’s vision guides daily life and creates a safe and loving environment for all.

The aspirational language of the vision ensures the learning needs of the large number of pupils who speak English as an additional language (EAL) are fully met. The many pupils deemed to be vulnerable thrive through the love shown to them. Governors and senior leaders are unflinching in their determination to meet the complex needs of their school community. Their ethical and bold decisions fill the school with an abundance of love, life and care for all. Pupils’ lives are transformed as a result of the school’s actions. Directly inspired by the vision, practical steps from leaders impact beyond the school, supporting areas such as housing and health. The school’s clothing and foodbanks are subtly, yet perceptively, used to support families. A member of staff explained ‘you can’t have life in all its fullness if you’ve not got shoes for winter.’

Worship at Christ Church is an uplifting, shared experience for the whole school community. It is an opportunity to celebrate the uniqueness of pupils in an enriching and inspiring environment. A natural, yet profound, sense of togetherness in worship is created through joyful singing from parents, pupils and staff. Whole school collective worship is planned coherently by the headteacher and parish priest. It comprehensively supports the school’s ability to live out its vision and associated values every day. Worship enables pupils to flourish as a result of its aspirational delivery, challenging them to act upon their experiences. Pupils thrive on this and are inspired by recent experiences. Examples include a pupil inspired dance to challenge inequality and injustice. Furthermore, all learners have become ‘Waste Warriors’ who reduce food waste and therefore look after resources and the world around us. Pupils explain how attending school consistently can ‘help you and help others’ recognising the importance of their learning and development. Information about women in the Bible, such as Jesus’ mother Mary, inspires pupils and enhances their biblical knowledge. Opportunities for learners to reflect spiritually about those who show them love and nurture motivates pupils to treat others with dignity.

Pupils have wide-ranging opportunities to contribute to, evaluate and lead collective worship at both class and whole school level. Leaders consistently promote opportunities for learners to look beyond themselves. This creates an environment where there is a natural propensity for pupils to be advocates for change. Continuing to deepen the role that social action plays will only serve to strengthen pupils’ moral development and personal aspirations.


School policies position the school’s vision at the centre of daily life at Christ Church. As a direct result of the vision, pupils say bullying is non-existent. They rely on themselves and others to be shepherds and support each other. Pupils behave as ‘responsible stewards’ who take care of one another resulting in an environment where pupils feel safe and protected. They are able to articulate a biblical narrative to their actions. A pupil from Key Stage 2 explained, ‘Ephesians chapter 2 says we are all God’s masterpiece so we protect each other’. Pupils thrive because all are committed to building an environment where they are valued and welcomed.

Throughout the school, displays celebrate the social, moral, spiritual and cultural life of the school. A large tapestry of photographs, experiences from home and school, prayers and reflections

demonstrate the life of the school community. Leaders are determined that pupils experience a curriculum and extra-curricular activities that meet the needs of all. They go beyond reasonable expectations in their resourcefulness and innovative approaches to providing creative opportunities for learners. Summer holiday excursions, organised by staff for families considered to be vulnerable, reinforces the school's deeply loving culture. Empowering the school community, through enhancing knowledge and varied experiences, equips everyone to live life in all its fullness.

Evidence of planned and unplanned opportunities for spiritual development enables learners to confidently reflect on themselves and others. A deeply embedded vision provides the foundations for spirituality to flourish at Christ Church. Pupils feel protected enabling them to grow spiritually, to be nurtured and to nurture. Further developing a shared language of spiritual development will enhance the spiritual flourishing of all.

The leadership of RE is characterised by the deeply embedded systems of monitoring, evaluation and guidance which support teaching. An innovative approach to assessment meets the needs of pupils in its compassionate understanding of their uniqueness. Resources collated by the RE lead provide an invaluable bank of examples of standards in pupils' work. These set benchmarks and standards which support teachers and enable pupils to thrive. The link governor works as a critical friend ensuring excellent standards of RE are maintained. The RE curriculum reflects a constant desire to improve opportunities for pupils to reflect spiritually when exploring big questions. RE at Christ Church embraces the multi-cultural school community it serves. Leaders positively channel their own diversity to enable pupils to experience Christianity as a worldwide faith. Pupils joyfully share personal experiences of faith such as an Ethiopian celebration of the Epiphany. Learners clearly enjoy RE and explain confidently the next steps needed to improve their work. Opportunities to write in role or be advocates for change reveal the empowering nature of RE at Christ Church. Learners' books demonstrate the impact of a curriculum that is expertly interwoven with the vision and values of the school.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>RE is expertly led. The curriculum is comprehensively planned and interwoven with the school's vision demonstrating a profound recognition of pupils' uniqueness. Pupils, including those with special education needs, and/ or disabilities (SEND) make excellent progress due to a rich and engaging curriculum. RE consistently provides deep opportunities for learners to experience Christianity as a worldwide multicultural faith. RE empowers pupils to gain knowledge of world religions and confidently explore their place in society.</p>			
Information				
School	Christ Church Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	17/03/2023	
URN	108493	VC/VA/Academy	VA	
Diocese/District	Durham; Newcastle	Pupils on roll	130	
MAT/Federation	Affiliated member of Ouseburn Learning Trust			
Headteacher	Sandra Furno			
Chair of Governors/Trust Board	Linsley de la Hunt			
Inspector	Kevin Taggart	No.	C21/22	