

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

South Otterington Church of England Primary School	
Address	South Otterington, Northallerton, DL7 9HD
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>'Shine like stars in the universe'</p> <p>Philippians 2:15</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply-rooted Christian vision drives each and every action and interaction within this school. Leaders of all levels are passionate about their hope and aspiration for pupils and the results are transformative. • The school community is beginning to develop a shared language to describe the rich spiritual opportunities available to all pupils. At present this language does not extend far beyond collective worship. • Inclusivity is the golden thread which runs through the heart of this school. All are known and valued as individuals, created in the image of God. • Collective worship provides adults and pupils with the opportunity to reflect and connect spiritually with one another and with God. The impact of worship upon the school community is not fully evaluated. • Religious Education (RE) is highly valued by all. Committed leadership, alongside valued professional development from diocesan advisers, leads to high quality learning experiences for all pupils. Leaders rightly recognise that their current approach of 'floor books' makes it challenging for them to identify what and how well KS1 pupils are learning in RE.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed the school's approach to spiritual development. This is to enable pupils to fully recognise and articulate the spiritual opportunities available to them beyond collective worship. • Develop monitoring processes for collective worship to provide both pupils and staff with the opportunity to articulate the impact of worship on their everyday lives. • Review the way in which learning is recorded in RE in KS1, so that teachers and leaders know how well individual pupils learn.

Inspection findings

The deeply rooted Christian vision is the beating heart of this caring and compassionate community. It reaches out into every aspect of the school's work, enabling all to flourish. Leaders of all levels are determined in their efforts to enable both pupils and adults to 'shine like stars in the universe'. Despite being relatively new to role, the school's governing body articulate the school's vision with passion and depth of understanding.

Staff work tirelessly to bring the vision to life through their transformative work with pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Governors have ably supported this vital work through brave financial decision making. This enables pupils to access dedicated, high quality support for both speech and language development and mental health and wellbeing. The school's inclusive culture has led to wheelchair sports and Makaton being introduced into the curriculum. Careful consideration has also been given to the development of the school's extra-curricular programme, which has recently been enhanced through the creation of the 'Shiny Club'. Inspired by the vision, this truly inclusive provision ensures all pupils in the school are able to shine. Parents are grateful for the exceptional care and support that has been provided for their children, particularly at times of personal challenge. They have confidence that their children are cherished, known and valued as an individual. As a result, staff are quick to identify when pupils may need additional support or intervention, ensuring all flourish.

All are valued at South Otterington; this is a school which invests in its staff as well as its pupils. Through their living out of the school's vision, leaders have created a family of staff who care deeply for one another. Staff particularly welcome the retreat which they participate in each year. This provides a much-valued opportunity for them to worship, reflect and connect with God, each other and themselves. Trust leaders and governors encourage and support staff in engaging with a wide range of high-quality professional development opportunities. They are resolute in their determination that staff should be supported in 'shining like stars in the universe'.

The school is at the beginning of its journey to develop a shared language for spiritual development. Staff and pupils recognise the rich spiritual experiences available to them through their daily acts of collective worship. They are not able to consistently recognise these opportunities in their daily lives. Leaders are committed in their desire to both identify and enhance the range of spiritual experiences available to pupils across the curriculum.

Through the newly developed eco club, pupils are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of their stewardship of God's world. Pupils are supported in identifying causes which they personally believe in. They are now beginning to play a greater role in selecting the charities the school supports. Pupils are particularly enthusiastic and committed in their fundraising to support the education of two children in Africa. The school has an established approach to ethical leadership, with pupils themselves acting as ethical leaders for their peers. These pupil leaders carry out their roles with integrity and a genuine commitment to 'do the right thing, even when no one is watching'.

As a result of the deeply embedded Christian values which are woven throughout all aspects of the school's work, pupils' behaviour is excellent. Pupils are well supported by staff in practising reconciliation and forgiveness when minor disagreements occur. This work is further enhanced through highly effective RE provision. As a result of the school's exceptional work in this area, bullying is rarely seen. Many pupils share their belief in an 'all loving God' when discussing

diversity, tolerance, dignity and respect. Their depth of understanding in these areas is enhanced through carefully considered curriculum experiences and thoughtfully planned collective worship.

Collective worship is highly valued by staff and pupils alike. Worship centres around the school's vision and associated values. These values have been carefully selected by the wider school community. Through worship, pupils learn about the traditions of the Anglican Church, including the Eucharist. For many, a highlight of the school year is the annual confirmation service at St Andrew's Church. Both pupils and staff are offered the opportunity to prepare for confirmation. Pupils thoroughly enjoy the rich diversity of worship styles they experience during worship led by local Anglican, Baptist and Methodist churches. Planning for worship is not sufficiently detailed to ensure a coherent approach to how pupils encounter the teaching of Jesus and the Bible. The enthusiastic 'Collective Worship Stars' play a key leadership role on a daily basis. They meet regularly with the headteacher and governors to review collective worship and to suggest ways in which it can be developed. This evaluation does not extend to monitoring the impact of worship on the everyday lives of pupils and staff.

RE is highly valued and is well led by the subject leader, who has a clear and ambitious vision for the future. Leaders have accurately identified that class floor books do not support staff in knowing what, and how well, pupils learn in RE. Play based provision is used highly effectively in Early Years and KS1 to support pupils in deepening their understanding of key concepts, such as resurrection. Within KS2, the RE curriculum supports pupils in making meaningful links between learning and their own lived experiences. Through this approach, pupils learn from religion, not just about religion. Pupils' knowledge and understanding of world religions, in particular Islam, is enhanced through their engagement with guest speakers.

Information			
School	South Otterington Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	23 March 2023
URN	144162	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	York	Pupils on roll	99
MAT/Federation	Dales Academies Trust		
Headteacher	Amanda Gledhill		
Chair of Governors	Terry Cane		
Inspector	Katie Savage	No.	2140