

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Grange View Church of England First School, Widdrington	
Address	Grange View, Widdrington, NE61 5LZ
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>At Grange View we let our light shine, always sparkle and strive to achieve our God given potential.</p> <p>Let your light shine brightly before others. Matthew 5:16</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's Christian vision is lived out by pupils and adults. It has a demonstrable impact on pupils' learning and enables all to flourish. • The school is known as a place where all are welcome and nurtured. There is a tangible feeling of belonging. It also looks outward in support of the community. Pupils are starting to think about how they can engage more in social action. • The vision creates a culture where adults and pupils wholeheartedly embrace difference and diversity. This means they all treat everyone with commendable respect and consideration. • Collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian foundation. Pupils learn about the big story of the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. This instils in them a desire to do good in the world. Pupils develop spiritually through worship and leaders are earnest in their desire to foster further spiritual opportunities across school life. • Religious education (RE) has high priority in school. Leaders and staff are provided with multiple opportunities for development. This means pupils have a good understanding of religions and worldviews. The school is in the early stages of embedding the new syllabus.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there is a secure understanding of and approach to the opportunities pupils are provided with to enhance their spiritual development. • Further develop opportunities for pupils to engage in social action so they have a positive impact on communities near and far. • Ensure the new syllabus for RE is consistently developed so that pupils' knowledge and understanding is further enhanced.



Inspection findings

The school's Christian vision is known by everyone and very effectively drives the work of the school so that all flourish. Pupils and adults are encouraged to shine, sparkle and be their best self. All adults want pupils to achieve their God given potential. As one pupil said, 'we have been given the power by God to be nice and share a smile.'

Staff and leaders live out the Christian vision in all the incredibly strong relationships and partnerships. One example of this is with the Coquet cluster, who work together to encourage good attendance. There are strong and valued links with the diocese. Staff are encouraged to engage in professional development, including national professional qualifications. School leaders have been pro-active to ensure there are strong links with the church, despite there being a vacancy for a vicar and the fact that the churches are some distance away. Leaders have intentionally reached out to the local church community. Governors are dedicated and committed. They are well known and very thoughtfully lead the school. Their regular monitoring and evaluation ensure the continued success of the school.

All pupils are welcomed with open arms, they are embraced and, in the words of the Christian vision, enabled to shine and sparkle. Leaders and staff have put in place a purposefully designed curriculum that reflects the local area. Pupils are motivated by lessons and engage well. There are a wide variety of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities and an incredibly extensive programme of visits and visitors. Just one example is a science curriculum visit to the Glass Centre in Sunderland. During the visit pupils learn about recycling, thus furthering their desire to make positive choices for the natural world. They also learn about careers in the glass industry, giving them aspiration for the future. The school is inclusive, enabling all its pupils to flourish, including those who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or who are vulnerable. Policies ensure everyone is included and no one is excluded. Staff tailor provision and provide the right amount of challenge for each pupil, thus enabling them to thrive. The fact that each person excels at different things is celebrated.

There are a variety of existing opportunities for spiritual development. This includes through collective worship, forest school, bird watching, reflection areas and 'ows, wows and nows'. Beautiful paintings of trees in blossom are displayed on wow walls. The impact is seen when pupils stop and think about things bigger than themselves. Leaders are keen to utilise missed opportunities and iron out inconsistencies in the approach to spiritual development.

Friendship is one of the outcomes of the Christian vision and is abundantly evident in all interactions. Staff, parents, governors and pupils all work together as a team. Pupil behaviour is very good in and out of lessons and they play happily together at breaktime. Parents engage extremely positively with the school, there is good communication and they are included and involved. One of the school's chosen Christian values, trust, is demonstrated by parents, who know they can approach staff for help when needed. Staff care about and for each other, showing this through a variety of practical and thoughtful actions. Wellbeing for all has a high priority. Generosity of spirit and community spirit go hand in hand together at Grange View. They are a wonderful feature, and the school has a large and generous heart. Everyone helps and supports each other. There is generosity within school and towards the community. The school makes a significant contribution to and works in collaboration with organisations in the village, to support everyone. Further afield, they have given what they can to a community in Uganda, have sponsored an orangutan and have entered a toilet twinning project. The recently formed Save the World group is enhancing pupils' concern for justice. A project to pick up litter made a positive contribution to the community, however pupils need opportunities to engage in further social action projects.



The school's Christian vision enables all pupils to understand and celebrate diversity. The curriculum includes multi-cultural books and focus days such as for European languages where food, dance and art are celebrated. Everyone lives out the Christian value of respect. Adults are superb role models for pupils, and all are welcoming of anyone different to themselves.

Collective worship is a special moment in the daily life of the school. It is a time at the end of the day when all come together to stop, think and reflect. There is a sense of belonging, of being part of a loving family and of the protection it affords. There is an established and well-embedded format and routine. Each week the whole school, including the youngest children in nursery, learn about the same bible story. Worship with the two and three-year olds is a joy to behold. There is variety in worship so that everyone can access it in some way. Year 4 pupils regularly and confidently lead worship. Local clergy make an extremely valuable contribution. In addition, Messy Church, that pupils and parents attend together, which includes volunteers from four local churches, make regular visits. The Understanding Christianity big frieze is used to further enhance pupils' knowledge of the big story of the Bible. Events in the Christian calendar are included and there is good understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinity. Pupils learn about and have a beneficial understanding of events in the wider world. Some are inspired to research and help the world in their own way. Worship is timed intentionally at the end of the day so everyone can go forth and do good in the world. For example, after learning about the Last Supper, pupils were inspired to go forth and be a better and trustworthy friend to others.

RE has very high priority in school, is highly effective and means that, as one pupil said, 'we love RE'. Pupils flourish through effective curriculum planning and a wonderfully rich variety of learning activities provided by teachers. Pupils have a good understanding of the bible. Each classroom has an easily accessible copy of the Understanding Christianity big frieze. The curriculum is supplemented by events such as interfaith week, where pupils engage in exciting activities to learn about a range of religions. The major festivals of religions other than Christianity are celebrated. Pupils have a good understanding of and are very respectful towards different religions and worldviews. They know that not everyone has a faith and that it is a personal choice. Staff undertook training for the recently revised Northumberland syllabus for RE and are very carefully monitoring and evaluating its implementation. National requirements are met. The RE leader has well-embedded systems for monitoring and assessment and has quality information about the progress and attainment of pupils.

Grange View is a school that, through the Christian vision provides especially effectively for its pupils, for all who work there and for the village community. Everyone is encouraged to 'let their light shine brightly before others'. As one member of staff said, 'children and community are at the heart of what we do.'



Information			
School	Grange View Church of England First School, Widdrington	Inspection date	22 March 2023
URN	135634	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Durham;Newcastle	Pupils on roll	108
Headteacher	Louise Laskey		
Chair of Governors	Rebecca Griffin		
Inspector	Janet Tringham	No.	2134