

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Kirby Hill Church of England Primary School	
Address	Church Lane, Kirby Hill, Boroughbridge YO51 9DS
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>All things are possible for one who believes. Mark 9:23</p> <p>At Kirby Hill CE Primary School, we strive for all children to believe in themselves so that they can achieve their full potential and have high hopes and aspirations for the future.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationships and positive partnerships are key strengths of the school. There is effective support from the diocese, which enhances the impact of the vision. This Christian vision, and associated values, underpin the whole life of the school, helping all to flourish. Religious education (RE) is taught in a creative way, making RE real and alive. Opportunities for pupils to engage with all aspects of RE are plentiful. Pupils' joy and love of the subject is evident. Spiritual development is a strength. Pupils recognise the value of prayer and there are many opportunities for reflection and time to consider big questions. The views of all are valued. Pupils have a thorough understanding of diversity and show this in their interactions with others. Collective worship is the heart of this Church school. It is invitational and fully inclusive, offering everyone the occasion to engage. However, there are few opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship. Pupils access age-appropriate information about current world events. Involvement in the Young Leaders Award encourages some pupils in taking a lead in charitable activities. However, pupils have few opportunities to champion relevant causes or engage in social action beyond their local community.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure opportunities are provided so that pupils are fully involved in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship. This will allow pupils to develop their individual, spiritual growth. Extend pupils' awareness of global social justice beyond fundraising to empower them to be advocates for change. This is to enable them to have an impact beyond the local community.

Inspection findings

Inspired by the Christian vision, no pupil or adult go unnoticed in this small, rural school. The Christian vision ensures that all who enter this school know they can be the best version of themselves. One pupil stated, 'we all have faith in ourselves and God's love.' The Christian vision, its biblical roots and associated values, permeate the life of the school. They are understood and lived out by all. Key policies are shaped by the Christian vision. As a result, the school is a happy, safe place to work and learn. All staff are committed to the vision and are positive role models to pupils. This impacts on the strength of relationships, highlighting the inclusive nature of the school.

Governors ensure that a clear system of self-evaluation is in place. Leaders rigorously evaluate their effectiveness as a Church school through the school improvement cycle. Strong links with the diocese facilitate rapid and sustained improvement. Effective collaboration with the Ripon Rural Cluster of Church Schools provides support which is mutually beneficial. This relationship facilitates the school to continue to celebrate its own distinct Christian vision and values. The proactive governing body supports leaders in making decisions which allow all pupils to 'be the best' and reach their potential. This is clear in the bold financial decisions, which support the needs of specific pupils, allowing all to flourish.

Nurturing relationships are evident throughout the school. Parents deeply value how approachable staff are and the culture of care and compassion which comes directly from the vision. All adults and pupils are known and loved as the unique person they are. Parents spoke of the vision and values being 'ingrained and embedded'. The Christian values influence every decision made, inside and outside of school. Consequently, parents are confident pupils experience a rich and diverse environment which allows them to flourish as individuals.

The curriculum is deeply rooted in the Christian vision of the school. As a result, leaders ensure that all pupils have access to a broad perspective on life beyond the local community. The pupils are encouraged to challenge their thinking through using big questions and accessing young people's news programmes. As a result, pupils can debate and disagree well. Opportunities for rich discussion are woven throughout the school day, in the curriculum and school environment.

There are many examples of pupils supporting their local community through charitable works and speak of their decisions through the school council. However, wider opportunities to transform this enthusiasm into practical action are limited. This has meant that chances for pupils to independently explore global links are not always been identified or fully realised.

The vision is used as a vehicle to embrace and gain an understanding and respect for diversity. A study of the 'Long Walk To Freedom' by Nelson Mandela supports pupils in exploring challenging subjects such as racism. Carefully chosen literature, including books about Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks, deepen pupils' understanding of difference.

The living out of the vision impacts positively on pupil behaviour. Behaviour is exemplary throughout the school, characterised by genuine friendship and a care for others. Pupils understand and articulate this as being the result of the shared vision and values of the school. They demonstrate high expectations of themselves and their peers, resulting in a happy and supportive learning environment. Pupils feel safe when sharing their ideas. They know others will listen and they are always 'respectful of each other.'

Pupils are nurtured, and their spiritual development is supported through a lived vision. Reflection, invitations to prayer and open discussion in lessons, promote pupils' awareness of how they and others grow spiritually. This is securely understood by adults and pupils in the school. The governors and church are active in providing resources for the reflection areas in every classroom, this supports the vision into action. Everyone's understanding of how God can help shape the way they choose to live is

articulated well. The daily act of collective worship is highly valued by all, providing a moment of calm and peace. Worship is well planned and promotes the vision and values, allowing resources to be accessible to all. This ensures worship is relevant to the daily lives of the pupils and adults in the school. While the pupils value worship, there are limited opportunities for them to plan and lead it independently. Support from the vicar is beginning to develop pupils' understanding of church traditions, including the Eucharist. Pupils select items from the worship box which represent the Holy Trinity. This is helping to develop their understanding of the trinitarian nature of God by using a bible, cross and candle. Areas for reflection and 'wonder walls' in classrooms create opportunities for spontaneous prayer and moments of stillness. For example, younger pupils can choose to use the 'prayer phone' prop to have quiet, personal chats with God. Older pupils can leave a written prayer in their reflection areas. Prayer is used both formally and informally in the daily life of the school. The waterfall of forgiveness and prayer garden are areas pupils and staff are comfortable in using. One pupil reflected that the prayer garden was an area where if, 'having a moment, it allows you to be close to God when you need Him.' This rich provision promotes deep spiritual development.

RE is led with enthusiasm and creativity. This imaginative and practical approach to the teaching of RE is evident in class big books. A range of big questions within RE ensures a good breadth of knowledge and understanding of concepts. The well-planned curriculum meets the requirements of the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. Christianity is explored as a diverse, living worldwide faith. The range of activities to allow inclusivity is impressive. The school facilitates frequent opportunities for pupils to explore major world religions. Workshops led by Muslim and Hindu visitors, allow pupils to develop their understanding. Encouragement for pupils of other faiths to share their experiences is welcomed and celebrated.

'All things are possible for one who believes' echoes through everything that the school does. All staff are passionate about the vision and determined to ensure everyone who walks through the doors of Kirby Hill are 'loved until they can be their best.'

Information			
School	Kirby Hill Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	29 March 2023
URN	121504	VC	VC
Diocese/District	Leeds	Pupils on roll	103
Headteacher	Emma Lowe		
Chair of Governors	Laura Angus		
Inspector	Ashleigh Lees	No.	c.21/22