

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St George's CofE Primary School, Barrow-in-Furness	
Address	Salthouse Road, LA14 2DX
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
'Life in all its Fullness' (John 10:10). Through Jesus' promise of 'Life in all its Fullness' we seek growth and flourishing for our school community. People of all faiths and loves, or none. To wish the same fullness for others, wherever and whoever they are. God's love is unconditional but he expects us to try.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspired by the distinctive Christian vision and its associated values, leaders and staff ensure that St George's is a place of love and hope. Lives are changed for the good through the investment staff make to create a culture of aspiration underpinned with equity of provision. This permeates throughout the school and the impact can be transformational on pupils and their families. Exemplary pastoral care enriches the lives of pupils and families, all are known and cared for as the unique person they are. Living out the words of the vision, staff and governors go the extra mile to ensure barriers to flourishing are removed. Pupils experience meaningful moments of awe, wonder and reflection which enhance the spiritual development of all. The extent to which adults and pupils have a shared language of spirituality is less consistent. Collective worship provides valued time for reflection on biblical stories and to consider how this might inspire them to challenge injustice. Leaders accurately identify the need to ensure consistency across class-based worship and broaden pupils' understanding of the Church's year. Creative learning opportunities within the religious education (RE) curriculum enhance pupils' understanding of a range of world faiths including Christianity. Although pupils demonstrate knowledge of some biblical stories, further opportunities exist to enhance this through critical engagement with biblical text.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a shared language of spirituality exists throughout the school to enrich the spiritual flourishing of all. Further develop links with the local church community. This is to strengthen the way collective worship widens pupils' knowledge of the Church year. Enhance pupils' opportunities within RE to extend the breadth of their biblical knowledge through occasions to critically engage with text.

Inspection findings

Lives are transformed at St George's through the way the Christian vision inspires a culture of hope and aspiration. Leaders and staff reshape these words of hope into practical actions. The positive impact of this is felt throughout the whole community and is life-changing. The school stands as a place of hope and a beacon for embracing challenges. Leaders speak with commitment about the way their vision of 'life in its fullness' is relevant within, and beyond, the school. This clarity of purpose from leaders, governors and staff drives their decisions and policies, bringing a culture of ambitiousness for all.

Where some parents lack confidence, the school provides a safe space in which they know their voice will be heard. Staff warmly welcome all who come through the gates each morning. This enables them to identify those that might have a problem and ensures a personalised response. This valued time of welcoming establishes open and warm communication, creating, what parents call, a sense of 'family'. To ensure pupils have the best start to the day, the school runs a popular breakfast club. Inspirational actions from leaders enable pupils to access a wide variety of extra-curricular sporting activities. Where pupils are unable to attend, the school provides transportation so all benefit from the range of additional experiences. In doing this, leaders create a culture of equity which goes beyond equality. It is through staff's desire for equity of opportunity that pupils at St George's encounter 'life in its fullness.'

Inspired by the teachings of Jesus, staff model servant leadership where the needs of pupils and families are paramount. This is articulated in the simplest of phrases that 'they matter', however the impact of these words is profound. Pupils considered to be vulnerable, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive high level support. Parents speak of staff who 'go that extra mile' for them and their children. This positively impacts pupils' academic development as well as their good mental health, wellbeing and resilience. Bold decisions by governors extend the access that families have to specialist staff. Governors clearly articulate how this is inspired by the distinctively Christian vision and their eagerness that all flourish.

Nurturing and caring relationships abound throughout the school. Values, which flow from the vision, provide a language for pupils which guide their choices. This is reflected in the warm way that they learn and play together. Where problems occur, the Christian vision and its associated values empower pupils to demonstrate forgiveness. In lessons, they engage well with their work within a joyful learning environment. A culture of respect and acceptance permeates throughout the school. All are treasured as the unique person they are. Pupils share how their care for one another is linked to the school's values and understanding of stories from the Bible. Their reflections on the way that the injured person felt in the story of the Good Samaritan, inspires them to show kindness. School is actively working to further develop pupils' knowledge of biblical stories. This is to extend the connections they are able to make between their actions and the teachings of Jesus.

Worship provides meaningful moments of reflection for adults and pupils. Harvest, Christmas and other key Christian festivals are celebrated in the local church. These services are richly valued by all. Parents speak about how they feel proud of their children and how special these shared moments are for them. School has a very close relationship with the local church and is keen to strengthen this further. Leaders actively listen to feedback from pupils about worship to ensure it enriches their spirituality. Following changes made through the pandemic, leaders have retained class-based worship in place of whole school daily gatherings. This is valued by pupils and ensures that worship is age-appropriate. Leaders understand the need to ensure consistency across this. They are committed to extending the

breadth of the way it reflects the Anglican year. Collective worship is a powerful expression of the school's Christian vision. Listening to the Bible story of the feeding of the 5000, pupils demonstrate how they can link this to their value of compassion. Pupils describe how 'life in its fullness' relates to those throughout the world as well as their own school. They are naturally drawn to reflect on how they can help others. Pupils are eager to further extend their work as social agents of change in the wider world. Some meaningful opportunities to challenge injustice are evident including a close link the school has established with a community in South Africa.

Without compulsion, adults and pupils enjoy times of quiet and reflection. Pupils are confident in spontaneously praying aloud the words that they have written. These moments of reflection enhance worship for all. Adults and pupils share how times of stillness such as standing by Coniston Water give valued time just 'to be'. Opportunities for curiosity and engaging with the natural world provide a rich stimulus for spiritual development in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Pupils and adults speak of the profound impact that moments of awe and wonder have on them. The way in which all can articulate a shared understanding of spirituality is less developed. Whilst opportunities exist within the broader curriculum to enrich personal spirituality, the way this is explicitly planned is less secure.

The creative RE curriculum enhances pupils' knowledge and understanding Christianity as a living world faith. Pupils are eager to reflect on 'big questions' which stimulate their thinking. RE provides meaningful opportunities for them to develop their understanding of a range of world faiths. Leaders actively seek to further enhance opportunities for all to visit a variety of places of worship. This is to enrich pupils' understanding of the impact of faith on society and culture. They have access to Bibles and demonstrate knowledge of some biblical stories. Opportunities to extend this exist through increased critical engagement with biblical text. RE is well-led and provides a safe space for pupils to discuss faith. The invaluable partnership with Carlisle Diocese education team develops staff knowledge, provides valued support and enhances the effectiveness of RE and worship.

At the heart of St George's is an overwhelming commitment that all pupils should have equity in learning and opportunities. Through the transformative actions of leaders and staff, guided by the Christian vision, barriers to learning are broken down. Consequently, St George's shines like a beacon of hope in the community, bringing the possibility, to all, of 'life in all its fullness.'

Information			
School	St George's CofE Primary School, Barrow-in-Furness	Inspection date	25 May 2023
URN	112289	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Carlisle	Pupils on roll	254
Headteacher	Steve Herbert		
Chair of Governors	Amey Sim		
Inspector	Paul Rusby	No.	938