

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Patrick's Church of England School	
Address	Gatebeck Road, Endmoor, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 0HH
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
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Requires Improvement

School's vision
<p>We want every child to feel valued and cared for and to understand that they are special to God, so that they can explore the world confidently, showing tolerance and respect towards others and with all the knowledge and skills needed to have a fulfilling life.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The headteacher leads by example to create a highly inclusive school in which pupils and adults are valued and cared for. This in turn leads to pupils treating each other with respect, tolerance and care. • The school's Christian vision drives the strategic decisions made by school leaders, including governors. The impact is monitored to ensure pupils and adults flourish. • St Patrick's offers a broad range of opportunities for pupils, including opportunities for spiritual development. These help pupils to grow in confidence and give them the skills needed to have a fulfilling life. A clear understanding of spiritual development is not shared across the school. • Pupils and adults value collective worship as a time to be still, worship and be together as a school family. Relationships with the local church have supported worship to be creative and supportive in pupils living well together. • Pupils are keen to discuss and debate big philosophical questions in religious education (RE). They do not always have the key knowledge secured to enable them to do this.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the key knowledge to be learned in each RE unit so that pupils are able to communicate key religious ideas securely and accurately. • Bring together the opportunities that exist in school to form a shared understanding of spiritual development for all. This will enable staff to plan progressively deeper and wider experiences. • Identify opportunities for pupils to use their now confident voices to influence their local, national and global communities so that they become courageous advocates for change.

Inspection findings

St Patrick's School is a happy and highly inclusive school where pupils and adults are valued and cared for as unique individuals who are special to God.

The school's work to achieve this is rooted in strategic decision making and daily action. As one pupil keenly shared, 'I am loved here, always.' In turn, pupils show this care, tolerance and respect to one another. They have a clear understanding of how to live well together and speak articulately about the importance of forgiveness and 'accepting people for who they are.' Behaviour in and around school is exemplary and vulnerable pupils are supported extremely well to achieve this.

Pupils, staff and parents know that they are deeply cared for by the school's authentic headteacher. Her dedicated work has ensured that barriers have been overcome and there is a strong sense that 'children are the main priority here.' The school has proactively sourced the support of external agencies and formed highly effective partnerships with parents. Leaders have been relentless in securing the most appropriate provision for pupils with special educational needs and in ensuring that pupils transition well to secondary school. This school is a place where vulnerable pupils are not just accepted, they flourish.

St Patrick's is a small school not limited by size. The school offers a broad and engaging range of opportunities to meet the needs of learners as individuals. The school is keen for pupils to experience the wider world beyond their small village. Educational visits and the school's curriculum provision are carefully planned. Pupils are confident and articulate as a result of this vision-driven work. They are keen to share their ideas and tackle injustice in the world around them. Pupils, including the most vulnerable, now have the firm belief that they can and should make a difference. Currently, pupils do not have a range of opportunities to make their voice and impact heard and felt in their communities.

School leaders are clear about what flourishing looks like at St Patrick's and have made conscious decisions to enable this to occur. Governors and the headteacher have ensured that evaluation and monitoring is driven by the school's Christian vision. These actions have brought about meaningful improvement and identified key areas to continue to develop the school further. Clear and strategic planning has ensured consistency for school development and accountability through very recent changes to the governing body.

Pupils of all ages are clearly excited by the school's recently revised religious education (RE) curriculum. They are clear that the subject is important as it helps them to 'understand other people more.' They relish the opportunity to learn about global faiths, including Christianity. RE has helped them to develop a greater understanding of different worldviews and pupils demonstrate a high level of respect for these differences. The curriculum does not currently identify the key knowledge and vocabulary needed to be successful at each stage. Therefore, opportunities are missed to support pupils in accurately demonstrating their understanding.


The headteacher has been proactive in her work with others to strengthen the school, including sustaining links with the diocesan education team. She has identified key professional development to meet the current needs of the school. The headteacher has nurtured a strong relationship with the local church community which is highly valued. Their collaborative work has helped to ensure that St Patrick's is a school that lies at the heart of its local community. In return, this reciprocal relationship has enriched the life of the local church and its congregation.

Links with the local church have also enriched worship which is creative and engaging. Pupils and adults are highly engaged and value the opportunity to 'stop and think and wonder.' Pupils are keen to explain how the values explored in worship help them in their everyday life. For example, through sharing ideas about courage in worship, pupils have been inspired to have difficult conversations and try new activities.

Pupils particularly enjoy using drama to bring the stories of the Bible to life. They are keen to take a more active role in leading worship. This has been recognised by school leaders who have begun to offer these opportunities in the Christmas and Easter services at the local church. Plans have been shared with governors to develop this further.

Opportunities for spiritual development exist across school and are varied in nature. Pupils are not afraid to wrestle with the ‘big questions’ of life and have equal opportunities to reflect on themselves and their own experiences and feelings. The school’s counselling group has provided a safe space for pupils to explore their emotions and ideas in a supportive and creative way. As a result, the pupils involved have improved their social skills and confidence. The school’s outside reflection area is frequently used by pupils who value the chance to be quiet and take time to think. Older pupils support younger pupils in using this area well. There is not a shared understanding of the school’s approach to spiritual development amongst all leaders, staff and pupils. Consequently, opportunities are missed to monitor the effectiveness of provision and ensure opportunities are progressively deeper and wider.

The school’s vision and values permeate the whole school community, ensuring all flourish. This has resulted in a school family that ‘celebrates and cries together’ and a community of people who genuinely grow in each other’s company. St Patrick’s Church of England School is ambitious for the future and keen to build on current good practice.

	The effectiveness of RE is	Requires Improvement	
	Through the school’s recently revised RE curriculum, pupils have the opportunity to engage with key theological ideas from a range of faiths and are keen to do so. Key knowledge and vocabulary needed at each stage is not clearly identified and pupils’ religious literacy is not secure. RE is highly valued by pupils who are inquisitive and respectful in their discussions.		
Information			
School	St Patrick’s Church of England School	Inspection date	28 April 2023
URN	112318	VC/VA/Academy	VA
Diocese	Carlisle	Pupils on roll	70
MAT/Federation	N/A		
Headteacher	Suzanne Edmondson		
Chair of Governors	Mark Hamblett		
Inspector	Vikki Wilson	No.	C.21/22