

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>Leven Valley Church of England Primary School, Ulverston</b>	
Address	Backbarrow, Ulverston, LA12 8QF
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)	Good

School's vision
<p>Our aim is to provide an all embracing and inspiring education nurturing the whole child. We have strong values of self-belief, personal aspiration and consideration for all. By taking advantage of the unique opportunities of our Christian character, community and environment we prepare and equip each individual child for their journey into the world.</p> <p>1 Cor 12:14 "For the body is not one member, but many."</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders, including governors, know the school well and are deeply invested in the life of the school. They demonstrate a clear understanding of the way that the vision inspires their ethical actions and decisions. Consequently, pupils and adults have the opportunity to flourish through a vision which ensures that 'everyone is on board.'</li> <li>• Leven Valley is a joyful and happy school. Lives are enriched through a naturally occurring culture of care. Relationships are enhanced as pupils and adults feel known and loved as the unique individual they are. This powerfully lives out the sense of the vision of all being different parts of one body.</li> <li>• Reflection spaces are carefully placed throughout the school. Together with spontaneous learning experiences within the curriculum, they provide pupils with opportunities to encounter meaningful moments of reflection. This enhances their spiritual development. The extent to which adults and pupils have a shared language of spirituality is less consistent.</li> <li>• Collective worship, which is both adult and pupil led, provides valued moments for all to gather together as one body. In doing so it is a powerful expression of the school's distinctively Christian vision.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) is exceptionally well-led. A creative curriculum is thoughtfully planned to ensure it is relevant to the context of the school. Leaders are keen to further enhance pupils' understanding of world faiths through first-hand experiences.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further develop a shared language of spirituality throughout the school to enrich the spiritual flourishing of all.</li> <li>• Strengthen pupils' breadth of knowledge of worldviews and religions, including how Christianity is a global faith. This is to enhance their understanding of the connection of faith with life in modern Britain.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

The distinctively Christian vision, known and understood by leaders, including governors, binds everyone together and underpins life at Leven Valley. Adults and pupils describe how the vision helps them to feel part of 'one body', which celebrates the uniqueness of all. Individual gifts and talents are celebrated within a culture of encouragement and aspiration. This naturally, and powerfully, ensures a sense of togetherness and unity is felt throughout the school. Joyful interaction between adults and pupils of all ages exemplifies this. The vision is the lens through which committed and active governors ensure their actions enhance the Christian foundation of the school. Bold and ethical decisions demonstrate leaders' deep rooted care of the natural world. This directly inspires pupils to actively consider how their actions impact on the environment. Consequently, adults and pupils challenge injustice and global issues such as climate change and the exploitation of the natural world. Proactive work in developing an environmentally sustainable school is deep-rooted in a biblical understanding of caring for God's creation. Leaders' knowledge and understanding of this is generously shared with other schools, ensuring its impact is felt beyond themselves.

A palpable atmosphere of calm and joyfulness permeates throughout the school. This is modelled by leaders and lived out by all. Many parents speak warmly about how accessible staff are and how this ensures when problems occur, they are swiftly dealt with. Wellbeing is a priority area for leaders. Highly efficient communication systems, investment in technology and careful listening, reduce potential areas of stress which enhances wellbeing. The impact of this is evident in exceptionally high staff morale and happy pupils. At the heart of the school are caring relationships which stem from the words of the vision about 'nurturing the whole child.' Support for pupils identified as vulnerable and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) enhances lives. Through this, and a holistic understanding of individuals' needs, all flourish at Leven Valley. Leaders' ambitiousness in terms of the curriculum, the learning environment and extra-curricular experiences expands the horizon of possibility for pupils and staff.

Collective worship is a meaningful time for all to gather. Pupils enjoy leading worship and opportunities to share Bible readings, prayers and carefully selected questions to include their peers. Together with adults, they describe a sense of togetherness in worship and how this links to the vision of being 'one body.' Members of local churches enrich worship through a clear sense of commitment to the school. They are an active presence and make a difference as they invest time in getting to know the pupils and staff. Their work in leading worship and in governance is deeply valued and significantly enhances the Christian foundation of the school. Pupils demonstrate an understanding of Anglican tradition such as colours of the Church year. There are some elements of inconsistency, for instance in their depth of understanding of why Holy Communion is important to Christians. Leaders are eager, and proactive, in seeking to involve local clergy within their ambitious vision for Leven Valley as a Church school. Opportunities for the local area to join in worship called 'Everyone Together' unites the whole community. Leaders monitor the effectiveness of the impact of worship and respond to this which ensures it is continually evolving and developing. Extra-curricular activities such as 'Bible Detectives' further strengthen pupil's biblical knowledge. Adults describe worship as an 'oasis' providing valuable time for them to stop and think during a busy day. Collective worship provides meaningful moments for the spiritual development of all through time for reflection and invitational prayer. Spirituality is enhanced through sensitive provision of quiet areas in the school grounds, places to experience stillness within the beauty of nature. Opportunities to consider awe and wonder are implicit within the curriculum and wider experiences such as residential. Time for pupils to immerse




themselves in their 'Wild Wood' and woodland areas grows their spirituality. The way that they express their experiences are variable as there is not a shared language of spirituality throughout the school. Leaders recognise this and seek to develop this to compliment the provision they have made for spiritual flourishing.

Inspired by the vision, a mutually beneficial partnership with the local community enhances the lives of adults and pupils. This develops a sense of belonging and expands the living of the words of the vision to beyond the school itself. Leven Valley is at the very heart of the community. As an outpouring of their understanding of being a good neighbour, leaders ensure that the excellent facilities they have enrich the lives of those within the community. The school's decision to open their dining hall so the local post office can use it brings people of all ages together. This principled and outward facing decision provides those who are lonely with an invaluable space to meet. In doing so leaders describe how the vision-inspired notion of 'one body' extends beyond the school itself.

RE is well-led by a subject specialist. A creative curriculum based on the Carlisle Diocese scheme, supplemented by other resources inspires and motivates pupils in RE. Partnerships with the diocese are valued, providing training, challenge and support to develop as a Church school. They display a good understanding of Bible teaching and stories although their knowledge of Christianity as a global religion is less consistent. Pupils can articulate what the Christian teaching of the Trinity is. Through learning about a breadth of worldviews and religions, pupils extend their understanding of diversity and difference. Plans to enrich this further by visits to local places of worship are in place. Leaders accurately feel these are an important expansion of pupils' experiences in developing pupils' first-hand experience of diversity. A culture of acceptance of everyone's differences is evident in the positive relationships which are evident throughout school. Carefully planned and effective systems are in place to enable teachers to know what pupils are learning in RE. Pupils enjoy RE and speak about how it is a safe space to talk and listen to each other about beliefs and views.

Alongside the vision, the school motto of 'everyone on board' enhances their understanding of a sense of 'oneness.' Through calm, ethical leadership, rooted in biblical teaching, and lived out in nurturing relationships; all feel a sense of unity. Lived out through the Christian vision, this is a loving school where all are equipped for their 'journey into the world.'



	The effectiveness of RE is		Good	
	<p>Leven Valley's balanced and creatively planned RE curriculum enhances learning as it is relevant to the context of the school. The curriculum provides valued moments to reflect on big questions and engage critically with religious texts. Through this, and consistently high levels of teaching, pupils make good progress. This includes pupils considered to be vulnerable and those who have SEND. The breadth of the curriculum enhances pupils' knowledge and understanding of worldviews and religions, including Christianity.</p>			
Information				
School	Leven Valley Church of England Primary School, Ulverston	Inspection date	16 June 2023	
URN	112356	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	Carlisle	Pupils on roll	65	
Headteacher	Ian Nicol			
Chair of Governors	Andy Alan			
Inspector	Paul Rusby	No.	938	