

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

The Primary School of St Mary & St Martin, Blyth	
Address	Retford Road, Blyth, Worksop, S81 8ER
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
Let your light shine' (Matthew 5:16) The entire school community feel passionate about our vision. We encourage everyone to 'Let your light shine!' Achievement is not just academic, but developing the whole child, regardless of ability or background, We are child-centred and aim to deliver an inspiring curriculum. The Christian character of the school, and our Christian values, have an impact across the school and in the wider community, where all can flourish and "reflect the love of God shown in Jesus Christ"
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the exceptionally committed staff raise pupils' hopes, progress and aspirations. The vision underpins all decision-making. God and sharing his love are at the heart of this school. • The school's vision ensures that all the school community can shine. All flourish because they are empowered to be hopeful about the future. Opportunities for spiritual development however are sometimes missed. • A whole-hearted commitment to inclusion ensures that all pupils are able to shine and enjoy life in all its fullness. • Collective worship is valued, biblical and affirming. It influences the lives of pupils and staff, enabling all to flourish. Older pupils benefit from strong leadership opportunities to plan, lead or evaluate collective worship. Not all pupils have these opportunities. • Religious education (RE) makes a profound difference to the lives of pupils. They are excited and inspired to learn. Opportunities for them to engage in big questions contribute to their knowledge. Pupils have positive attitudes to diversity. However, opportunities to explore a range of cultures other than their own are missed.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and extend spiritual opportunities to enable clear and meaningful progression that is understood by all. • Embed ways for pupils in different age groups to plan, lead and evaluate collective worship, thus deepening their engagement. • Extend expertise in RE with innovative approaches to teaching diversity. This to further strengthen the impact of the vision beyond the school gates.



Inspection findings

It is obvious as soon as you enter St Mary and St Martin's that this is a vibrant, loving community. Each individual pupil is valued as a child of God. The Christian vision, together with the values is making a meaningful contribution to school life.

This is a caring community where pupils are well known and supported by every member of the staff team. The vision as an inclusive Church school values everyone and allows all to let their light shine. This is communicated in the beautiful displays and reflection areas around the school. Pupils understand the importance of the distinctly Christian values and live these out daily. Adults consistently flourish as part of this community feeling valued and loved.

Family, friendship and faith are evident in all aspects of the school. Leaders put the Christian vision at the heart of all decisions made. This ensures that all pupils make good progress and achieve their aspirations. The community is extremely strong in their support and love for each other. Pupils appreciate the depth of pastoral care offered as part of their partnership with the Church. This enhances wellbeing and promotes flourishing. Parents rightly speak very highly of the staff team and commented that this is 'their second family'. They fully understand the vision. Staff and pupil wellbeing are high on the leadership agenda.

Through close working and good communications, the school family is sustained and flourishing. Prayer and reflection is central to school life. Examples include the lighting of candles during times of reflection or children leading prayers at the end of collective worship. Opportunities for spiritual growth and to experience awe and wonder are being developed. The vision is understood well by pupils who apply it to their learning through the creative subject areas. This encourages them to be courageous and take risks. As a result, there is a real love of learning and pupils flourish academically.

Pupils blossom during their time at St Mary and St Martin's because of the carefully considered range of opportunities for their character development. Head boy and girl, caring for creation club, well-being buddies and eco club give them significant roles of responsibility. Y11 pupils returning from their secondary school to watch videos of their lives at St Mary and St Martin's. Shaping their development ready for their next steps. All these allow pupils' to be powerful advocates for change within and outside the school community. For example, bake sales for the MacMillan Coffee Morning and donations for the local foodbank. These allow pupils' to be powerful advocates for change within and outside the school community. For example, bake sales for the MacMillan Coffee Morning and donations for the local foodbank. As well as support for Shelter, Barnado's and Bassetlaw Hospital, really instigating social action for many people. Celebrating success is pivotal. This can be seen in the weekly celebration assemblies. Pupils receive certificates for living out the vision and values which are greatly appreciated by all.

Parents rightly explain the school's strength in providing appropriate challenge for their children, as they 'understand how they thrive'.

Reflection areas are well-used. For example, pupils respond creatively to the spaces which focus on the words of the vision, 'let your light shine'. They benefit from rich learning experiences. Staff approach class teaching, upheld by the vision, with a 'can do' attitude. They share subject knowledge regularly and this approach ensures that colleagues feel valued and can flourish professionally. The reflection garden, beautifully designed by pupils has added a prayer net which is very well used by pupils. They say it allows them to consider the wonders of God's creation. Learning and working in the outdoor areas makes a rich contribution to reflection and the development of prayers. Pupils say that they are looking forward to developing this further. The Eco club is eager to look after God's world and work



in the community to clear litter.


The deeply committed leaders plan for coherence between the school's vision and associated Christian values. Respect, peace, kindness, resilience, faith and hope are linked well to worship and RE. The carefully considered curriculum recognises the need for pupils to be 'forward looking' in preparation for a bigger world. Plans to enrich the pupils' experiences, knowledge and understanding of diversity through the curriculum are not yet fully embedded. Class teachers employ teaching and learning techniques of the highest quality to make RE lessons interactive and inspirational. Thoughtful and flexible planning allows pupils to make connections between the vision and a growing understanding of the Christian faith. They discuss issues together and explore connections such as those between God and love. The freedom to think things through and express their learning in separate ways is appreciated by the children. Consequently, the RE lesson is a highlight of the week.

Collective worship is inclusive and invitational. It plays a leading role in deepening pupils' understanding of the vision and what this looks like in daily life. Pupils explain that exploring Christian values helps them to see what letting their light shine looks like. Key themes developed at the start of the week are explored further in worship. This leads to pupils acting or changing how they might do something. Bible stories are acted out and pupils enjoy these times so much that they can remember them in detail. The whole community sings with great enthusiasm and energising joy pervades. As they are secure and confident, Y6 pupils lead the whole school in spontaneous prayerful responses to worship. Reflection times are as well as time ingrained back in the classroom for discussions. Therefore, worship becomes relevant for everyone and effectively impacts on spiritual and moral growth. Pupils have an age-appropriate understanding of the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

They enjoy worship and are keen to be more involved in planning, evaluating and leading it for the whole school. The strong relationships with the Church and their involvement in leading worship regularly are also contributing to the success of the vision in supporting all to flourish. Pupils are inspired by the teachings of Jesus and are encouraged to contemplate what the parables and stories mean to them. For example the parable of the Good Samaritan encourages them to look after each other in the playground.

Strong relationships and living well together are key characteristics of the school. Inspired by the vision and the life of St Mary and St Martin's, this is a place where all are encouraged to 'shine' bright. They express that this enables them to be their very best selves. The kind and unwavering love and care, created by the strong family community, means that pupils and staff feel valued and can flourish.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Good
	<p>Leaders are passionate about the subject. They enthusiastically shares its underlying theology and philosophy with staff. High expectations lead to clear priorities and actions for improvement. Rigorous monitoring of the effectiveness of RE, provides time to challenge and extend staff's knowledge and expertise. As a result data and evidence in pupils' books, demonstrate a rapid progression of skills, knowledge and progress.</p>		
Information			
School	The Primary School of St Mary & St Martin, Blyth	Inspection date	26 June 2023
URN	122796	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided
Diocese/District	Southwell & Nottingham	Pupils on roll	118
Headteacher	Sarah Preston		
Chair of Governors	George Rice		
Inspector	Elaine Bowers	No.	960