



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Norton-In-Hales Church of England Primary School	
Address	Main Road, Norton-in-Hales, Market Drayton, TF9 4AT
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>'You are a child of God. You are wonderfully made, dearly loved and precious in his sight. Before God made you, he knew you. There is no one else like you.' Psalm 139.</p> <p>Respect, Determination, Kindness, Courage and Enthusiasm.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision inspires leaders, including governors, in their deep, purposeful commitment to this good Church school. This leads to practices and experiences that enable adults and pupils to flourish. However, monitoring of the school's distinctiveness as a Church school lacks rigour and regularity. • Pupils thrive because their learning engages, excites and encourages them to be inquisitive, independent and aspirational. This includes pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). • Relationships are a significant strength of this small, nurturing school community. Care, respect and dignity shine through. Each person is recognised and treated as uniquely made in the image of God. • Joyful, engaging, collective worship is thoughtfully and thoroughly planned. It provides numerous opportunities for prayer and reflection each day. However, opportunities for pupils to plan, lead and evaluate worship are underdeveloped. • Religious education (RE) lessons support deep and meaningful learning for all pupils in their mixed-age settings. However, feedback does not always inform pupils of their progress or of how to improve their work.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinststate robust procedures for evaluating the school as a distinctively Christian community. This is so that the impact of the Christian vision in enabling all to flourish is enhanced. • Develop the role of pupils in planning, leading and evaluating worship so that opportunities for deeper spiritual development are maximised. • In RE, revise how pupils receive feedback on their learning. This is so that pupils are better informed of the progress they are making and can flourish in their learning.



Inspection findings

The Christian vision and associated values are at the heart of Norton-in-Hales school. Leaders, including new governors, deeply understand the biblically inspired and collaboratively developed Christian vision. It informs decision making and shapes policies and practices. However, systems to monitor its impact are not sufficiently regular or robust to drive continuous improvement as a Church school. The implementation of the vision encourages adults and pupils to be aspirational and use their God-given abilities, talents and skills to reach their potential. For adults, this includes accessing regular training and development to enhance their professional knowledge, expertise and understanding of Church schools. Consequently, adults confidently address the needs of pupils enabling them to flourish, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually. The school enjoys strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with the local church, the neighbouring community, the diocese and networks of other small schools. This successfully extends and enriches the opportunities and experiences of both adults and pupils.

Pupils enjoy attending school because adults, respond to the challenge of the Christian vision. This ensures that each day is inviting, challenging, exciting and captures enthusiasm. Deftly organised learning encourages pupils, working in their mixed-age classes, to receive encouragement and be inquisitive, independent and determined learners. This is empowering them to flourish. A rich, constantly expanding programme of visits, visitors and extra activities, promotes pupils' curiosity and cultural awareness. It responds to the interests, talents and needs of pupils, including those with SEND. Particularly through additional activities, pupils experience moments of wonderment that enable their spiritual growth. Arrangements for spiritual development within planned learning are less developed. In this school, no one is invisible. Everyone is encouraged to recognise, celebrate, value and nurture each adult and pupil as a unique child of God. Parents unanimously appreciate the impact of the vision, because the care, and attention given to pupils, extends to the whole family.

Inspired by the Christian vision, adults carefully nurture pupils' character and moral development. They actively encourage pupils to express their opinions and to be leaders within the school community. As such, there are a significant number of pupil leadership roles and opportunities available, especially to older pupils. Pupils receive support to develop a sense of responsibility and stewardship that considers local, national and international issues. This leads to pupils appreciating the need for justice and equality for all, in order for society to treat people as children of God. Bug hotels and schemes of planting encourage pupils' care of God's world. Understanding the plight of Ukraine and deciding to fundraise and provide for Ukrainian refugees is an example of how pupils appreciate their ability to make a difference. They are confident that they can be courageous and effect change.

Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. They are polite, friendly and effortlessly show kindness, care and consideration to adults and each other. They associate their actions with the ambition of the school's Christian vision. They make references to the example of Jesus, as well as their adult role models. This leads to a happy, harmonious and unified community. Pupils appreciate that disagreements occur but, when they do, they experience and pursue reconciliation and fresh starts. The school's openness and welcome encourages parents to engage in helpful, honest conversations that contribute to the wellbeing of their children. The impressive home and school partnership is a visible sign of the Christian vision making an impact upon all. Adults are keenly aware of those pupils who require additional support to maintain their emotional and mental health. Simple, discrete systems empower pupils to share their feelings with adults. Pupils realise that by asking for support they become happier,



calmer and ultimately more resilient.

Respectful relationships are a significant strength of this welcoming school community. The impact of both the Christian vision and associated values of kindness and courage permeate policies and practices. This enables each person to flourish. Rich learning opportunities and the strong approach to personal wellbeing ensure pupils have a respectful appreciation of diversity, difference and individuality. Pupils generously welcome new members to their community, quickly including them in their friendship groups. They know how to stay safe, including online, because adults enable them to be so and encourage them to look after each other. Pupils recognise, form and contribute to, positive friendships doing so cheerfully, kindly and with great enthusiasm and success. This adds to the feeling of confidence for individuals and harmony for all.

Inspired by the Christian vision, collective worship contributes significantly to the spiritual enrichment of adults and pupils. It is varied, reflects the Christian calendar and responds to ongoing needs and current issues locally and beyond. Without compulsion, it includes all members of the school community in daily moments of quiet reflection and contemplation. Drama, music and prayer bring the Bible to life for all present. Prayers, both formal and informal, promote personal and community worship. Pupils confidently participate in worship, but do not have sufficient opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate it. Visits to church for special celebrations, bring joy to both school and parish communities, cementing their deepening relationship. A parent commented that church services meaningfully enhance pupils' understanding of the importance of Christmas and Easter as 'not merely about presents and eggs'. Using words, candles, the Bible and a cross, simple routines encourage all in understanding Christian worship and the Anglican tradition. The Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is familiar to pupils who can also explain its significance. Adult led classroom worship encourages pupils to work together to reflect upon key themes. They are encouraged to consider how the messages of worship can come alive in their families and communities. Class reflection books capture thoughts, concerns and responses. Pupils appreciate their classroom worship tables as focal points for prayer and reflection.

Pupils enjoy and engage in their learning in RE. Thought provoking programmes of study meet statutory requirements. They enable pupils to learn about Christianity, a range of world faiths and worldviews. A 'big questions' approach, successfully encourages pupils to dig deeper and unearth answers. As a result, pupils can confidently explain key knowledge about a number of religions. Religious vocabulary is used confidently and accurately both orally and in written responses. Christian and Muslim visitors bring religion and religious practice to life. Additional to building pupils' secure religious knowledge and understanding, this successfully extends their appreciation of Britain as religiously and culturally diverse. Teachers involve pupils in conversations about their learning in RE. However, feedback does not always inform pupils of the progress they are making.

At Norton-in-Hales school the Christian vision empowers the community to confidently walk and work together with one heart.



Information			
School	Norton-In-Hales Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	17 March 2023
URN	123491	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Lichfield	Pupils on roll	82
Headteacher	Angela Alkureishi		
Chair of Governors	Richard Wakelin		
Inspector	Fiona Ashton	No.	860