

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bilsborrow John Cross Church of England Primary School	
Address	Garstang Road, Bilsborrow, Preston, PR3 0RE
School vision	
<p>‘Believe and Achieve’ ‘Life in All its Fullness’ John 10:10</p> <p>Following in the footsteps of our founder John Cross, we are committed to providing a loving, Christian family school, based on mutual love, respect and co-operation. A safe and stimulating learning environment will enable pupils to believe and achieve now and in the future.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's Christian vision sits at the heart of school life. It is well-understood by leaders and deeply rooted in the history of the community. The vision underpins and drives life at every level enabling pupils and adults to grow and flourish. • Inspired by living a 'life in all its fullness', leaders actively create a school culture of inclusivity and equity. Through the vision, the wellbeing of everyone is a high priority, pupils and adults are valued for who they are. • Worship provides calm and reflective opportunities for personal spirituality. The school's distinctive Christian vision and shared values are embedded in collective worship. Pupils and adults value the time to come together as one in collective worship. • Partnerships support the Christian vision and are mutually beneficial. This includes working closely with the local church and families which enriches Church school life. These enable pupils to develop their talents in a variety of ways. • Effective leadership in Religious Education (RE) has established a well-sequenced and balanced curriculum. It develops knowledge and understanding of major world religions. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed a shared definition and common language for spirituality, to further enrich the flourishing of pupils and adults. • Ensure that the RE curriculum is structured to help pupils retain knowledge and understanding of world religions and worldviews over time. • Develop pupils' ability to explore injustice and inequality. This is so they may understand how they can influence positive change in the world around them. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The vision for the school is historically rooted in the teachings and principles exemplified by its founder, John Cross. He provided in his will 'for the education ... in reading, writing and the principles of the Christian Religion...'. This was in 1718. Today, leaders provide a loving, Christian family school where mutual love, respect, and cooperation are at the heart of it. This is inspired by the school's Christian vision and underpinned by living 'life in all its fullness' John 10:10. The impact</p>	

of the vision and values is evident in the strong sense of unity, compassion, and trust. Pupils, staff, parents, and partners actively contribute to a nurturing and inclusive atmosphere where these values are upheld. As a result, the school provides high quality learning, care and support. This means pupils and adults are able to flourish because all are included and given equal opportunity to learn and grow. As part of this, the governing board are very proactive and have recently made bold funding decisions. Guided by the school's Christian vision this ensures that the well-being for all adults and pupils remains a high priority.

Inspired by 'life in all its fullness', the curriculum is thoughtfully designed with a clear intent. It is built upon the foundation of the school's Christian vision and provides pupils with a broad education. This encompasses a wide range of knowledge and skills. One of the key purposes is to foster a strong sense of belonging among pupils within their local community. Following the school's vision, the curriculum incorporates locally rooted learning opportunities. An example of this is the outdoor education in the grounds of the school. These help pupils connect with their immediate surroundings and community. Alongside this, the curriculum has a broader perspective, to expand pupils' understanding of the world and their place in it. This approach is driven by the Christian vision which results in a rich, exciting, and well-balanced curriculum that supports pupils' all round development. The environment allows pupils to demonstrate perseverance, cultivate lasting friendships, maintain hope even in adversity, and practice forgiveness. This promotes spiritual and personal growth. However, pupils do not have a shared understanding of spirituality and the associated language to use within the curriculum.

Regular acts of collective worship, prayer, and time for spiritual reflection are integral to school life. Collective worship is invitational and central to life at Bilsborrow John Cross. Shaped by the school's Christian vision, leaders have created a carefully planned and sequenced inclusive worship programme. This is framed around the school's six Christian values and includes opportunities for spiritual reflection. Adults and pupils enjoy coming together to sing, reflect and pray. Candles are used to symbolise the Trinity and to focus on the teachings of Jesus. A tapestry of partners support the school in leading worship for valued reflection time together. Collective worship is regularly opened to the wider community when the school begins its day in the local church. When parents drop off their children, they can stay and be part of the morning worship. The school supports the church and community coming together across the year to celebrate the Christian calendar. As a result, adults and pupils grow spiritually and live out the school's Christian vision within the community. Pupil worship leaders are drawn from a range of year groups. Over time these leaders have become skilled in planning, leading and evaluating their collective worship. Staff also lead a lunchtime 'Glow Club'. Here children are able to explore the Christian value for the term through thoughtful activities in a more relaxed setting.

Rooted in the Christian vision, the school prioritises inclusivity including warmly welcoming children from diverse faiths and backgrounds. This promotes a sense of belonging and celebration among pupils. Through the curriculum and extracurricular activities, including RE, it cultivates well-rounded, confident, and compassionate individuals. The vision and values underpin all aspects of school life, fostering an inclusive culture. Policies and monitoring processes ensure the promotion of equality, safeguarding, staff, and pupil well-being. Leaders offer early interventions and support in a time of need. Parents comment on the calm but focused approach the school has. Pupils new to the school talk about how easy it is to create new friends and to settle into school. This enables all pupils, especially those with additional needs, to flourish.

Inspired by the vision, the school actively engages parents, the local church, and the wider community to enhance educational experiences. It forges partnerships with organisations like Myerscough College, Garstang Community Academy, and Capernwray Bible College. These connections create a vibrant sense of community, enriching the pupils' overall learning journey. As a

school charitable support is frequently given. Pupils regularly approach leaders to collect donations or fundraise. However, there are limited opportunities in the curriculum for pupils to explore injustice and social responsibility. Currently, pupils are not aware of how they can independently act as agents of change.

RE provision is aligned with the Christian vision and values. It also meets the requirements of the RE Statement of Entitlement. This well led approach ensures that the curriculum offers a diverse and creative educational experience. The school use the syllabus provided by the Diocese. A distinguishing feature is its 'Questful' teaching approach, where pupils actively seek answers to their questions. They engage with Biblical texts, hold peer discussions whilst visits and visitors help enhance pupils' knowledge of religions and worldviews. The high-quality teaching fosters critical thinking and allows for the exploration of personal beliefs and values. Monitoring and evaluation is carried out regularly by governors, the leadership team and external sources. RE teaching ensures that over time all pupils make at least expected progress.

Reflecting the Christian vision, RE encourages active citizenship and community engagement. This helps develop age-appropriate knowledge and understanding of Christianity beyond the classroom. Pupils participate in enriching experiences, including visits from international students, who provide a global perspective on Christian faith and practice. This enables the diversity of Christianity as a worldwide faith to be well understood by pupils. While creating a deep understanding of Christianity, pupils also learn about major world religions. Pupils say they enjoy RE and speak knowledgeably about recently studied worldviews and a range of faiths. Assessment is integrated into teaching and learning. The school uses ongoing assessment to monitor pupil progress and understanding. During topics pupils show a good knowledge and understanding. However, the curriculum structure does not fully enable pupils to remember what they have learnt about RE in the past. This limits pupils' ability to develop a broad understanding of a range of faiths. Teachers encourage pupils to reflect on their beliefs through respectful dialogue.

Through its vision and practice, Bilsborrow John Cross Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	27 September 2023	URN	119519
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	78
Diocese	Blackburn		
MAT/Federation			
Head Teacher	Mr Liam Reynolds		
Chair	Mrs Anna Sutcliffe		
Inspector	Rob Dean	No.	2129