



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

Knaresborough St John's Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Stockwell Road, Knaresborough, HG5 0JN
School vision	
<p>Our vision is for every adult and child to flourish academically and spiritually becoming courageous advocates in our community through our Christian values of compassion, honesty, integrity and awe.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of their commitment to their development as a Church school, leaders have renewed their Christian vision. It underpins the strong commitment of leaders to the community that it serves.</li> <li>• The school is deeply committed to inclusion. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those who are deemed vulnerable are supported well in their learning.</li> <li>• Collective worship unites this school community. It provides rich opportunities for pupils and adults to reflect. Worship strengthens spiritual awareness and contributes to personal flourishing.</li> <li>• Partnerships with the local Church, Elevate Multi Academy Trust and Leeds diocese provide effective challenge as well as guidance. These support the successful development of this Church school.</li> <li>• Pupils are inspired and stimulated by religious education (RE). Lessons provide rich learning experiences to explore a wide range of beliefs. RE contributes strongly to pupils' understanding of diversity.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision in all areas of school. This is to inform decisions and actions supporting improvements as a Church school.</li> <li>• Develop further opportunities in the curriculum to explore big questions about global issues relating to inequality and justice. This is to expand pupils' knowledge and understanding of the world, empowering them as advocates for change nationally and internationally.</li> <li>• Continue to develop the role of pupil worship leaders in planning and leading worship. This is to enable it to become a more personal experience and support their spiritual flourishing.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>Knaresborough St John's offers a warm welcome to all. Leaders, including governors, have recently reworded their Christian vision that is underpinned by John 10:10. This recognises their commitment to it being the driving force to secure their ongoing development as a Church school. However, monitoring of the impact of the vision is not fully embedded. Leaders rightly explain that the trust's vision, closely aligned to theirs, was a key factor in decisions when academising.</p>	



Partnerships contribute greatly to their ongoing growth as a Church school. Joint monitoring by the trust alongside diocesan advisers provides effective challenge in addition to support. This external view helps leaders refocus their attention on policies and strategies to drive improvements. Recent developments in the vision, collective worship and RE demonstrate the commitment of leaders. For example, an increased emphasis on developing spirituality in worship. Staff are supported to flourish through the wide range of professional development opportunities available through the trust. In addition to accessing formal qualifications, they also benefit from opportunities to lead networks as well as new initiatives.

Positive relationships are built on the school's values of compassion and honesty. Pupils feel safe. They are listened to with fairness and respect. The curriculum, including celebrating 'Pride' month, deepens pupils' understanding of difference and diversity. They rightly express that everyone is equal and valued as a child of God. Visits and visitors enhance the learning experiences. For example, residentials and opportunities to partake in Diwali dance workshops. News stories, carefully selected by leaders, serve to raise the profile of many global issues and big questions. However, planned opportunities to explore justice and inequality more widely around the world are currently underdeveloped. As a result, pupils are less confident discussing how they can make a difference to help address issues like deprivation. Pupils thrive through accessing a range of extra-curricular activities which support flourishing. For example, sporting, choir and cooking. These inspire pupils to develop themselves by trying new things. A range of leadership opportunities enable pupils to show responsibility. School council members and sports leaders savour their respective roles. They are advocates in their community acting as role models, initiating positive change. For example, a reading shed in the playground where pupils can go during breaktimes to read. This also provides shelter in warm weather.

In line with the vision, spiritual development is a key feature of the school. In addition to the opportunities that are integrated into the curriculum, there is a weekly focus for all. The 'window, mirror, door' offers time for all to reflect on issues. In turn, they relate this to how it can influence their own actions. In response to an in-depth audit of spirituality undertaken by leaders, class reflection journals have been introduced. These provide opportunities for more in-depth discussion and recording at an age-appropriate level. These evidence pupils' flourishing.

The importance given to the wellbeing of pupils and adults emanates from the Christian vision. Specialist staff assist vulnerable pupils and their families. This compassionate support, based on the vision linked values of honesty and integrity, provides processes and strategies to use. As a result, pupils are more confident and develop more resilience when facing difficulties. Local clergy members lead 'Time4You' that provides a confidential listening ear to adults. Leaders are rightly conscious of the work-life balance of staff and have successfully introduced initiatives to address this.

Collective worship is carefully planned to link with Christian values as well as events in the liturgical year. Pupils and adults appreciate time for calm reflection. Following a worship on service, pupils described litter picking in the community as an example of living out their vision. Staff sensitively support pupils with SEND to participate. Uplifting singing enhances worship. The strong partnership with the local Church contributes significantly to the prayer life of the school. Pupils enjoy the weekly worship with the local vicar. They particularly enjoy the opportunity to ask big questions. For example, 'Does God still heal people today?' Parents are welcome to attend worship. They are also supported to flourish through worship activities ideas to undertake at home. Invitational prayer during worship respects the fact that all present may not wish to pray. Pupil worship leaders contribute to the evaluation of collective worship. However, pupils' involvement in the planning and leading of worship is currently limited. Pupils regularly attend the local church for celebrations such

as Harvest. Sanctuary weeks, held termly, contribute further to develop spirituality.

The priority for all to flourish academically, irrespective of starting points, is central to the Christian vision. Carefully planned transition, including home and nursery visits, effectively supports pupils' integration to school. Dedicated trust leaders provide invaluable support for families as well as staff. Systems and policies, underpinned by the Christian vision, help to quickly identify needs. Links with appropriate external agencies, drop-ins for parents, alongside training for staff ensure that timely support is provided. Pupils with SEND and those who are deemed vulnerable are fully supported in their learning as a result of nurturing, targeted support.

Courageous advocacy is integral to the school's vision for all to flourish. Leaders compare this rightly to how Christ went out to serve his community. Strong relationships with a local care home impacts positively on pupils. They value the opportunity to show compassion and 'brighten up the lives of others'. The 'Young Leaders Award' is well established in school. Pupils speak proudly of their contributions to their setting and the area. This includes the introduction of recycling points throughout the town centre. In addition to supporting charities and fundraising, staff are released for half a day to undertake acts in the community. This provides opportunities for personal fulfilment knowing they are making a difference to their community. Staff are proud to act as exemplars for pupils. For example, helping at food kitchens and charities.

Developments in RE are effectively supported through professional development provided by the local RE hub, the trust and the diocese. Training is then cascaded to all staff. As a result, pupils are taught by skilled teachers. Monitoring by leaders in addition to the contributions of the pupil 'RE champions' feed into development plans. A recent initiative focussing on vocabulary of 'some, most, all and no' has heightened pupils' awareness of differences within religions. Pupils enjoy the challenge of RE and the fact that their contributions and opinions are valued. Additional adult support alongside adapted resources enables all pupils, including the vulnerable, to actively engage in learning. Recognised as a core subject, RE is very well resourced. Pupils use a range of quality artefacts to support their understanding of world religions. Creative use is also made of interactive resources, including virtual tours of places of worship. Pupils speak confidently about similarities as well as differences between people of a wide range of faiths. Visits to local places of worship of different denominations support pupils' understanding of how Christians' worship in a range of ways. Music from different countries, expressive art and a link with a school in Ghana develop this further.

The inspection findings indicate that Knaresborough St John's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	14 November 2023	URN	147097
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	291
Diocese	Leeds		
MAT/Federation	16722 Elevate Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Alex Hope		
Chair	Ann Westmoreland		
Inspector	Mary Connor	No.	2132

