

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Martin & St Mary Church of England VA Primary School, Windermere	
Address	Princes Road, Windermere, LA23 2DD
School vision	
<p>As a Christian school, St Martin and St Mary is an inclusive and happy community; nurturing confidence, a thirst for learning and resilience in a safe loving environment. Our priority is developing the whole child spiritually, emotionally, physically and academically to live the most rewarding life.</p> <p>'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deeply embedded Christian vision infuses every aspect of school life so that all are enabled to flourish. • Through the curriculum and extra-curricular offer, the school goes above and beyond to develop the whole child. Pupils are enabled to experience life in all its fullness and develop to their full potential. • Love and kindness are at the heart of relationships in this school community, where everyone is supported and nurtured to be the very best they can be. • There are long-standing, thriving partnerships with local Christian communities that contribute effectively to the worship life of the school. • Leaders are determined to ensure that the religious education (RE) curriculum continues to be relevant for pupils in today's world. The quality of teaching is consistently good. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop staff expertise in leading daily collective worship so that pupil and adult spiritual flourishing is enhanced. • Ensure the introduction of a new syllabus for RE is appropriately monitored by leaders, including governors. This is to ensure it is successfully implemented and embedded. • Continue the journey of inspiring and enabling pupils to act with courage on issues locally, nationally and internationally. This is so pupils see how they can have a positive impact on the world. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The school's Christian vision is a living reality at St Martin and St Mary. It consistently underpins school life and enables all to live 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). The vision's underpinning story of Jesus caring for his flock of sheep is understood by all. Even the youngest children are aware this means they are loved. To fulfil the vision, staff aim to provide the best possible education for pupils. To achieve this, they gladly follow proven advice from partners, including the diocese. The vision to develop the whole child is constantly to the fore. Governors monitor the implementation of the vision. Because of this, they know the school well and conscientiously guide its strategic</p>	

development. This adherence to the vision enables pupils and adults to blossom and grow. They are equipped to take advantage of life's opportunities.

The curriculum develops the whole child spiritually, emotionally, physically and academically. Each area of the curriculum is driven by the vision and ensures pupils have a thirst for learning. They are inspired to aim high through learning about well-known people in the past and present. A vast array of clubs provides opportunities to live life fully and experience success. Pupils' talents are encouraged and celebrated. They are proud of their own and others' accomplishments. There is aspiration to include all pupils in all aspects of school life. Staff ensure vulnerable pupils and those with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) receive the best coordinated support possible. Pupils flourish spiritually because of a thoughtful range of activities in the curriculum and through extra-curricular provision.

Driven by the vision, this is a happy and loving place. Everyone is respected, valued and treated well. The vision is lived out in values that underpin everyday life. Friendship, love, forgiveness, trust, honesty and faith are at the heart of the school. As a result, a warm atmosphere pervades the whole school. A powerful demonstration of the vision is seen in the annual residential for older pupils to Patterdale. While there, pupils develop team spirit, confidence, trust and resilience. For younger children, lunchtime systems facilitate friendship, responsibility, helpfulness and kindness. School provides a safe loving environment. Class teachers know pupils very well. They look out for them and help them cope with adversity. Likewise, staff wellbeing is good because of their care and dedication to each other. New pupils and staff are quickly welcomed into the warm embrace of this loving family. Parents wholeheartedly praise this popular school. A thriving parent teacher association contributes greatly to school life. Driven by the vision, the local community is warmly welcomed to events such as Christmas and summer fairs.

Pupils have multiple leadership opportunities which help prepare them, in the words of the vision, to live the most rewarding life. They know they have a voice and must act justly to work for change in the school and community. School councillors represent the views of classmates and make decisions to improve school. One example is combining breaktimes for younger and older pupils so they play together. The eco-warriors show concern for the environment by turning lights off and litter picking. Pupils in the mini police develop citizenship and responsibility. Pupils do not at present have a fully functioning voice about which charities or causes to support.

Collective worship is invitational, inclusive and inspirational. It is at the core of realising the school's vision. Invaluable opportunities are provided for spiritual growth, prayer and reflection. Local clergy enhance the worship and spiritual life of the school. So do regular visits for special services at St Martin's and St Mary's churches. The ethos explorer pupils plan and lead some services. This develops confidence and spiritual growth in a safe, loving environment. In this rural area, pupils celebrate difference. They believe in making everyone welcome and being friends together. Pupils talk about respect for the faith of others, of all faiths and none. They say 'even if you're not a Christian, hearing stories from the bible helps you on life's journey'. Fulfilling the vision to develop each child spiritually, there are opportunities for reflection throughout the day. The school provides a variety of places for quiet contemplation. Pupils of all ages share prayers in class or on the prayer tree. Joyful singing is inspirational and worshipful. Pupils show appreciation of bible stories, believing they can help you on life's journey whatever your faith standpoint. They remember stories they have heard and explain how they relate to the school's values and their everyday lives. For example, how the story of Noah demonstrates trust. Christian staff particularly value the way the school supports their vocation. They value having worship and prayer in daily life and sharing the Christian vision at the school's heart. There are some inconsistencies in the quality of class worship. Opportunities to encounter a range of religious expression in worship are not always utilised.

RE has high priority across all year groups, including for the very youngest children. It meets national expectations for a Church of England school. It is well sequenced, fully embedded and highly effective. Carefully chosen resources, inspiring activities and displays about current learning ensure effective teaching. Each unit of work starts with a big question that sparks deep thinking in pupils. The school's vision and values are seamlessly incorporated into learning. A variety of visits and visitors enhance teaching and learning about faith. For example, pupils enjoy a residential visit to Liverpool to visit the Anglican and Catholic cathedrals, a synagogue and a mosque. By the end of Year 6, pupils have developed a thorough knowledge and understanding of world faiths. They relate bible stories to everyday life. For example, encountering inspirational women in the Bible 'taught us that women can do anything'. Pupils' achievement is accurately assessed. They generally achieve expected progress and often excel. They know how they are doing and how to improve. Teachers ensure all can flourish by adapting lessons to meet the needs of all learners. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation confirm that teaching and learning is consistently good. Leaders want to ensure RE maintains challenge and contemporary relevance so they are looking to introduce a revised curriculum. Pupils are very proud of their work and readily share their own ideas and thoughts. They say they like RE because, amongst other things, they learn 'what to do and what not to do, and about how to live a better life'.

Through its vision and practice, the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	7 November 2023	URN	139422
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	393
Diocese	Carlisle		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Matthew Towe		
Chair	Jen Braithwaite		
Inspector	Janet Tringham	No.	2134