

## **Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) DRAFT**

<b>Thornton Watlass Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	Thornton Watlass, Ripon, HG4 4AH
School vision	
<p>Inspire • Enrich • Enjoy • Succeed</p> <p>We inspire a love of learning, confidence and resilience: to strive to shine before God and others. Our unique curriculum enriches well-being, learning attitudes, and the ability to fulfil potential; enjoying a life according to God's teaching.</p> <p>We are a Christian family, celebrating faith, individuality and diversity, giving the opportunity to succeed.</p> <p>'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.'</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Matthew, 5:16</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a clearly articulated Christian vision that underpins decisions at every level. This is further enhanced by the use of the school values that are known and lived throughout the school community.</li> <li>• Effective partnerships with the church and Diocese are evident. Those relationships enrich and deepen the Christian work of the school enabling everyone to flourish together.</li> <li>• Adults and pupils value their time to gather together for collective worship, appreciating times of stillness and reflection.</li> <li>• All are clearly loved at Thornton Watlass with everyone's wellbeing prioritised by all leaders. As a result pupils and adults in the school community flourish.</li> <li>• Work on 'The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals' enable pupils to have an understanding of the world around them. This supports them to know how to make effective changes for the future.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further embed more consistent approaches to evaluating the school's Christian vision and distinctiveness. This is to monitor the impact of initiatives more effectively and secure sustained improvements.</li> <li>• Identify planned opportunities and refine approaches to promote spiritual flourishing.</li> <li>• Provide contextually rich opportunities to deepen pupils' understanding of global faiths through high quality visits and visitors.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>Thornton Watlass Church of England Primary School is a calm, nurturing and supportive school that is at the heart of its village community. Although it attracts pupils from surrounding areas and</p>	

towns, it has the local area at its heart. The Christian vision of 'letting your light shine' is firmly embedded. This can be seen in all decisions made and every action taken. All pupils, staff and parents can talk about this in different ways. Everyone appreciates how the vision makes them a special church school. This clarity enables the adults and pupils of Thornton Watlass Church of England Primary School to flourish. Leaders are very knowledgeable about their context, continuously reflecting on their evolving curriculum. This enables them to effectively meet the needs of the pupils. More recently the governing body has updated its monitoring processes to incorporate reflection opportunities on the impact of the vision. This is strengthening their ability to strategically plan for the next steps. However, this work is not fully embedded. Leaders use annual parent surveys to help inform their knowledge of how to make improvements. Parents and staff see this as a 'small school' enabling them to meet the needs of individuals through a personalised approach. Everyone values this nurturing support and share many examples of the care they are given.

The school are reflective and considered in the decisions they have made about their curriculum. Leaders successfully articulate how the school's vision has been key to the planning and its development. This can be seen through the books and evidenced through governor monitoring. They have high expectations for their pupils and recognise the importance of providing diverse opportunities. Plans are established for pupils to visit contrasting locations to that of their local area. This can be seen in the London residential trip offered to the older year groups. Further plans for opportunities to visit ethnically diverse cities are in the early stages of development. These include places of worship that link in with their Religious Education (RE) teaching. The range of extra curricular activities provided for pupils show commitment to providing an inspiring and enriching curriculum for everyone. Vulnerable pupils are looked after well in this federation. Additional support is in place for those that need it enabling everyone to flourish. In times of challenge pupils are nurtured in a kind and caring way that leads to a feeling of safety for them. They are very accepting of each other and work together as 'one big family'.

Opportunities for spiritual development are present within the schools through discussion and reflection. With support from the diocese, Thornton Watlass CofE Primary School have defined what spiritual development means to them. Using this working definition they are able to deepen everyone's knowledge. However, pupils do not articulate this consistently and have not made the connection as to how this impacts their lives. A planned approach to delivering spiritual development progressively is in the early stages of development.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. It is an effective time of reflection, stillness and thought for everyone. It is carefully planned using the specifically selected Christian values. This enables it to be used as discussion and reflection points during the week. Younger pupils sing their vision through 'This Little Light of Mine' and know how this helps them shine. Clergy from the local benefice lead worship weekly and have strong relationships with the pupils of Thornton Watlass. These are valued by the clergy, the school and the staff and are an important part of the nurturing vision. Pupils are involved in worship and are keen to lead when given the opportunities. Currently this is limited to special events like Harvest and Easter services. Adults value the time they share together and rightly express the benefits everyone gains from this opportunity for reflection. Recently worship has moved to the morning from the afternoon and this was instigated by the pupil feedback. Consequently it gathers the school together and sets the day up with the Christian value. Prayer is a key part of collective worship. However, there are not spontaneous opportunities to pray at other times of the day. Pupils are excited about creating a spiritual garden area at Thornton Watlass and enthusiastically shared their designs.

Everyone in this school community has the opportunity to 'shine before others'. They are all valued for the unique gifts that they bring. As a result of this clear vision, everyone shines, succeeds and flourishes. Pupils use the deep rooted Christian values to reflect on their behaviour and make

positive choices. Through the work on 'The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals' pupils are able to articulate how they are courageous advocates for the future. They have a strong concept of injustice and know how they can help make the world a better place.

Wellbeing is at the heart of many of the decisions made at leadership level. Staff talk positively about decisions to maintain their welfare. They have cared for each other in times of challenge. Parents champion the way that they have been supported by school through difficult moments. They rightly recognise that everyone at Thornton Watlass will always go the extra mile for them. This is a community where each person can flourish through their compassion for each other.

The RE curriculum at Thornton Watlass is carefully and sequentially planned. Care and attention has been put into the plans for each year group. This ensures that all pupils have the opportunity to develop their knowledge progressively throughout their time in school. They have vocabulary listed which develops through each unit of work. Pupils speak with enthusiasm about their RE lessons, enjoying the opportunities to discuss big questions. Staff embrace opportunities to enrich the pupils' understanding through the curriculum so that they are compassionate and understanding citizens. However, some of these concepts lack a real life context. Assessment tracking is in place for RE and enables staff to check pupil's progress over time. Inspired by the vision, leaders have made the decision to spend more time on teaching a range of world religions.

The inspection findings indicate that Thornton Watlass CofE Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	15 November 2023	URN	121521
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	24
Diocese	Leeds		
MAT/Federation	The Federation of Snape Community and Thornton Watlass CE Primary		
Executive Headteacher	Jane Wood		
Chair	Ian Towning		
Inspector	Abigail Clay	No.	2204