

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

Wycliffe Church of England Primary School					
Address	Saltaire Road, Shipley, BD18 3HZ				

#### School vision

"Life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)

Our vision is to ensure that our school family are happy and fulfilled in a creative learning environment. This is flexible and caters to individual needs while developing a life-long love for learning through which all members can flourish. We nurture an aspirational family of hard-working, respectful individuals who work collaboratively.

## School strengths

- As a result of the Christian vision, all members of the Wycliffe family feel valued and equipped to release their full potential. The positive school environment creates a welcoming climate of understanding and acceptance where pupils can encounter 'life in all its fullness'.
- Whole school collective worship affirms the school's vision. It is inclusive and invitational with a rich blend of content that enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually.
- The vision and associated Christian values are lived out empowering pupils to lead and support in all aspects of school life. Equality and difference are actively celebrated and valued, creating an inclusive culture in which pupils and adults are treated well.
- Inspired by the Christian vision, adults within the school ensure that there is strong pastoral care. A determination to include every pupil, irrespective of need, supports the flourishing of all.
- Religious education (RE) is regarded as an important subject within the life of the school. Pupils develop and deepen their understanding of religion by responding to questions and creative experiences.

### Areas for development

- Apply the school's understanding of spiritual development so that planned opportunities can be created that further support and deepen pupils in their spiritual flourishing.
- Extend and develop pupils' concern for national and global social justice issues within the curriculum. This is to empower all pupils to consider and act upon ethical choices and responsibilities.
- Provide professional development and coaching in RE about world faiths and worldviews. This is to ensure that teaching is confidently and consistently delivered across school.

#### **Inspection findings**

The school's Christian vision is woven through every aspect of this highly inclusive and nurturing school. Together, with the Christian values the vision enables all to encounter 'life in its fullness'. Leaders consciously developed the vision so that it encompasses everyone and reflects the school's



character and diversity. Adults rightly say that the school is a special gift to its community. Its church foundation to serve, is at the heart of its vision. This is seen in the strong relationships that have been fostered and a curriculum that meets the needs of learners. Wycliffe is a community where collaboration is key, so securing the flourishing of all.

Guidance and monitoring from the trust, partnered with expertise from the diocese provides significant support and challenge. As a result, leaders are empowered to enact the vision and pursue their aspirations, ensuring the holistic development of pupils. Leaders are determined that a rich learning experience, shaped by the Christian vision, is accessible to all. This includes the broadening of opportunities, with extra-curricular experiences, visitors and visits integrated into curriculum plans. Pupils also flourish in a range of clubs and sporting activities. High aspirations are regularly celebrated in communications about pupils' personal achievements and acts of service. An agreed statement outlining a shared language of spirituality is prominently displayed around school. As a result, moments of wonderment, such as a double rainbow are highlighted and explored. This aspect of development is not embedded. However, the school is working on planned opportunities to ensure that pupils spiritually flourish in all curriculum areas.

The Christian vision is the driving force for policy and strategy, permeating through all areas of school life. Self-evaluation as being a distinctive Church school, is rigorous and used to continually evolve and meet the needs of all. Pupils, staff and parents appreciate that their opinions, even when they differ, are valued, respected and acted upon. Parents and staff say that they are all 'part of a family' providing mutual care and support for one another.

The commitment to life in all its fullness is evident in leaders' decisions to prioritise support for pastoral care and nurture. Adults ensure that all pupils, irrespective of background or special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are fully included in all aspects of school life. Systems and policies, underpinned by the Christian vision, help to identify pupils and families in need. Swift and robust responses, involving appropriate external agencies, ensure that effective and timely support is implemented. Training enables leaders to champion opportunities for emotional development. Daily 'mindful' sessions, along with mental health awareness weeks support the school community in building their emotional literacy. As a result, pupils learn to articulate their feelings, seek forgiveness and reconciliation in order to live well together. Parents appreciate the individualised provision that enables all pupils to flourish, emotionally and academically. The proactive approach results in a caring community, where the school's Christian values of love and respect tie everything together.

A culture which values the rights and voice of pupils is achieved through the vision's focus on fostering aspirations. A range of leadership opportunities enable pupils to show responsibility and be agents of change. Appointed prefects, school council members and worship leaders relish their respective roles. They are empowered to carry out their duties, living out the school's Christian values as they act as role models. Pupils are encouraged to think about ethical choices and show courageous advocacy for change through their actions. This was evident when older pupils shared how palm oil production impacts on the environment. Planned opportunities for pupils to consider and respond to issues of justice are at an early stage of development. However, pupils enthusiastically demonstrate Christian witness through their ongoing support for a range of local and national charities.

Daily inclusive and inspirational worship unites the school community together, enabling pupils and adults to spiritually flourish. Anglican traditions help to shape the worship with the Christian vision as a core thread. It is woven into all aspects of the school's creative approach. The structure developed by leaders and pupils, includes time for stillness and reflection with opportunities to respond in prayer. These moments are regarded as precious by pupils and adults, giving time for



spiritual growth. Planned worship celebrates the school's diversity. It provides opportunities to explore the school's motto, 'all different all equal,' recognising how everyone is unique and special. This ensures that pupils know that the beliefs and views of all are represented and valued. Worship is enriched by a range of leaders and styles, including pupils, staff and parents. Themes are centred around the school's Christian values that are lived out daily in the relationships and interactions between pupils. Spiritual awareness is deepened further through worship that explores global themes and the teachings from biblical stories. Evaluations of worship result in meaningful change in the school's approach. An example includes how pupils can choose where and with whom to sit alongside. This has enhanced the sense of fellowship and community. Outside of worship, pupils actively use reflection spaces in classrooms to pray and spiritually reflect on the school day. There is a close and mutually supportive relationship with the local Church. Attendance at school led services, such as the harvest feast celebration bring all facets of the community together.

RE has a prominent place within the curriculum, supporting pupils to live life in all its fullness. It reflects the vision by promoting understanding and respect for diversity. Teachers create a safe space where all children can share their religious views and ideas by exploring key questions. These are supported by a coherent and well-sequenced programme of learning developed by an effective subject leader. Appropriate challenge within teaching enables pupils to reflect more deeply on topics and explore how faith can impact on a person's actions. Pupils are enthusiastic when explaining how learning helps them to explore a range of world faiths as well as Christianity. However, pupils' knowledge and understanding of non-religious worldviews is limited. Practical and creative activities are engaging, helping pupils to explore festivals and religious activities. This was seen when younger pupils actively took part in the baptism service for their class teddy bear. Training provided by the trust has supported leadership to accurately monitor standards in RE. There are strengths within teaching. However, the quality and confidence in how content is delivered is inconsistent. Guidance is regularly provided to raise standards, although, professional development on world faiths and worldviews is limited. End of unit assessments are rigorous supporting the school to accurately appraise attainment and any gaps within learning. Information is actively used to match teaching to learning needs, ensuring that all pupils make effective progress overall.

The inspection findings indicate that Wycliffe Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information							
Inspection date	18 October 2023	URN			146512		
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll			336		
Diocese	Leeds						
MAT/Federation	Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust						
Headteacher	Denise Baxter						
Chair	Gary Dennison						
Inspector	Steven Holmes		No.	223	3		