



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Higham St John's Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Higham Hall Road, Higham, Burnley, BB12 9EU

School vision

One family rooted in God's love
'One more step... In step with the Spirit.' Galatians 5: 25

Our vision at Higham St John's CE Primary School is to ensure that every pupil and member of our whole school family knows that God loves them and fills them with his Holy Spirit. Our school is devoted to supporting each and every child's educational needs, and to helping them prepare for all the challenges that lie ahead. Our aim is to make it possible for each child to be inspired to learn by discovery, begin developing ambition, and to follow the path that enables them to realise their dreams.

Jesus taught: John 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

School strengths

- The Christian vision is deeply embedded in all aspects of the school's daily life. Leaders have developed a vision of Christian flourishing that is understood by the school community. This is well supported by the school's Christian values that inspire adults and pupils to 'keep in step with the Spirit'.
- Using the Christian vision, leaders ensure that love runs through everything. The wellbeing of everyone is a high priority for the school. This has developed a nurturing culture where pupils learn to respect and value one another.
- Inspired by the Christian vision, carefully chosen partnerships help to enhance the curriculum. Pupils are engaged in their learning and those with additional needs are well supported to succeed.
- Collective worship is valued by all. Leaders use an inclusive approach to promote the vision and values of the school. This further develops the strong sense of community.
- Religious education (RE), has been skilfully designed to provide a well-balanced, engaging curriculum. As a result, pupils enjoy their learning.

Areas for development

- Encourage and support pupils' independent opportunities to be agents for change, broadening their understanding of justice and responsibility.
- Further enhance opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum so pupils may develop deeper personal insights into their own individual beliefs.

Inspection findings

Inspired by their Christian vision, Higham St John's is a small, welcoming and inclusive school. Leaders strive to nurture every member of the school. As a result, this fosters a sense of being loved in a caring community. The school guides pupils to live their lives following Jesus' way. They encourage them to 'keep in step with the Spirit' - Galatians 5: 25, by making positive choices daily. Celebrating pupils' achievements helps keep the positive learning environment thriving. The school's governors work in partnership with leaders to maintain a clear view of the strategic direction. Part of this, is the school's 'Christian Values Pathway' that helps the vision to be accessible to all. The pathway visually represents the school's values and aims purposefully highlighting what it means to be part of the school. This reinforces positive attitudes and a sense of support throughout the school community.

Inspired by the Christian vision, the school's curriculum reflects a commitment to nurturing the whole child. It promotes key skills essential for confident and independent learners. This encourages curiosity and open-mindedness, fostering an environment where pupils explore life's questions. Classes 'Hopes and Dreams' lists involve pupils designing their own curriculum, promoting a sense of ownership and engagement. The development of outdoor spaces, including a woodland area, emphasises the importance of nature in the curriculum. Outdoor activities and reflection areas contribute to the spiritual growth of the pupils. These allow them to explore God's creation in a safe and nurturing environment. However, planned opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum are not clearly defined. The school provides opportunities for pupils to flourish as leaders through various roles, fostering a sense of responsibility and accountability. Initiatives like the 'Gardeners and Seeds' programme create mentorship opportunities. Older pupils flourish in the responsibility given to them. They provide a good role model for younger pupils who enjoy learning with them. This promotes a supportive learning environment across the school. The curriculum incorporates a wide variety of trips, visitors, and clubs that provide opportunities to 'take one more step.' Carefully chosen partners support the Christian vision to enable pupils to have a wide range of learning experiences.

Collective worship plays a crucial role in enabling both pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. Daily worship ensures that core Christian values are integral to the school's structure. Through worship, adults and pupils are reminded that they are part of a larger community rooted in God's love. This sense of belonging provides a supportive environment for spiritual growth and a shared connection among the school community. The inclusion of a welcome, lighting of candles, and prayers create a structured and meaningful experience. This structure enables pupils to worship in a variety of environments. The inclusive nature of worship allows pupils the time and space to think, reflect, and ask questions. Leaders ensure that participation is voluntary, providing a respectful environment for individual spiritual development. The regular practice of prayer, both spontaneous and structured, is a normal part of school life. There are strong links between the school and parish church. The building is used to help celebrate events in the Christian calendar. Parents look forward to these times when the wider community can come together. Leaders regularly reflect on the impact of worship. They make necessary adjustments to plans ensuring that collective worship remains relevant and accessible to all pupils.

The Christian vision contributes to a culture where pupils and adults are treated well by prioritising mental health. Leaders achieve this through successfully collaborating with external agencies. Working with these partners helps the school to support their families and community. External services are regularly in school providing support for staff and pupils. The training for staff and support for pupils ensures that they are able to access their learning in a positive way. This impact can be seen in the number of adults and pupils learning British sign language. Leaders including governors have a strong commitment to staff well-being. The establishment of a 'Wellbeing

Champions' team, reflects the school's Christian values of caring for the whole person. Through this commitment, leaders foster a supportive culture, empowering staff to take responsibility for well-being.

Through their Christian vision, the school actively fosters fairness and responsibility. This happens through worship and the curriculum where pupils are guided by the school's 'Christian Values Pathway'. Pupils describe how they use the school values to be good role models. The impact of this is pupils talk about walking in Jesus' footsteps. They demonstrate this by being kind, helpful and respecting each other. Pupils have a number of opportunities to become young leaders. Planned opportunities such as School Council, Ethos Group, Eco Committee, and the 'Gardeners and Seeds' scheme all help pupils understand responsibility and rights. Leaders celebrate pupils' achievements, promoting a sense of responsibility beyond the immediate school family. Pupils fundraise for both charitable causes and school projects. Taking part in the 'Bunny Hop' for Pendleside hospice and Harvest Appeal for St John's Church, amplify the impact on both local and global communities. However, pupils do not know ways in which they can be agents for change beyond their local community.

The RE curriculum at the school is highly effective. The commitment to treating it as a core subject by all staff, underscores the importance placed on this subject. The monitoring and evaluation by leaders are part of a robust assessment of the quality of RE. There is good collaboration between leaders and the diocese. Staff receive regular training from them and include additional resources from the diocese when teaching RE. This exemplifies the school's strategic approach to making a more effective RE curriculum for its community. The school participates in the 'LCC Building Bridges' project. Visits from faith leaders representing the Muslim, Jewish, and Hindu communities contribute to a rich and diverse learning experience. As a result of all this, pupils are engaged and enjoy their learning in RE.

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

Information			
Inspection date	1 February 2024	URN	119387
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	127
Diocese	Blackburn		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Helen Shaw		
Chair	Neil Yates		
Inspector	Rob Dean	No.	2129