



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Newcastle Church of England Primary School	
Address	Church Road, Newcastle, SY7 8QL
School vision	
<p>‘Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives.’ Proverbs 22:6 (Good News Bible)</p> <p>We are a caring Church Federation bringing together and serving many communities. We provide nurturing environments that facilitate learning for all. We encourage everybody to become confident, sociable and responsible citizens who achieve to the best of their ability in preparation for a fulfilling future.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The embedded Christian vision, expressed through values has a significant impact. It is intrinsic in supporting the school community in all circumstances. Leaders and staff understand the needs of their community, valuing and supporting everyone for their uniqueness. • The vision is central to all continuous improvement priorities. This enhances the effective collaborations within the Blue Hills Federation. • The curriculum is shaped by the Christian vision and unique context of the school. It is tailored to meet the needs of all. Consequently, pupils take ownership of their learning and aspire to be confident learners and succeed. • Newcastle is highly inclusive and cherishes the worth of each member of the school community. Staff relentlessly go above and beyond to support all pupils. This includes the most vulnerable, those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their families. • The school is a haven of Christian love and nurture where mental health and wellbeing of all is a priority. As a result, relationships are strong and behaviour is exemplary. Everyone, without exception, is nurtured to be the best unique individual they can be. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop provision for collective worship so that pupils and adults have opportunities for reflection and contemplation to support spiritual flourishing. • Extend and deepen pupils’ understanding of core religious concepts in religious education (RE). This is so that pupils feel confident to articulate them and can make links to prior and future learning. • Develop the leadership skills of pupils to be courageous advocates, so they can take action and initiate changes in their community and beyond. 	
Inspection findings	
Newcastle lives up to its reputation as a small school with a big heart. Because of its size, everyone	

knows and cares deeply for one another. It has a clear Christian vision that is shared by the Blue Hills Federation. The joint vision unites the federation schools but is individually tailored to each school's context. It sustains the school community and gives hope in all circumstances. Governors and staff model what it means to care deeply for one another. Radiating from the vision, the values of perseverance and resilience are key. The dedicated leadership team and staff use the vision and values to ensure that love and nurture permeate throughout the school. The deep sense of family and friendship is intrinsic, resulting in everyone supporting one another. Leaders are committed to developing pupils to be confident, secure citizens whilst ensuring their overall success. The vision inspires all adults to ensure pupils are the best unique individuals they can be.

Effective partnership working within the federation, is central to the flourishing of the school and the wider community. Staff and pupils benefit from the collaborative nature of working that ensures expertise is shared. The governing board know the school well and are highly committed to its success. Leaders across the federation work closely together to evaluate the impact of the vision. Along with governors, they act swiftly and decisively, to address improvement priorities. The accessible language of the vision and values are understood by all. This ensures that strategic plans, policies and actions are all tailored to ensure pupils and adults' flourish. The school engages well with diocesan support through well focused training and guidance.

Pupils show high levels of respect and dignity towards each other. Relationships across the school community are strong. Consequently, behaviour is excellent. A deep sense of belonging permeates the school with pupils taking this and their Christian values into secondary school and beyond. The aspirational and broad curriculum design supports all pupils to achieve to the best of their ability. Leaders are responsive to the needs of a small school and evaluate the curriculum closely. Pupils are given opportunities to connect their learning to the local environment. For example, through topic work focused on agriculture and farming, pupils are enabled to see the 'real world' value in their learning. Spiritual opportunities weave through every subject. Pupils are encouraged to think about the awe and wonder of the world which supports their spiritual development. A rich variety of extra-curricular opportunities are available to pupils. Through projects such as Goblin Car Club, pupils are able to develop important skills such as teamworking. Deepening pupils' appreciation of diversity is a key focus. Visits to London and elsewhere enrich pupils' appreciation of difference. Pupils' awareness of global communities is growing. Experiences such as the visit of the Pearl of Africa choir support this development. Pupils are aware of the needs of others beyond school. They raise money for the wider community at a Macmillan coffee morning and by making and selling bracelets to help people in Uganda. However, opportunities for pupils to challenge injustice and be empowered to take action to address this are more limited.

Collective worship is inclusive and invitational. Older pupils kindly support younger pupils to actively worship. It is valued as a special time to come together and be calm as a Church school family. Worship planning is based on the Christian values. However, pupils are currently unable to link these to the life of Jesus. Services for Christian festivals take place in church. This allows the children to be part of the church community, gaining an understanding of being part of a congregation. The student council play an important role in monitoring and evaluating. As a result, worship is now planned with an effective balance of pupil and adult involvement. It is interactive, with high levels of engagement. Staff lovingly support pupils with SEND to contribute. Joyful singing enhances the experience. Worship impacts on the wider life of pupils. For example, one pupil commented to their family, 'it's not a Christmas holiday, it's a celebration of Jesus' birth'. Pupils are enabled to give personal responses but opportunities for times of silence and stilling are missed. As a result, pupils' spiritual flourishing through collective worship is underdeveloped.

Loving, nurturing relationships, driven by the vision and its associated values are a strength of the school. Working collaboratively with the other schools in the federation ensures that no staff are

isolated. They can get support with all areas of school life. The mental health and wellbeing of all is prioritised. Staff value the care that is shown towards them from school leaders. This is exemplified in the way in which leaders always make time to provide a listening ear if they need to talk. Staff are known well, so a range of opportunities are given to them to develop professionally. This creates a culture where staff feel valued. Thus, they are better equipped to ensure that pupils are known as individuals, enabling them to thrive. The Christian care and support for vulnerable pupils, including those with SEND is a top priority. Pupils who haven't settled in other settings have come to Newcastle and are thriving. The school truly reflects a loving Christian family where all work together as a close-knit team. They share each other's joys and support one another through life's difficulties and challenges. Parents also talk passionately about how the school goes the extra mile for them and that nothing is too much trouble. They describe staff as 'second parents', as a result, pupils feel safe and well cared for.

Leaders recognise that RE supports understanding and acceptance of the rich diversity of the world. This is key at Newcastle as pupils live in a rurally isolated location. Pupils have a good understanding of why RE is an important subject to learn. They appreciate learning about a range of world faiths. The school has accessed training from the diocese to support and guide new staff. Pupils enjoy their lessons, they engage well and are respectful of the views of all. Despite a time of challenge, leaders have carried out rigorous monitoring of RE and have a robust plan in place which is rapidly raising the impact of the subject. As a result, pupils' understanding of core religious concepts is growing. However, this is not yet well embedded. As such they do not have a deep understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Newcastle is one big family where everyone is loved. All flourish in a school that ensures that the vision is central to all its work.

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

Information			
Inspection date	30 January 2024	URN	123488
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	18
Diocese	Hereford		
MAT/Federation	Blue Hills Federation		
Executive Headteacher	Anna Cook		
Chair	Di Cosgrove		
Inspector	Kerry Geddis	No.	955