

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

<b>St Cuthbert's Church of England Primary School</b>	
<b>Address</b>	St Alban's Road, Darwen BB3 0HY
<b>School vision</b>	
<p>In our family school, we strive to be the best for today, for tomorrow, for ourselves, for each other, the wider world and for God. As a Christian family we nurture an understanding that we are all of equal value and infinite worth. In the safety of our unique family we will flourish and grow towards being global citizens and courageous advocates.”</p> <p>Theological root – ‘You are now citizens together with God’s people and members of the family of God.’ Ephesians 2:19</p>	
<b>School strengths</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders understand their community well and have embedded a Christian vision that enables both pupils and adults to flourish.</li> <li>• Leaders have created an inclusive culture where people are treated well. Reflecting the school’s vision that ‘all are of equal value and infinite worth’, leaders’ actions are having a transformational effect on pupils’ and adults’ lives.</li> <li>• The Christian vision shapes the curriculum. The well-planned range of experiences within the curriculum enable pupils, including the vulnerable, to flourish.</li> <li>• Pupils and adults flourish spiritually as a result of a rich variety of opportunities for collective worship.</li> <li>• The school has an outward-looking culture. Pupils are given regular opportunities within the curriculum to consider significant questions, such as issues of justice and equality. They discuss, reflect and, where appropriate, take action.</li> </ul>	
<b>Areas for development</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed a consistent approach to the teaching and assessment of religious education (RE), so that all pupils are able to progress consistently well in their learning.</li> <li>• Embed a shared language and shared understanding of spirituality. This is in order to build upon the variety of opportunities for spiritual development already in place.</li> </ul>	
<b>Inspection findings</b>	
<p>St Cuthbert's Church of England Primary School is an exceptionally welcoming, joyful and inclusive community. The deeply embedded Christian vision underpins leaders' evident determination to enable both pupils and adults to flourish, regardless of their starting points. Governors know the school well and are a visible and supportive presence in school. Leaders have created a culture of kindness, where all are accepted and difference is celebrated. Members of staff are role models for mutual trust and respect and this impacts positively on how pupils and adults within the school community treat each other. The school has additional classes with specialist provision for pupils with a range of special educational needs and/or disabilities. The vision-driven culture of inclusion ensures that both pupils and adults feel known and loved as unique individuals, enabling them to grow and thrive.</p> <p>The curriculum is an expression of this inclusive Christian vision and leaders provide a wide range of opportunities for all. The school ensures that enriching experiences, such as educational visits to the theatre and expert visitors in school, are woven into the curriculum. Activities are designed not only to challenge the most able but also to enable SEND children to</p>	

thrive. This drive to create a loving and accepting culture, underpinned by the school's vision to 'be the best', permeates the whole school. A member of staff summed this up by saying, "If they're not included, then they don't feel loved." A broad range of extra-curricular activities enhances the curriculum. Although spiritual moments are not explicitly planned within the curriculum, activities such as outdoor learning sessions in the forest do offer regular opportunities for spiritual development. The totality of these experiences offers pupils, including the vulnerable, opportunities to flourish.

Collective worship is a highlight of the school day and those of all faiths and none take up the invitation to participate. Worship is carefully planned and invitational, enabling both children and adults to develop spiritually. Class worship provides pupils with frequent opportunities to consider 'big questions' and the accompanying discussions are lively and thought-provoking. Pupils' willingness and ability to reflect and respond is a real strength, evident in all year groups. The worship group, comprising a diverse mix of pupils, has a high profile in school and meets weekly with the headteacher to plan and lead whole school collective worship. Pupils regard membership of the group as a privilege. Leading worship clearly builds their self-esteem and has a positive impact on their own spiritual development and more widely across the school. Support from the diocese, including whole staff training on what spirituality means for themselves and for pupils, has had a positive impact on staff knowledge and confidence. Opportunities for spiritual development within the curriculum are in place, but limited by the fact that a shared language and understanding of spirituality is not consistently embedded.

Leaders have created a culture where people are treated exceptionally well. The school has a range of strategies to ensure that pupils' basic needs are met. A free breakfast club, including fun activities to increase pupils' confidence and social skills, successfully supports parents and carers to improve their children's attendance. They evidently appreciate the many ways in which leaders provide practical support for themselves and their children, including strategies to improve attendance and punctuality. One parent, typical of many, commented that her child 'can't get in the door quick enough'. Members of staff also feel highly valued. Leaders prioritise staff's mental health and wellbeing and policies support a consistency of approach. Reflecting the school's Christian vision, the culture of compassion and treating others well permeates all aspects of school life.

The school has an outward-looking culture, empowering pupils to consider significant questions and issues and take action. Regular whole staff training sessions led by the diocese on subjects such as justice and equality have a powerful impact. Opportunities for pupils to reflect upon and discuss issues such as fairness and making ethical choices are built into the curriculum and worship plans. The school council encourages child-led initiatives and pupils organise fundraising events for causes they care about. They show a deep understanding of the nature of equality and this knowledge influences their behaviour and interactions with others. They value diversity and embrace difference, joyfully explaining how 'differences are a superpower'. One pupil commented that no one is left out when they play together 'because we're all friends'.

The school's religious education (RE) curriculum follows the diocesan scheme, supported by regular staff training. Reflecting the school's vision, the curriculum includes consideration of 'big questions' and arouses pupils' curiosity to know more about the wider world and different religions. Visitors from a variety of faiths are invited into school regularly and this brings the subject to life and enhances learning. Consequently, pupils grow in awareness of the similarities between the major world religions. They also learn about Christianity as a diverse world faith. This knowledge helps them to better understand and appreciate the similarities and differences within their own diverse community. Pupils from all year groups are reflective learners and participate in thoughtful discussions in RE lessons.

School leaders ensure that RE has a high profile and is at the heart of the curriculum. Pupils evidently enjoy RE lessons and find the subject interesting and challenging. Most are progressing well in their learning. However, occasionally there is a mismatch between lesson

objectives and learning activities and a consistent approach to RE teaching and assessment is not embedded in every year group. Leaders have taken swift action to rectify this and summaries of key learning in RE have been introduced for every year group. However, as these are still in the early stages of implementation, the impact is not consistently evident.

St Cuthbert's Church of England Primary School is a loving and inclusive community, where leaders ensure that people are treated exceptionally well and that all pupils, regardless of their starting points, are given opportunities to flourish.

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

Information			
School	St Cuthbert's Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	25/01/2024
URN	119615	VC/VA/Academy	VA
Diocese/District	Blackburn	Pupils on roll	221
Headteacher	Emily Coolican		
Chair of Governors	Victoria Weddle		
Inspector	Joanne Owen	No.	n/a