

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Herbert's Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Trinity Way, Keswick, CA12 4HZ
School vision	
<p>'Learn to love as we love to learn'</p> <p>Alongside encouraging high academic standards, we aim to grow accepting, self-aware young people, who are offered a broad range of experiences, (creatively focussed in the outdoors and through the arts), learn to feel they can "make a difference", become resilient and are able to make the right choices for a fulfilled life, where they can face all that life brings, the good times along with the challenges. Our pupils learn to love themselves and each other, while growing intellectually.</p> <p>I came to give life, life in all its fullness. John 10:10</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is thoughtfully designed to provide especially well for pupils in this community. It drives the work of the school and means that pupils and adults are enabled to flourish. • The curriculum and extra-curricular offer provide multiple opportunities for all pupils to develop and reach their full potential. • Relationships with the local Christian community greatly enhance the worship and spiritual life of pupils and adults. • Pupils and adults are empowered to care about and look after each other. They have a positive impact on the environment and in local, national and international communities. • Religious education (RE) has a high profile in school. The subject is well resourced and continuing professional development ensures it is well led and well taught. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed and refine the new RE curriculum. This is so pupils experience a greater range of diverse faiths and worldviews. • Continue to develop assessment strategies in RE so that pupils and their teachers know how well they are doing. • Utilise recent training to further develop a shared and explicit understanding of spirituality. This will supplement the many incidental spiritual experiences that pupils and adults already experience. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The Christian vision drives the work of the school. This means pupils are provided with every possible opportunity to enable them to experience 'life in all its fullness'. As the only primary school in this community, pupils, and their families, of any faith or of none, are warmly welcomed in. The especially chosen Christian values of wisdom, hope and aspiration, community and dignity shape the way life is lived in school. A strong and committed governing board brings a diverse range of</p>	

skills and experience to school life. They make a noteworthy contribution and are valued both for their informal links and for their strategic role. A church ethos group of governors ensures St Herbert's School stays true to its Christian foundation. A strong partnership with the diocese further enhances school effectiveness.

The vision's motto of 'Learn to love as we love to learn' is widely known by all. It encapsulates the approach to the curriculum, which has been carefully and thoughtfully crafted. The attributes and needs of pupils in this community are well-catered for. A diverse range of notable role models are included in subjects such as reading, art and music. This enhances pupil belief that they can go on to achieve great things. There is a precisely planned, progressive and integrated outdoor learning curriculum that utilises the school grounds and beautiful locality. This means that all pupils, from the very youngest to the oldest, benefit from enriching and spiritual experiences. These may be campfires in the school wood or climbing hills and mountains in the Lake District. Staff at all levels recognise the need to ensure pupils have opportunities to experience life outside of Keswick and the Lake District. There is therefore a structured, sequential programme of residential experiences for pupils, thus increasing their appreciation of diversity in Britain. A well-embedded and extensive programme of musical, artistic and sporting opportunities exists. Leaders, including governors, utilise available funds well. This ensures that all pupils participate in the many curriculum and enrichment activities, no matter what their family financial circumstances. All pupils, including those who may be vulnerable or disadvantaged, are therefore enabled to meet their potential. Internal and external support for pupils who are vulnerable or disadvantaged is successfully coordinated to enable them to thrive. There is an emphasis on developing the whole child and raising aspiration. 'Living life in all its fullness' means that individual strengths, talents and accomplishments are encouraged, recognised and celebrated. A wide variety of clubs exist to further extend the opportunities for pupils to shine.

There is a much valued and fruitful, mutually beneficial partnership with the local Christian community. This includes four local churches and their clergy. Pupils regularly visit two of the churches for special services. Another church uses the school hall for its Sunday services. Clergy take turns to lead weekly worship. The school community therefore benefits from enriching spiritual experiences and pupils come to understand that Christians worship in a variety of ways. Clergy also help to plan the worship programme, which includes varied content and styles and is inclusive and invitational. Bible stories illustrating Christian values are fully integrated into worship and pupils understand the relevance of these for life in modern Britain. Singing is uplifting and enhances wellbeing. Quiet moments are included to provide a time of personal reflection. There are also areas in each classroom for pupils to quietly pray, think or reflect. Pupils enjoy and profit from a variety of worship roles. These include planning and leading worship in their own classrooms as well as whole school worship and special services in church. Through such experiences, pupils' lives are enriched, and they are enabled to make informed choices about personal faith.

Pupils enjoy coming to school as it is a safe, caring and happy place. They say learning is fun and interesting, they work hard and learn a lot. One pupil confirmed this by saying, 'I don't have anything negative to say'. As a result, attendance is good compared to national averages. Pupils are encouraged to take full advantage of all that school has to offer and can therefore thrive. Parents agree that pupils are happy at school, and blossom. Pupils and adults treat each other well and care about and for each other. Staff say their lives are enriched by working with pupils and they feel valued and happy, supported by leaders and governors. Pupils are taught to 'make the right choices for a fulfilled life' and learn to live through adversity as well as joyful times. Leaders care about pupil and staff wellbeing and welcome initiatives and changes to enhance it. The 'Seeds and Gardeners' group of pupils enhances rapport between those who are younger and older, promoting deep and meaningful relationships.

There is a particularly strong and mutually beneficial relationship with the Keswick community. Pupils work with or support organisations out of school, which in turn opens its premises and grounds for use by many groups. Examples include the school choir singing to a local dementia group and then staying to make Christmas cards and chat with them. As a result, pupils learn to be good citizens and they make a valuable contribution to their community. The approach extends to the wider international community and is being further enhanced through participation in a global education project. Pupils have a good understanding of social justice and are empowered to take action, both individually and in groups. There are multiple opportunities for pupils to take on leadership roles, thus preparing them for their future. For example, the pupil 'Eco-Warriors' are proud of the positive difference they make to school and to their community.

Religious education is regarded as a core, academic subject in school. A new RE syllabus was relatively recently introduced. This meets national expectations for a Church school. RE is well led and well resourced. As a result, the quality of teaching across the school is uniformly good. Pupils are given opportunities to explore their own and others' views about faith. They explain that everyone has a right to follow a faith or to follow none. Pupils regularly visit the local churches to enhance the RE curriculum. Planned visits to a mosque and a synagogue extend pupil knowledge of religions. Leaders are embedding and refining the new curriculum and recognise that further opportunities could now be provided. This includes pupils experiencing visits and visitors from a wider range of faiths and worldviews. Assessment systems in RE are being further developed. Pupils say RE is an important subject to study. It teaches them to respect everyone and 'gives you life-lessons to make the right choices and decisions'. Therefore, pupils are enabled to develop meaning and purpose in their lives.

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

Information			
Inspection date	24 January 2024	URN	134789
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	274
Diocese	Carlisle		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Michael Craig		
Chair	Andy Murphie		
Inspector	Janet Tringham	No.	2134