



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

Beckermet Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Mill Lane, Beckermet, Cumbria, CA21 2YD
School vision	
<p>“Let Your Light Shine” (Matthew 5:16)</p> <p>‘At Beckermet Church of England Primary School our Christian vision is to be a family in which every child and adult can flourish and shine to the fullness of their God-given potential.’</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deeply caring and committed leaders have created a vibrant and inclusive learning environment with an inspiring vision at its heart. Members of the school community live this out daily, enabling individuals to thrive and flourish.</li> <li>• Collective worship is a special time of the day where all can come together to be still and think on inspiring messages. Pupils positively participate through prayer, singing, narrating Bible readings and reflection, enabling them to deepen their personal spirituality.</li> <li>• The nurture and well-being for pupils and staff is a priority for leaders. As a result, they are supported in their learning and feel empowered. This enables pupils, including those who are vulnerable or have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), to succeed.</li> <li>• Pupils are courageous in their determination to change their community and the wider world for the better. The adults in the school support them to speak out and take action, showing compassion and challenging injustice.</li> <li>• Wider learning opportunities enrich pupils’ experiences. They develop new skills in line with the vision, enabling pupils to excel in some aspect of the curriculum or extracurricular provision.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure further opportunities across the whole curriculum are planned to extend the school’s shared understanding of spirituality. This will help to enrich the personal spiritual experiences for all.</li> <li>• Further develop pupils’ understanding of Christianity as a global world faith. This is to further extend their knowledge of a range of beliefs, views and practices.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>The Christian vision of “Let your light shine”, based on Jesus’ exhortation, is deeply rooted at Beckermet Church of England VA Primary School. Values that are faithful to the Anglican foundation of the school are firmly established at the heart of this very caring school. The school community is a close-knit family, characterized by love, friendship, forgiveness, trust and respect. Every child and adult is given every opportunity to flourish and fulfil their God-given potential, at an age appropriate level. It is an exceptionally welcoming and inclusive school, where each person is valued and regarded as unique. Parents appreciate the staff’s deep commitment to ensuring that everyone can</p>	

achieve their best. Inspirational senior leaders are supported by a dedicated staff team, who serve the school community very well. Increasingly strong relationships that have been formed with the local church and the diocese have also contributed to the school's success.

The vision underpins and informs the wide range of imaginative and stimulating learning opportunities offered to pupils. Pupils behave well and are considerate of one another, because they are treated with dignity and supported effectively in their learning. All the pupils feel safe and secure. Staff ensure that vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs receive very good support. They successfully access the curriculum because the personalized support provided for them enables them to "Let their light shine". Prayer spaces provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on the school vision and values. Furthermore, pupils' involvement in creating rules based on the vision, and in nominating pupils who have exemplified the vision, has further increased its impact.

Shared spiritual language provides a strong foundation for spiritual exploration and reflection. Staff often take opportunities to encourage pupils to discuss and reflect on spiritual experiences, which aids their spiritual growth. Pupils use this language and value time to engage in such reflection inside and outside the classroom. There has been a focus on enjoying spirituality in nature, understanding one's inner self and finding time for quiet, calmness, meditation and being self-aware. The school's forestry programme, for example, fosters a love of creation and encourages pupils to contemplate big questions of ultimate significance. However, although spirituality is well developed in several areas, it is not fully developed across all aspects of the curriculum.

Leaders ensure collective worship is a powerful expression of the Christian vision and values of the school. Worship is based on biblical teaching, which is communicated in a lively and inclusive way, and linked to a daily challenge. The relevance of Jesus' teaching to people's lives is clearly explained, so that everyone is engaged and able to draw spiritual sustenance from it. Pupils join in enthusiastically with school prayers and sung worship, demonstrating their enjoyment in worshipping together. There are plentiful opportunities for pupils to be involved in leading worship, which further enhances their flourishing. Pupils also flourish as they are provided with rich opportunities for spiritual reflection, which are both affective and thought-provoking. As a consequence, pupils are able to demonstrate insight and emotional intelligence in the way they share their spiritual reflections. The school's collective worship causes pupils to think and act differently, living out the school's values and vision.

The local vicar enriches the school's collective worship programme and inspires all individuals to "Let their light shine". Through messy Church and seasonal services, pupils, parents and staff are encouraged to think deeply about faith issues. Some Year 6 pupils have chosen to be prepared for confirmation. Many pupils contribute their own prayers to services and all speak positively about the impact of church worship on them. The vicar invests a good deal of her time in the school, undertaking governor monitoring activities and strengthening the school's spirituality. She also extends pastoral care to all, contributing to everyone's sense of well-being, enhancing the impact of the Christian vision.

The vision contributes strongly to a powerful sense of community where children and adults are known, nurtured and cared for. It empowers staff to prioritise the mental health and well-being of pupils and adults. The resolute commitment to everyone's well-being, exemplified by the headteacher, helps the school and all its families to navigate difficult times extraordinarily well. Staff and pupils demonstrate the school's values, creating a community where pupils and adults feel cherished and included. All appreciate that they can approach staff with any concerns and that these would be acted upon in a supportive way. One parent described the school's support as "incredible" and highlighted that it doesn't stop at the end of the school day. Pupils and adults

thrive because of the exceptional support they receive. The school's programme of enrichment days and wide range of interventions also strongly support the culture of well-being and achievement.

Leaders draw on the vision to support a culture of service. Pupils carry out a range of leadership responsibilities diligently, responsibly and passionately. Year 6 children provide excellent support for pupils in Reception, as buddies. The school offers a vast range of after school clubs, all driven by pupil voice e.g. eco club, computing club, games club, art club, forestry club, and the 'Beckermets working bees'. The pupils have supported a local food bank, arrested the decline of the local hedgehog population, constructed bird boxes, raised funds for Down Syndrome UK and provided hospitality for senior citizens. Generous and charitable giving is commonplace and instinctive, in response to social, environmental and medical injustices. The service provided by the pupils makes a positive difference to the school, the local community and beyond.

The school's dedicated RE leader makes sure that all teachers and teaching assistants are well supported through up-to-date and relevant training. Training has been used to inform teaching and learning, ensuring the subject is engaging, stimulating and relevant for all the children. As a result, pupils develop age-appropriate skills of inquiry and interpretation, and further develop their own creativity. Pupils enjoy RE, show empathy and insight, and are confident in articulating their ideas. RE makes a strong contribution to pupils' sense of morality and spirituality.

Driven by the vision, RE has a high priority across the school. It is progressive and challenging. Use of a well-designed syllabus and other specialist resources help ensure the curriculum is systematically planned and effective. Art, music, drama, nature walks and writing poetry all serve to enrich the pupils' experience of RE. Sensory stories have proved to be particularly effective in engaging children with special educational needs and making the RE curriculum more accessible to them. Pupils' understanding of the links between religion and science and the social sciences is a little less well developed though.

Pupils have quite a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity, but are less knowledgeable about Christianity as a global faith and diversity within Christianity. Pupils are growing in their appreciation of world religions, and benefit from visiting places of worship and receiving religious visitors to the school, with whom they are able to have a direct dialogue. Assessment is used effectively to establish next steps for pupils and to set targets, informing future teaching. Pupils' work is well presented in their exercise books, floor books and displays, providing an effective and informative record of their learning journeys in RE.

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

Information			
Inspection date	26 March 2024	URN	112345
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	77
Diocese	Carlisle		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Mrs Claire Birkett		
Chair	Mrs Julia Harrison		
Inspector	Peter Cantley	No.	2218

