

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Killinghall Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Otley Road, Killinghall, Harrogate, HG3 2DW
School vision	
<p>Through the light of Jesus, we strive, we share, we shine. Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The newly developed Christian vision is the lens through which leadership decisions are considered. Pupils and staff flourish as a result. • Spirituality is woven throughout all aspects of school life. Its impact is far-reaching, influencing pupils' everyday lives. • Staff are known, valued and understood. Their professional development needs are well met, and their wellbeing is a priority for leaders. As a result, they thrive. • Collective worship is inspirational. It provides opportunities for pupils to reflect upon and share the 'ow' and the 'wow' moments within their own lives. • Religious Education (RE) is exceptionally well led and the profile of the subject has risen as a result. Recent changes to curriculum planning are aiding pupils in developing a deeper understanding of world religions and worldviews. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish robust monitoring processes with the new governing body. This is to ensure governors effectively evaluate the impact of the vision on the flourishing of pupils and staff. • Increase pupil engagement in the selection of the school's social action projects. This is to provide pupils with the opportunity to make their own ethical choices and become genuine agents for change. • Embed the recently updated curriculum planning for RE. This is to support pupils' understanding of a range of religions and worldviews and their understanding of Christianity as a worldwide religion. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Through collaboration, leaders have crafted a new, deeply theological vision, which holds the specific needs of this community at its heart. In a remarkably short period of time, this vision has become a living reality for pupils, staff and parents alike. Pupils and adults flourish as a result of the vision in action. Staff are cherished. Their professional development is prioritised, as is their wellbeing. They are actively encouraged to share their practice with colleagues so that others may 'shine' professionally. The school's new key Christian values of love, trust and justice are a reality not just for pupils, but also for staff.</p>	



The recent challenges faced by the school have resulted in limited governor monitoring. During this time, leaders have been well-supported by the local authority and the Diocese of Leeds. Both partners have completed robust monitoring. Leaders particularly valued the guidance offered by the diocese, which was instrumental in facilitating the development and implementation of the vision. Leaders have made significant changes to the wider curriculum this year to ensure that pupils are able to shine. The school's key English texts have been updated to guarantee their relevance to the wider school community. A similar activity has taken place to develop the range of artists studied. As a result, more pupils see themselves represented. Spirituality is woven implicitly throughout the curriculum. A wealth of opportunities exists within the vast and varied extra-curricular offer. Pupils recognise that through their extra-curricular activities, they experience what they refer to as the 'wow moments' of life. Although the school's language to describe spirituality is relatively new, pupils and staff clearly articulate a shared understanding.

Collective worship is inspirational. Pupils recognise the impact that worship has on the decisions they make in their daily lives. The collective worship leader has introduced class-based worship on a weekly basis. Within their classes, pupils have time and space to reflect deeply and prayerfully on themes shared during whole school worship. Pupils' reflections are carefully considered and link to the 'ow' (challenging) and 'wow' (celebratory) moments of life. A focus on spiritual development enables pupils to use a common language to share learning from the Bible. Prayer is central to school life. The pupil worship committee are rightly proud of their new school prayer, which truly encompasses the new vision and values. Pupils treasure this prayer and use it daily. Membership of the pupil worship committee is limited to a small group of Year 6. Pupils in other year groups would welcome the opportunity to aid leaders in further developing worship. The worship life of the school is supported by St Thomas' Church and Killinghall Methodist Church. Church leaders have generously offered guidance during times of challenge and this has been gratefully received.

Inclusion is prioritised in its widest sense. The vision is centred upon enabling pupils to become the best version of themselves, regardless of individual starting points. Pupils demonstrate an impressive understanding of the importance of both equity and equality and the difference between the two. There is a recognition of the growing need to promote pupils' positive mental health and wellbeing. A new pastoral team offers wide ranging support for pupils and their families. The impact of the team's work can be seen in areas such as pupil attendance. Parents value leaders' work with families facing the most challenging of circumstances. Leaders demonstrate endless generosity in the care they show. The school's behaviour policy is now implemented through the lens of the new vision. As a result, behaviour has improved markedly. Pupils themselves recognise that this improvement is a direct result of the implementation of the new vision and values.

Pupils benefit immensely from a partnership with a local care home. Year 6 thoroughly enjoy having the opportunity to read and play games with residents. Members of the choir also visit regularly to sing for them. Pupils recognise the impact that their visits have on the wellbeing of the residents. They see this work as living out the vision through the sharing of their time and talents.

Pupils have a deep sense of justice. As this is one of the school's three core values, pupils encounter themes of equality through carefully chosen curriculum opportunities. A recent workshop on this theme centred on the real-life experiences of Muslims in Britain today. Parents, staff and pupils recognise the lifelong impact this workshop will have in terms of developing pupils' understanding of social justice. Pupils have limited opportunities to engage in the selection of the school's social action projects. However, the school council are actively involved in leading the school's work to fundraise for a local hospice. Individual pupils also lead their own work for charitable causes, a recent example being the support shown for Down Syndrome Awareness Day.

The new RE leader is highly effective. With diocesan support, a thorough review of the school's RE curriculum was completed earlier this year. As a result, leaders have crafted a curriculum, which enables pupils to develop a deeper understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. This work is in its early stages of implementation. Although the impact can already be seen in pupils' growing knowledge and understanding, it is not fully embedded. Through the diocesan review, leaders also recognised that there was insufficient challenge in planning for RE. Leaders were proactive in their



response to these findings and have updated the curriculum accordingly. Again, the impact of these changes can already be seen in the work pupils produce. Leaders recognise that pupils do not have a secure understanding of Christianity as a worldwide religion. The implementation of the updated curriculum is supported through the prioritisation of professional development opportunities. RE is now a subject which is taught by all class teachers. Staff confidence in their delivery of the curriculum has improved significantly because of the high quality professional development opportunities on offer.

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

Information			
Inspection date	27 June 2024	URN	121569
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	188
Diocese	Leeds		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Ella Besharati		
Chair			
Inspector	Katie Savage	No.	2140