

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Burnley St James' Lanehead Church of England Primary School			
Address	Briercliffe Road, Burnley, Lancashire, BB10 2NH		
Date of inspection	9 May 2019	Status of school	VA primary
Diocese / Methodist District	Blackburn	URN	119487

Overall Judgement	How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	Grade	Excellent
Additional Judgements	The impact of collective worship	Grade	Excellent
	The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Grade	Excellent

School context

Burnley St James' Lanehead is a larger than average primary school. Since the last inspection the school roll has increased. The 281 pupils come from a wide range of social and cultural backgrounds. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is above national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is also above national averages. Since the last inspection a new headteacher has been appointed and a new senior leadership team has been formed. The school has links with St James' Church, Briercliffe and St Andrew's Church, Burnley.

The school's Christian vision

'All Special in God's Eyes'

Our church school seeks to inspire each individual to flourish, grow and learn with Jesus at the heart of all we do.

Key findings

- The school's Christian vision is firmly embedded and lived out by all members of the school community. This results in innovative and imaginative practice that enables pupils to flourish and transforms their lives.
- Leaders are inspirational in the way in which they deliver the Christian message through nurture, compassion and tailored provision. Consequently, pupils' behaviour is excellent and they are empowered to achieve their full potential.
- The school offers wide ranging and imaginative opportunities to explore global issues related to injustice and inequality. Pupils confidently initiate projects aimed at addressing social deprivation and disadvantage.
- Collective worship is inspirational and at the heart of school life. It contributes deeply to the spiritual development of both pupils and adults.
- Inspirational teaching in religious education (RE) results in pupils engaging confidently in discussions about Christianity and other religious traditions. They enthusiastically explore their own views and opinions about the diversity of the world today.

Areas for development

- Extend the school's curriculum to widen opportunities for spiritual development for pupils and their families through outdoor learning.
- Offer opportunities for pupils to visit the church more regularly in order to extend links with the church community.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

The school's Christian vision, underpinned by nine core Christian values, is firmly grounded in Christian theology leading to innovative and imaginative practice. Pupils and adults report that the school's motto 'All Special in God's Eyes' shapes their lives and is central to school life. This motto and the strong Christian vision inspire them to achieve their potential knowing that they are loved by God. Worship has a very high priority. The presence of leaders from local churches and the diocese is welcomed. They have established a partnership with the school that is supportive, sustainable and inclusive of the entire school community. Governors are proud of their school and are frequent visitors. Together with the headteacher and senior leaders, they ensure that rigorous and highly effective systems of monitoring and evaluation are intrinsically linked to improvement planning. Initiatives are primarily aimed at enabling pupils to flourish and succeed. Strong and supportive systems for induction and training exist involving partnerships with other schools and the diocese. Consequently, staff respond to pupils' needs in an innovative way which reflects their passion for the school's Christian vision.

Leaders ensure that financial and human resources are used to deliver a unique and spiritually based curriculum which enables pupils to be the best that they can be. Pupils are excited by their learning and make very good progress from their starting points. Disadvantaged pupils often exceed all expectations because of the successful work of senior leaders and the pastoral team. Barriers to learning are removed enabling pupils to thrive in the school's deeply Christian environment. Staff have identified spiritual development as the golden thread that runs through the whole curriculum and extra-curricular activities. They actively promote spontaneous prayer and reflection at unplanned moments throughout the school day. Events such as the RE and Values days demonstrate the school's desire to share the Christian vision throughout the local community.

The Christian vision and chosen values strongly influence pupils' behaviour and attitudes to learning. Consequently, they demonstrate resilience and perseverance in their learning and personal lives. They talk proudly of their own and the school's achievements and how these relate to the 'St James' Way' and the Calm School Code. The pupil voice groups, whose work is strongly influenced by the Christian vision, are ambassadors for change and demonstrate a deep understanding of local, national and global issues. Buddy systems such as the Gardeners and Seeds programme, ensure that both older and younger pupils grow in their faith whilst supporting each other.

The warmth of welcome that is extended to all who visit St James' is exceptional. Guided by the vision, the school is proactive in seeking to support adults and pupils in greatest need. Families and staff value the frequent acts of kindness and compassion shown to them. They speak openly of examples of care and practical support that have had a life-changing impact. Wellbeing and mental health are a key priority. In order to achieve this the school's vision is lived out in a hands-on way. There is an overwhelming sense of hope which embraces difference and celebrates diversity. Parents and grandparents enjoy events such as the weekly Family Friday because of the sense of belonging that they experience. They welcome the opportunity to spend time with their children and to express their views and concerns in a safe environment.

Leaders work tirelessly to ensure that policies related to dignity and respect reflect the school vision in a transparent and visible way. The vibrancy of the school environment demonstrates the inclusivity that exists in the school. Areas like the peace garden are examples of a culture where every pupil is loved as the person God made them to be. Leaders ensure that the broad and balanced curriculum provides a wealth of opportunities for pupils to debate issues surrounding difference and diversity. As a result, they are confident in expressing their views and enjoy taking part in projects such as Mission Possible which challenge prejudice.

Everyone in the school family relishes times of worship because, as one member of staff said, they see them as 'a time when the school comes together as a Christian family to worship Jesus'. A range of leaders, including those from local churches and the diocese, work tirelessly with school leaders to deliver worship that is innovative and inspiring for pupils and adults alike. The nine Christian values are woven into the fabric of worship. In a collective worship that focussed on the theme of service, pupils were absorbed and deepening spiritual development was clearly evident. There were examples of spontaneous prayers, humour, quiet reflection and excellent singing with signing. Pupils of different faiths speak confidently about the central role that Jesus Christ plays in worship, the Christian faith and their own lives. Pupils in Key Stage 1 commented on the role of Jesus in their lives when they said 'Jesus is here to sort out the world. He is always with us, he never dies – because he said he wouldn't.' At the

same time, they speak with clarity about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As a result of exciting and creative acts of worship and RE lessons, they are equally knowledgeable about the Eucharist. Through the Vision, Values and Worship group, pupils play a major role in leading worship. Membership of this group is highly popular. This is a clear indication of the importance that pupils place on upholding the Christian vision and developing their own and others' spirituality through worship. Class led worships are rich and varied. They capture the whole school community, particularly parents, one of whom commented that 'It's in class worship that we see the school's vision shining through our children.' Monitoring and evaluation by children, staff and parents is rigorous and well-structured, leading to worship that is always fresh and spiritually stimulating. St James' is a prayerful community. Prayer and reflection are intrinsic to school life and are facilitated by the many meticulously planned prayer spaces that can be found throughout the school.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

Statutory obligations for RE are fully met and have been sustained. Excellent systems of assessment and monitoring demonstrate that RE standards are good with a high proportion better than good. Vulnerable pupils flourish academically in RE because of meticulous planning. RE enhances pupils' thinking and questioning skills through excellent resources and lively debates with pupils from other schools. As a result of projects such as Crosses Around the World, pupils can give detailed explanations about the relevance of Christianity as a living world faith and the impact that it has on people's lives in the UK and worldwide. They demonstrate a sound understanding of the links between Christianity and Britain's cultural heritage. They have an exceptionally wide knowledge and understanding of other faiths because of their experiences with the Burnley Faith Centre and the Bethany choir. Leaders actively seek to lead and promote the sharing of good practice with other church schools.

Headteacher

Michelle Stott

Inspector's name and number

Ann Aspden 858