

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School			
Address	Raglan Road, Burnley, Lancashire, BB11 4LB		
Date of inspection	7 November 2019	Status of school	Voluntary aided primary
Diocese	Blackburn	URN	119485

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

Holy Trinity is a primary school with 207 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Few pupils speak English as an additional language. 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 above national averages. Since the last denominational inspection, a new vicar has been appointed.

The school's Christian vision

Holy Trinity is striving to be a fully inclusive school that serves our local community. Through the love of Jesus Christ, we are preparing our children to be future caring, responsible citizens in a diverse society. Our children will be given every opportunity to grow spiritually, academically and socially to achieve their full potential within a safe, happy Christian school family.

John 10 v 10 Life in all its fullness.

Key findings

- The unique and deeply embedded Christian vision shapes and defines all aspects of school life. Exceptionally strong Christian leadership drives rigorous school improvement and an effective commitment to ensure all members of the school flourish and know that they are loved by God. However, opportunities for the wider staff body to develop Christian leadership skills are under-developed.
- A positive outworking of the school's Christian vision is the inclusive, compassionate and proactive pastoral support, nurture, guidance and love. This enables the school to stand as a beacon of hope in the community it serves, enabling pupils to be aspirational and advocates of positive change.
- Biblical teaching provides the cornerstone to enable pupils to conduct themselves with exemplary behaviour, to serve others and have an impressive commitment to their learning. This draws on, and strongly reflects the school's vision.
- Excellent religious education (RE) and exceptional collective worship results in the pupils' impressive biblical knowledge and spiritual development.

Areas for development

- Provide opportunities for staff to develop Christian leadership skills and knowledge, to secure future school leaders and distribute current responsibilities.

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

Holy Trinity's biblically rooted vision is at the heart of school life. It is understood and articulated by all and enables the community to unite and flourish. It shapes strategic improvement and ensures inclusivity, safety and equality for all in innovative and exemplary ways. School leaders and governors demonstrate an unwavering and effective determination to improve outcomes for pupils and their families, by providing an excellent education, and through transforming pastoral support and practical assistance for families. Partnership with the parish is particularly strong, demonstrated for instance by the annual confirmation service that takes place for Year 6 pupils in school.

The dedicated and highly effective staff team, under the inspirational Christian leadership of the headteacher, ensure that all pupils are able to flourish. All staff feel valued and therefore create a community that is rooted in love. Governors are dedicated to providing quality professional development for all staff. They also prioritise their wellbeing. However, leadership roles, to strengthen succession planning and distribute duties, is less effective.

The school's unique, innovative and creative curriculum, founded on the vision, motivates and inspires all pupils to make excellent progress academically and spiritually, many from very low starting points. Attendance is excellent because of the support and practical help offered to families, such as a subsidised breakfast club, collection of pupils from houses and allocation of uniform. Careful consideration to staff organisation, effective and inclusive support for pupils and excellent teaching ensures that all pupils reach their full potential. This includes, an emphasis on speech and language support for the youngest pupils in early years, providing a firm foundation for pupils to improve. There is a shared understanding of the importance of spiritual development across the curriculum which effectively enriches pupils' experiences. The curriculum also provides opportunities for pupils to develop life skills, such as a focus on financial management, healthy eating and an understanding of cultural diversity. Effective financial management ensures inclusion for all pupils, enabling them to experience many educational and social activities as a school family. Through a creative, innovative and highly engaging RE curriculum pupils make rapid progress. This includes their impressive appreciation and understanding of language and concepts surrounding religious beliefs and practice. They are knowledgeable about Christian traditions around the world, Bible stories and a range of world faiths. The passionate, knowledgeable and highly effective subject leader ensures that staff are extremely well supported and feel confident in teaching RE creatively.

Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. They are proud of the caring and forgiving community that they create. Pupils are dedicated to their roles and responsibilities in school, such as school council and the worship team. Christian values, such as service, compassion and love are the bedrock of all relationships and pupils confidently and commendably articulate their significance in their lives. Parents recognise the impact that this has on their children's choices outside school. Pupils' demonstrate an impressive biblical knowledge and use this to inform their own actions and life choices. One pupil explained; 'At times we all need to have the same courage that Daniel showed when he faced the lions.'

Pupils are empowered and highly motivated to make a difference to others and live out the vision through both practical and prayerful support. Pupils talk passionately about ways in which they make a positive difference to their neighbours and put faith into action. Inspired by both the curriculum and collective worship, pupils have made a difference to local, national and global causes, despite many being in significant social need themselves. Inspired by a staff member's missionary work in Moldova, pupils talk enthusiastically about their pen friends and are proud of the practical support that they have generously given to them.

Parents speak extremely highly of the school and the significant impact that it has had on their children's character development and academic progress. They have a confident understanding of the school's vision and the difference that it makes to its ethos as well as to individual pupils. Parents recognise the impact that the Christian values have on pupils and the inclusive nature of the school. They recognise how this impacts positively in equipping pupils to be kind, loving and caring human beings.

The inspirational worship life of the school is at the heart of all it does. It is transformational, creative and inclusive. It is led by a committed, passionate and faithful leader, who has inspired significant changes since the previous denominational inspection, notably by establishing the highly effective worship team. This enthusiastic and dedicated team is proactive in planning, leading and ensuring that evaluation influences future worship plans. Innovative practice includes pupils writing their own inspiring worship songs and prayers. Pupils value their prayer and reflection spaces and are challenged by the deep questions that are displayed. The biblical mural in the worship hall is particularly striking. Every opportunity is used to celebrate the school's vision and the Christian distinctiveness, thus creating a spiritually rich environment for pupils and adults to explore faith. Leaders and the worship team have now begun to provide outdoor prayer and reflection spaces. Pupils enjoy celebrating the Eucharist regularly in church and the weekly worship led by clergy in school, as well as the informal prayer and praise extracurricular club. Consequently, they have an impressive knowledge of Christian beliefs about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and of Anglican worship and practices.

Partnership with the parish is remarkably strong and exemplary in the way that clergy and lay people are positively involved. For example, parishioners support in prayerful and practical ways and many are a welcomed presence in school. Pupils value the close relationship with the vicar and enjoy the contribution that he makes to worship and RE lessons. Relationships with local church schools have led to innovative reflection days, focusing on Christian distinctiveness, values from the Bible and spiritual development. School is also enriched by close links with the Diocese which includes the RE subject leader taking a leadership role in cluster meetings, resulting in a secure understanding and implementation of local and national current initiatives.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

Teaching and learning in RE is exceptional. Robust assessment and moderation procedures have been introduced since the previous denominational inspection and as a result, progress is closely tracked for all learners. This effectively supports rapid progress and therefore pupils flourish academically from their various starting points. RE is closely monitored alongside other core subjects which successfully supports the continued refinement of teaching and learning approaches. RE is a beacon of exemplary practice.

Headteacher	Sally Smith
Inspector's name and number	Kathryn Pym 726