

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Burton Agnes Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Rudston Road, Burton Agnes, Driffield, YO25 4NE
School vision	
<p>Our vision is to provide a caring Christian environment where children and adults of all faiths and of none are inspired to build strong foundations to enable them to be the best that they can be in all aspects of life.</p> <p>Building strong foundations 'better to build your house on a rock than on the sand' (Matthew 7.24-27)</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of their commitment to the development of Burton Agnes as a Church school, leaders have revisited their Christian vision and associated Bible verse. The vision reflects the strong commitment of leaders to the community that the school serves. • Pupils embrace their roles as agents of change with positivity and enthusiasm. They are encouraged to use their voices to actively make a difference in their community and the world around them. • Relationships within the school and across the community are a strength. Inspired by the vision, talents are valued and pupils are encouraged and nurtured to be their best. The strong focus on inclusion, wellbeing and the nurture of pupils, staff and families means that everyone flourishes. • Collective worship is inspirational, inclusive and invitational. It is enriched by well planned opportunities for pupil leadership. It positively influences the spiritual lives of pupils and adults by providing a special time for them to consider their thoughts and feelings. • Pupils have a deep understanding of difference and diversity. This is celebrated and brought to life through the curriculum and enhanced through planned visits and visitors. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore, with staff and pupils, a shared understanding of spiritual development. This is so the opportunities for spiritual flourishing encountered in school can be recognised and made the most of. • Embed the religious education (RE) curriculum. This is to ensure that pupils' experiences of RE enable them to benefit from a challenging, relevant curriculum. • Develop a strategic approach for leaders, including governors, to monitor the impact of the school's Christian vision. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Burton Agnes exudes warmth and authenticity as a rural Church school. The impact of the Christian vision illuminates every corner of this nurturing and inclusive community. Everyone is loved and</p>	



valued for who they are and opportunities for holistic growth are prioritised. This results in all individuals flourishing in harmony. The recently revisited Christian vision places the importance of having strong foundations at its heart and is rooted in the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders. The focus on providing pupils with a strong start drives the work of everyone in the school. This renewed clarity inspires everyone to try to be the best versions of themselves.

The school actively embraces strong links with the diocese and local schools, using these to enhance leadership and pupil experiences. Burton Agnes takes pride in being a Church school. Committed governors play an integral role, regularly participating and contributing as a visible, active presence in school life. Monitoring practices allow leaders to assess the positive impact of the school's vision on both pupils and adults. However, these systems are not always sufficiently robust or prioritised.

The foundation of Burton Agnes' success lies its prioritisation of positive relationships. Leaders value the wellbeing of both staff and pupils. The importance of continuous professional development results in staff feeling valued and equipped for their roles. They state that their wellbeing and work life balance are important to leaders, thus providing them with an environment to grow personally and professionally. Staff have a deep understanding of each pupil, providing support tailored to their individual needs with love and professional care. This is described as a 'warm blanket' by parents. Initiatives for the most vulnerable are carefully implemented whilst considering the holistic development of each pupil. Parents appreciate the school's inclusive approach, where everyone is welcomed and nurtured in a safe environment. They trust that adults, including governors, will always take the time to listen and respond with care and respect.

Leaders are committed to the development of a balanced curriculum which prepares pupils for life in an ever-changing world. Pupils talk enthusiastically about the ways in which their lessons are enhanced through exciting opportunities which develop their learning. The curriculum is underpinned by the vision and associated Bible story, meaning that it has firm foundations. A range of school themes and topics enable rich conversations and an exploration of big questions to take place. Thus, pupils are provided with valued and relevant opportunities for learning and personal growth. For instance, older pupils have studied the effects of apartheid in South Africa, discussing its profound human impact. Pupils enthusiastically describe their lessons as an "opportunity to discuss difficult ideas in a safe space." As a result of this, they can talk confidently about the ways in which they embrace and celebrate difference and diversity. Throughout the school, carefully curated reflection spaces encourage students to pause and contemplate. However, the many opportunities for spiritual flourishing are not explicitly identified. This is because there is not a fully embedded understanding of spiritual development in the school.

The impact of the vision is tangible in the provision for pupils with additional needs. Pastoral care, rooted in love, ensures that all individuals can flourish and make progress regardless of their starting point. Parents are warmly welcome in school and overwhelmingly express positivity about Burton Agnes. The school's approach to the timetabling of all interventions has been guided by the vision. This courageous decision has been recognised and supported by parents.

Everyone's opinion matters at Burton Agnes and pupils are passionate about their school and community. They find inspiration in the vision, understanding that they are encouraged to learn and grow in diverse ways. Their confidence to speak up and act, both within and outside of school, reflects their deep-seated commitment to their environment and community. Pupils burst with pride when describing the independent action taken to repurpose a space for pupils with additional needs. They enthusiastically engage in work to improve the lives of others, talking passionately about 'being the change you want to see.' The vision provides inspiration and confidence for the pupils to make a difference which is personal and deeply meaningful to them.

Collective worship is a special time for the school community. Pupils are responsive, respectful, and engaged, feeling their contributions are valued. Shared routines ensure that this a valued opportunity for staff and pupils to stop and reflect. Pupils enjoy the opportunity to regularly plan and lead worship. This provides them with an independent opportunity to live out the vision with their peers. Acts of collective worship reflect the Christian vision, resulting in rich experiences delivered by adults, clergy and pupils. There is an emphasis on participation in both word and song, with key elements from Anglican worship included in a variety of ways. The mutually beneficial relationship between the local parish church and the school has been prioritised, developed and reinigorated. This has resulted in improved relationships and community links.

Pupils are positive about their experience of RE. The collective approach to subject leadership ensures the school's context is considered in planning and resourcing. In addition to Christianity, pupils benefit from learning about world faiths and world views. They can articulate the similarities and differences in religions. This is achieved through learning about beliefs, the way people live, exploring 'big' and pupils' own questions. Pupils can articulate how this approach helps them to understand and respect the beliefs of others. Leaders have thought carefully about the opportunities pupils have to listen and learn from individual lived experiences. Learning is brought to life through visits to places of worship and visitors from a range of world faiths. Older pupils talk confidently about atheism and humanism and can begin to describe complex ideas such as the secular nature of society. Art, drama and debate are used to inspire and engage pupils. The planning of tasks enables all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), to actively participate in lessons. There are resources to support teaching and learning as well as visitors from different faiths. Learning is planned so that it is linked to what has come before and what will come next. However, application of this is not yet consistent across the school. Pupils can make connections but they still have some misconceptions about Christianity as a living world faith. As a result, opportunities which build connections between prior learning and make the best use of resources are not fully secure.

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

Information			
Inspection date	18 April 2024	URN	117973
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	100
Diocese	York		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Helen Jameson		
Chair	Andrea Lister		
Inspector	Lee Talbot	No.	2123