

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

<b>Crosscanonby St John’s Church of England Primary School</b>	
<b>Address</b>	Garborough Close, Crosby, Maryport, CA15 6RX

### School vision

‘A friend loves at all times’ Proverbs 17:17    ‘A little school with a big heart’

With Christian theology at the heart of what our school’s vision is, we are continually enabling our children to understand how to live their lives to the full through doing good, love and value one another and develop spiritually so that they can project this into their community, both academically and as well-rounded citizens.

We do this through 3 key principles:

1. Take advantage of every opportunity to do good and be helpful to people (Galatians 6:10)
2. (Instead) being kind and tender hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ (Ephesians 4:3)
3. Setting an example for others to follow by what you do and say, as well as by your own love, faith and purity (1 Timothy 4:12)

### School strengths

- The Christian vision is thoughtfully designed and meets the school’s current needs. It drives the work of the school and means that pupils and adults flourish.
- Love and kindness are at the heart of relationships. Pupils and adults are nurtured and supported.
- Collective worship is valued across the school community. It offers many opportunities for prayer and reflection. This allows pupils to consider how they can live out the Christian vision and values.
- There is effective provision for vulnerable pupils and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Consequently, there is a seamless approach that fosters inclusion and acceptance.
- Good mental health for pupils and adults is central to the work of Crosscanonby St John’s. Therefore, pupils and adults thrive.
- There is a strong inter-connected relationship between the school, the local church and the community. This creates a sense of belonging that is valued and cherished.

### Areas for development

- Establish a shared language and understanding of spirituality. This is in order that deeper opportunities secure spiritual growth in pupils and adults.
- Ensure collective worship is solely rooted in the Christian faith so that it reflects the school’s Christian foundation.
- Secure focused monitoring by leaders at all levels to establish a cohesive religious education (RE) curriculum. This is to enable pupils to have a rich and unified experience of the subject.

## Inspection findings

Highly committed school leaders and governors ensure that the Christian vision is central to the work of Crosscanonby St John's. Staff, pupils, parents and governors have recently refreshed the biblically rooted vision. This ensures it effectively meets the current needs of the school. The vision is lived out through Christian values, in particular love and kindness. Pupils and adults know they are nurtured and encouraged to 'do good, love and value one another'. This can be seen right from the start of the school day when there is a warm and personal welcome. Policies, procedures and school improvement actions are driven by the vision. As a result, leaders at all levels take courageous decisions, such as high staffing ratios, to successfully meet individual needs. There is an ongoing commitment by leaders and governors to ensure that the school continues to improve standards. Governors are active, knowledgeable and support the work of Crosscanonby St John's as a Church school. RE and collective worship monitoring by governors gives an understanding of the effectiveness of the Christian vision. However, an established programme to evaluate the vision's impact and how it influences all parts of school life is not fully established.

Inspired by the Christian vision, leaders are determined that the curriculum develops not just the academic but the whole child. Exemplary provision is made for vulnerable pupils and those who have SEND. Sensory spaces, interventions and well-matched resourcing enables them to achieve their best. Pupils receive a broad and vibrant curriculum that is enriched by visits, visitors and resources. As a result, their viewpoint is widened. They gain a secure foundation for life in modern Britain and a diverse world. A well-planned and accessible extra-curricular programme further expands pupils' experiences. Consequently, individual talents and interests are nurtured. Spirituality is explored through reflection and prayer in lessons and in collective worship. Pupils take up this opportunity freely and value it. However, there is not a shared language for spirituality. As a result, there is limited vocabulary to explore and articulate spirituality in depth. Therefore, this restricts opportunities of spiritual flourishing for pupils and adults.

Collective worship has high status as it is seen as a vital part of the school day. Pupils enthusiastically take part in drama, singing, sharing their own prayers and expressing their thoughts. Adults say it is a moment in their day to pause and reflect and even be challenged. Consequently, it supports the Christian vision and values. Collective worship is varied because it is led by teachers, clergy and visitors. This gives an extra dimension and further enriches pupils and adults' spiritual flourishing. Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship leads to pupil voice being heard. On their request, more big questions are included so their understanding of faith is deepened. However, on some occasions collective worship is not solely rooted in the Christian faith.

At Crosscanonby St John's, relationships between all groups are at the heart of the school. This creates an inclusive environment where everyone is recognised and accepted for who they are. One pupil said, 'This is a good school as everyone is nice to each other. It's a caring place to be.' For pupils in care and their families, this is particularly valued as they receive personalised support. Pupils are encouraged to live out the vision by 'being kind and tender hearted to one another'. This is seen in the natural way older pupils nurture younger pupils during lunch and playtimes. When things do go wrong, the school's commitment to reconciliation and repair ensures that a new sheet begins the very next day. The Christian vision guarantees that the wellbeing and mental health of pupils and adults are a priority for leaders. It is an ongoing feature of governor and staff meetings. This widespread and sustained consideration of pupil and staff needs contributes to a strong sense of wellbeing. Emphasis is placed on programmes and training that support mental health, including nurture groups and counselling. The impact of this focus is clear. For example, pupils who were previously struggling to attend school are now able to join in with lessons and collective worship. Leaders and governors are mindful of workload and emotional toil. This creates an environment where staff feel supported and well cared for.

There is an inter-connected and mutually beneficial relationship with the wider community and local church. Pupils are enthusiastic to support others and to work with a range of organisations. For example, raising money for the hospice through a bake sale. As a result, pupils have a sense of purpose and belonging and learn to be proactive citizens of the future. The school encourages this by creating roles of responsibility, such as school

council representatives. Pupils also make choices of their own. They raised money for the earthquakes in Turkey and tackled climate change by litter picking in Aspatria. Therefore, pupils develop a sense of social justice and how they can be agents of change.

RE is seen as a core subject. Pupils talk keenly about their learning in the subject. One pupil said they liked discovering stories Jesus told in the Bible as they can then copy his example. Another pupil really valued the talk from a visitor who discussed his belief as a Humanist. This was because it gave him a way to view his own thoughts and beliefs. The RE leader attends training offered by the diocese and cascades this to teachers in staff meetings. Therefore, teachers are kept informed the latest developments in the subject. Leaders ensure that appropriate resources are in place to support RE teaching. The school is in the first year of transitioning to a new RE curriculum. Currently, there is not a cohesive approach. Therefore, this limits the pupils' deeper experience of the subject.

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

Information			
Inspection date	29 April 2024	URN	112273
VA/VC/Academy	voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	55
Diocese	Carlisle		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Kelly Bowe		
Chair	Sarah Morgan		
Inspector	Sarah Nuttall	No.	c.23/24