

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School			
Address	Strawberry Lane, Armley, Leeds, LS12 1SF		
Date of inspection	02 July 2019	Status of school	Voluntary controlled primary
Diocese / Methodist District	Leeds	URN	108005

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	Good
Additional Judgements	The impact of collective worship	Grade	Good

School context

St Bartholomew's is a primary school with 750 pupils on roll. A high percentage of pupils are of black and ethnic minority heritage. Many pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is well above national averages. The proportion of pupils who are considered to have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is at national averages. There are significant changes since the previous inspection with the intake doubling to three forms of entry. The deputy headteacher became the acting headteacher in March 2019.

The school's Christian vision

We believe we will flourish in God's family, we can all achieve, we respect everyone, together we support each other and as part of God's family we will support everyone to succeed. Luke 4:18

Key findings

- The leadership team inspires all staff to 'go the extra mile' so that even the most vulnerable pupils make good progress and are well-equipped for their future lives. Governors know the school well through frequent visits and meetings. However, their formal evaluation of church school distinctiveness is still developing.
- The Christian vision permeates all aspects of the school's daily life and is understood by all members of the school community. Together with core Christian values, the vision ensures that everyone grows and flourishes in a loving and caring community, in which the mental health and wellbeing of the whole school family is given high priority.
- Pupils are seen as unique individuals with unique talents and gifts. As a result, the curriculum and ethos of the school inspire them with exciting and relevant learning, enabling them all to flourish.
- Collective worship plays a key part in pupils' understanding of the school's Christian values and their relevance in pupils' daily lives.
- Religious education (RE) is taught well and as a result, pupils learn how to treat other people, whatever their background, with dignity and respect.

Areas for development

- Ensure that governor processes for monitoring and evaluating the impact of RE are embedded in the school review procedures, so that the Christian vision informs strategic planning.
- Develop a systematic approach to embedding Understanding Christianity within the Leeds syllabus to ensure that learning outcomes secure pupils' sustained progress in RE.
- Equip pupils of all ages to take more responsibility for leading collective worship, to further their understanding of its important elements.

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

Led by the personal commitment of the inspirational acting headteacher and leadership team, the school community lives out its refreshed Christian vision in every aspect of its work. All members of the school have contributed to its development, ensuring it is a Christian vision, not only for the pupils, but also for all stakeholders. Its biblical text upholds carefully selected core Christian values. The belief that each child is valued and special because they are made "in God's image" underpins all the school does. Relationships within and beyond the school are firmly rooted in Christian values, ensuring all are given the support, encouragement and opportunity to succeed. As a result, pupils develop a deep love of learning, respect for the world and all its people. These values are used by all stakeholders as the underpinning reasons for their choices of action or response. Parents explain that their children live out the values at home. Staff morale is extremely high. Staff feel valued and respected and their wellbeing is considered at all levels of decision-making. They all benefit from professional development opportunities. This supports middle leaders and the development of future church school leaders very well. Governors are passionate about the school and have become much more involved in monitoring its work as a church school. However, this is not yet systematic enough to ensure progressive improvement in RE.

The school's Christian vision successfully reaches out into the wider local community. Parents describe the 'thread of Christian ethos that runs through all activities in the school'. It also nurtures the development of pupils' personal spirituality, arising from the awe and wonder they experience within their learning and collective worship. For some pupils this develops into a deeper personal connection with God through prayer and reflection. Pupils report that 'we know God and our teachers love us and we love them'. This pervasive sense of love and care for others in the school is modelled by the staff in their work and interaction and is emulated by the pupils. The school's vision and values have shaped personalised planning, which has secured the 'School of Sanctuary award' and the appointment of a mind-mate champion. Several staff are trained to identify any wellbeing and mental health issues which supports all pupils, parents and staff. This is reinforced by work on embedding the principles of 'Valuing all God's Children' celebrating diversity and difference. The school's annual multicultural week and work to achieve the Cultural Cohesion Quality Mark enables pupils to live out the Christian vision of understanding and friendship. One parent noted that 'there are no colours in this school, just people'. This results in the highest standard of respectful, considerate behaviour where instances of bullying are extremely rare and quickly eliminated. The school supports pupils in becoming confident and resilient learners, ambitious to achieve well. Pupils are encouraged to support each other and they do this both socially and in class. This courageous determination for success is regarded as a way of living out the school's Christian vision. This leads to all pupils making above national progress from their starting points, as leaders successfully eliminate barriers to learning with innovative practice. Consequently, pupils enjoy coming to school and attendance is good.

Older pupils demonstrate sound leadership in the care of their younger peers within the school family and all work well together in the school council. The school takes great pride in its charitable fundraising and through its commitment the school council has raised awareness of social injustice. This has inspired the whole school to raise money for causes by creating and delivering thought provoking presentations about the global issue of asylum seekers and refugees. Pupils are also aware that there are people in need of support nearer to home. They visit local nursing homes and day centres, suggesting and planning activities with them. Pupils in Key Stage 2 run a stall with food donated by a local charity to support deprived families. Pupils are accepting of differences in lifestyle and faith, and are confident to express their views in a culture of trust and mutual respect.

Collective Worship is central to school life. It is invitational and meets statutory requirements. The school's vision and associated values are central to the worship themes. Pupils have expressed a wish to be more involved on a regular basis in school worship. This is an area for improvement. Opportunities for pupils to reflect on worship and their own lives are embedded across the school and contribute to spiritual development through prayer. Worship allows pupils to increase their knowledge and understanding of Bible stories. They are able to articulate how these help them to understand how Jesus used values to teach people how to behave. Pupils understand the church's calendar and celebrations of the Christian year through key event worship and services at church. Pupils welcome visitors to worship enthusiastically, particularly the parish priest, who enriches their experience of worship. A focus on asking challenging questions links to the theme and enables pupils to deepen their thinking. Opportunities for stillness and reflection, both during school and class worship enables pupils to be at peace and be calm within. As noted by a parent 'they gain

strength to rise above life's challenges'.

All recognise the importance of RE in ensuring pupils flourish, and this is reflected in the time, resources and ongoing support from the Diocese in introducing the Understanding Christianity programme. The new resources along with the locally agreed syllabus is progressively deepening pupils' understanding, creating challenging questions across all age groups. Governors' monitoring of RE is an area for development. The subject leader is enthusiastic, knowledgeable and attends diocesan training. This means that she is able to offer advice and support when needed, ensuring standards are high and lessons are exciting and stimulating. Written work is of high quality and includes pupils' reflections and responses to the area being studied. Pupils of all abilities enjoy RE because its learning approaches enable all to achieve well. RE topics are often linked to collective worship themes and the wider curriculum, therefore extending the subject's influence and pupils' experience. Use of inclusive discussion and debate in RE enables pupils of faith or none to reflect upon personal beliefs, and to be challenged by the big questions. Pupils appreciate the changes and report that RE is a favourite subject. In the words of one pupil 'it is exciting and I learn things I didn't know about God' and 'we love reading the Bible'.

This is a school with a demonstrable vision and culture of inspiring all to be the best they can be.

Headteacher	Jane Wainwright
Inspector's name and number	Elaine Bowers 960