Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St. Bridget's Church of England School

Vision

'Letting Our Lights Shine'

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

St. Bridget's School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- The shared Christian vision of, 'Letting Our Lights Shine' is at the heart of the school. Rooted in love, kindness and respect, this vision empowers both pupils and adults to flourish.
- As a direct result of the vision, loving relationships permeate throughout St. Bridget's School. Pupils act as 'beacons of light' modelling kindness and how to treat each other well.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum is effective as it is carefully balanced and well sequenced. RE lessons enhance pupils' knowledge and understanding of a range of worldviews and faiths, including Christianity.
- The shared approach to spirituality and carefully planned opportunities for its development enable pupils and adults to grow spiritually.
- Inclusive and engaging collective worship is a natural expression of the school's Christian vision. This offers space for prayer and reflection for the whole school community, contributing to personal spiritual growth.

Development Points

- Extend opportunities for pupils to identify and explore issues of justice and injustice. This is so that they understand their role in creating an outward looking culture of justice.

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Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership The Christian vision is clearly known and understood and shapes daily life at St Bridget's School. It is developed in consultation with the wider school community, bringing a sense of shared ownership. Leaders ensure that pupils and adults contribute to its continued relevance and development. Guided by the aspirational vision they are committed to enabling everyone to flourish academically and personally. Established Christian values underpin the vision and are embedded throughout the school's culture and relationships. Leaders and governors ensure that the vision is lived out across the school community. Consequently, it has a positive and discernible impact on daily school life. The vision guides staff in supporting pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and adults. Parents and carers value the nurturing, supportive environment created by the vision. Consequently, pupils, staff, governors and families feel valued and respected. Governors monitor and evaluate the vision's impact through school visits. This informs their strategic decisions and strengthens a culture where the vision is understood as the school's guiding light.
Vision and Curriculum Pupils demonstrate high levels of enthusiasm and a strong desire to learn. They approach this with confidence, curiosity and a positive attitude. The Christian vision shapes a carefully designed curriculum that reflects the school's distinct context. It provides meaningful opportunities for pupils to develop academically, personally and spiritually. Pupils confidently explain how love, kindness and respect guide their daily actions. These Christian values are evident in their relationships, behaviour and attitudes towards others which help them to learn well together. The shared phrase 'letting our lights shine' inspires pupils to flourish through school life. This drives them to do their best and creates a positive learning environment where they encourage others. Leaders demonstrate a secure and thoughtful understanding of spirituality and spiritual development. As a result, they plan purposeful opportunities for reflection, stillness, wonder and personal growth. These moments enable them to consider their beliefs, values and experiences. The impact is evident in pupils' growing self-awareness, empathy and spiritual development. Adults also reflect on their own growth and demonstrate a strong sense of purpose. The curriculum is carefully adapted to meet the needs of pupils, including those with SEND. Teachers use appropriate support and adjustments to ensure that pupils can shine. A range of curricular and extra-curricular experiences enable them to discover their strengths. This encourages them to develop their talents, confidence and sense of responsibility. As a result, they develop as confident, compassionate and reflective members of the school community.
Worship and Spirituality Vision-led collective worship is a valued and distinctive feature of daily school life. It is carefully planned, offering regular opportunities for prayer, reflection and singing. Pupils and adults appreciate moments of stillness and contemplation during worship. They reflect on Christian values that positively shape daily life and relationships. Pupils participate actively and benefit from opportunities to contribute to collective worship. This strengthens their sense of belonging and engagement within the worshipping community. A strong partnership with St Bridget's Church enriches the school's spiritual life. For example, it nurtures the breadth of experiences that pupils and adults encounter in worship. These encounters strengthen pupils' understanding of Christian traditions and their place within the wider community. The impact is evident in their growing confidence to express their thoughts and reflections. This deepens their understanding of spirituality and its relevance to their lives. This culture flows from the Christian vision and promotes the spiritual flourishing of the school community.
Vision and School Culture St. Bridget's Christian vision nurtures a loving community where pupils and adults can thrive. Policies and practices promote a culture that actively enhances their wellbeing. Mental health training enables leaders to prioritise wellbeing across school life. Adults provide sensitive pastoral care and work diligently to support the whole school community. This inclusive culture ensures that the needs of pupils, including those with SEND, are met. Pupils encourage, support and care for one another, strengthening their sense of belonging. Guided by the vision and associated values they demonstrate kindness, compassion and respect through their

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everyday interactions with others. Leaders make thoughtful decisions to reduce staff workload and protect their wellbeing. As a result, they feel respected, supported and cared for. This strengthens their capacity to nurture and care for pupils. The positive relationships across school contribute significantly to pupils' confidence, resilience and spiritual flourishing. Together, the school community lives out its Christian vision through a deep sense of compassion and service to each other.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The vision's aspiration to 'let our lights shine' helps to build a unified caring community. Pupils recognise their part in growing a positive and supportive environment. The 'beacons' readily embrace roles of responsibility within the school such as playground buddies, play leaders and prayer space helpers. A range of charitable events engage and involve pupils. These activities enable them to understand the needs of others and what they can do to help. Pupils also demonstrate awareness of the importance of caring for the natural world by undertaking beach litter picks to protect animals. They are encouraged to recognise that their actions can make a meaningful difference to others. As a result they are beginning to develop a sense of responsibility for their community. However, the way in which pupils identify and understand issues of justice are less developed. This limits the way that they are inspired to use their sense of personal responsibility to actively challenge injustice.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum is carefully designed and well sequenced. It enables pupils to develop a deepening understanding of a wide range of religions and worldviews. Leaders monitor the impact of the curriculum closely. They evaluate how effectively pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of the way people live out their beliefs and views. Through the curriculum there is clear progression in learning. Pupils build securely on prior knowledge and have opportunities to explore increasingly complex beliefs and ideas. Therefore, they have opportunities for reflection and therefore they are enthusiastic about RE. This is because the curriculum is carefully planned providing stepping stones for pupils to develop skills to discuss, question and explore different beliefs and ideas. They are inspired by the relevant curriculum and show curiosity and respect when considering different perspectives. RE is led effectively and has a prominent place within the curriculum. This strengthens the school's Christian distinctiveness as a Church school. Leaders work closely with the diocese to provide high-quality training for staff which enhances their own knowledge of curriculum content.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Main Street, Parton, Whitehaven, Cumbria. CA28 6NY		
Date	23 September 2026	URN	112296
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	55
Diocese	Carlisle		
Headteacher	Ruth Colley		
Chair of Governors	Eliza Treme-Swailes		
Inspector	Wendy Kendall		

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