



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Clitheroe St James' Church of England Primary School	
Address	Greenacre Street, Clitheroe, BB7 1ED
School vision	
<p>St James' is a Church School where everyone is valued and upheld by Love, Hope, and Respect. Our school forms a crucial part of our journey through life.</p> <p>We will be BOLD on our journey together.</p> <p>We will Believe</p> <p>We will be Open</p> <p>We will be Loving</p> <p>We will be Determined</p> <p>Be strong and courageous. The Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply rooted Christian vision is at the heart of all aspects of life at St James'. Strong and courageous decisions, underpinned by the vision, support the school to drive improvements so that adults and pupils flourish. • The Christian vision is central to curriculum development and the work of the school. Leaders at all levels work hard to provide the best educational experiences possible. • Strong partnerships enable the school to provide inspirational and creative worship for all. Opportunities for prayer, reflection and song are woven into worship enabling adults and pupils to flourish spiritually. • The wellbeing of everyone is a high priority and there is an overwhelming sense of Christian love, care and kindness. This has developed a supportive culture where pupils and adults respect one another as unique individuals created by God. • Religious education (RE) is well led and taught as an academic subject. The curriculum is well sequenced, and pupils are able to make expected progress in their understanding of Christian beliefs and practices. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that leaders continue to develop robust systems to monitor the school's distinctly Christian character and vision. This is so that they understand the impact of actions taken and identify areas for improvement. • Embed and develop opportunities in RE so pupils develop a deeper understanding of a range of world faiths and worldviews. • Develop and embed a shared language for spirituality. This is to enable adults and pupils to recognise and articulate how they are spiritually flourishing. 	
Inspection findings	
St James' Church of England Primary School's Christian vision is a driving force enabling leaders to	

be strong and courageous. They have utilised the power of the vision to support strategic decisions to ensure that adults and pupils flourish. This has included the recruitment of a dedicated pupil support manager and targeted investment focused on professional development. Leaders, staff and governors work together to make the vision a living reality. The journey to believe, be open, loving and determined (BOLD) is explicitly articulated and understood by all within the community. As a result, adults and pupils identify how they put the vision into action to overcome barriers and achieve goals. Systems are in place to monitor and evaluate school effectiveness. However, they do not focus sufficiently on the school's distinctive Christian character and the impact of the vision.

The vision is at the heart of the curriculum, which strives to be inclusive and aspirational for all. Self-belief and resilience are core features of learning. These are promoted through a broad experience that supports social, cultural, and emotional development. Forest schools, excellent sporting opportunities and themed weeks, such as book and arts week, contribute to how pupils flourish. Pupils clearly enjoy school and love learning. This is evident through their excellent attitudes and levels of attendance. Learning opportunities also support pupils to look beyond the school and consider issues of justice. This includes exploring discrimination in personal, social, health education (PSHE) and ethical trade in geography. Well established links with Kings Highway School in Kenya build an understanding of significant cultural difference. Fund raising initiatives for Kings Highway support pupils to see how actions can directly impact on people's lives. The school has accessed training from the diocese on spirituality. However, this is at an early stage of implementation within the breadth of the curriculum. At this time, pupils and adults are not confident in how they articulate their understanding of spiritual flourishing.

The deeply embedded culture of Christian love ensures that everybody is treated well. The changing footprints in the school's logo illustrates how God can carry and support. This inspires members of the school family to value and uphold one another, showing empathy and care. Leaders are proactive in aiding good mental health and wellbeing for everyone. Adults appreciate how the vision brings people together and promotes openness, self-belief and love. This is evident when staff engage in regular prayer meetings with governors. Together, they reflect on the challenges within school life along with local and global issues. Pupils know that there is always a trusted adult available who will listen, support and respond to help them. Behaviour during lessons and at social times is calm and purposeful. At break times, pupils actively use prayer bags. These include objects and prayerful words of encouragement which support spiritual growth, enabling pupils to be peaceful and reflective. There are a wide range of pupil leadership roles including, ambassadors, worship leaders, school council, wellbeing warriors and sports leaders. This means that pupils play an active role in school life, helping to make decisions to support identified improvements. Parents appreciate the personalised care that their children receive, particularly in relation to individuals' special educational needs and vulnerabilities. They are highly supportive of the school, recognising that the inclusive vision is enabling all to live and learn together.

Inclusive worship, structured around the school's vision to be BOLD, is a focal point of the school day. It provides the school community the time and space to come together to share, reflect and grow spiritually. Worship, thoughtfully planned by staff and pupils, is relevant and engaging for everyone. This is evident in the respectful listening, discussions and thoughtful responses drawn from adults and pupils. Worship includes a range of stories, drama and songs, which promote the vision and associated Christian values. As a result, pupils can articulate their understanding of the vision and how it enables them to flourish. Evaluations of worship by pupils and adults have led to the development of weekly 'big questions.' These enable pupils to relate the vision and teachings to life beyond the school hall. Pupils are encouraged to live out these Christian values. Special moments are recognised and celebrated through the awarding of golden tickets. Consequently, character development is strong.

The mutually beneficial partnership with the local church greatly enhances provision for worship. Working in partnership, leaders and the church have tailored worship to meet the needs of the community. This is enriching the opportunity for spiritual development of all. The mission to reflect God's gracious love is evident in themed prayer spaces created each term. Pupils and adults value these rich experiences that promote spiritual growth, through reflection, prayer and by responding to God's teachings. Popcorn film sessions and Bible Diggers clubs are valued and well attended. These activities, along with school services for key festivals, contribute to the spiritual flourishing of the school community.

RE is well led and managed. The subject is enriched by opportunities to openly explore and value different beliefs and viewpoints. Consequently, RE reflects and reinforces the school's vision to be open, loving and to value all. By working closely with the diocese, training is accessed, and staff are kept up-to-date with new developments. This enables school staff to extend their knowledge and improve teaching and learning. Pupils talk enthusiastically about their learning and the opportunities to explore 'God's Big Story' in creative ways. They are empowered to ask thoughtful questions in a safe environment. Class and individual books indicate a mix of educational opportunities and age-appropriate pupil reflections. Lessons support pupils to consider how faith is lived out in a range of contexts. For example, exploring imagery included on El Salvador crosses and key language used within popular Christian hymns. Teaching is supported by clergy involvement which is greatly valued by adults and pupils.

Pupils are well taught and know how to make progress in their learning because assessment is well used by teachers. Regular, robust monitoring by leaders enables them to effectively evaluate standards and identify areas for improvement. The effectiveness of teaching is seen in pupils' explanations and understanding of core Christian ideas. Opportunities to visit places of worship support pupils to value diversity. However, pupils' knowledge and understanding of a range of world faiths and worldviews is limited.

The school lives out its vision on a daily basis. It supports and sustains, enabling all to flourish, knowing as they progress on their journey, God is by their side.

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

Information			
Inspection date	18 March 2024	URN	119419
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	287
Diocese	Blackburn		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Jonathan Leeming		
Chair	Mark Clayton		
Inspector	Steven Holmes	No.	2233