Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

Vision

"Let your light shine before people, so that they will see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven." Matthew 5:15

Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary 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

- Leaders understand the community well and have a fully embedded Christian vision and associated values. These values underpin every aspect of school life. Pupils and staff are valued, loved and given opportunities to let their light shine.
- The inclusive curriculum provides pupils with the chance to shine. It promotes curiosity, confidence and resilience. Leaders are committed to enabling pupils to flourish and provide tailored support so that the needs of learners are met.
- Uplifting daily collective worship is joyful and enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. Bible stories, prayer, singing and reflection nurture love and the sense of belonging. This encourages the school community to live out its vision.
- As a result of the vision to enable people to 'shine', pupils and adults are deeply valued and well cared for. This creates a community where high value is placed on relationships and the worth of individuals. The wide range of support provided for mental health and wellbeing enables both pupils and adults to flourish.
- High quality provision of religious education (RE) results in pupils who have a deep knowledge and understanding of a range of beliefs. Strong leadership of RE ensures pupils explore diversity and celebrate difference which includes Christianity as a global and multicultural faith.

Development Points

- Strengthen opportunities for spiritual growth in the curriculum. This is to enhance the spiritual flourishing of pupils.
- Establish processes for governors to monitor and evaluate the impact of the Christian vision across areas of school life. This is to provide support and challenge to shape ongoing developments as a church school.

Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The Christian vision at Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School permeates school life, enabling individuals to thrive. Pupils and adults explain how it applies to them and how they use it to help them shine. Consequently, they flourish. Carefully chosen values of friendship, kindness, service and resilience are woven throughout the daily life of the school community. Even the youngest pupils can explain the impact they have. Leaders' ambitions and high aspirations, as expressed through 'let your light shine', are well known throughout the school community. A highly committed staff team and carefully nurtured, rich partnerships strengthen provision as a Church school. Highly dedicated and knowledgeable governors have a clear understanding of its work and are committed to success. They visit frequently to witness the vision in action and actively participate in school life. However, governor monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the school's Christian vision, is underdeveloped.

Vision and Curriculum

Underpinned by the vision, the inclusive curriculum is enabling pupils to prosper in their learning. Strategic decisions in curriculum development ensure it is bespoke. They ensure it is adapted to the needs of the pupils. Staff tailor and scaffold teaching and support so that pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) can thrive. Additional interventions and small group or individual sessions, help pupils to emotionally balance and engage with their learning. Targeted support and an open-door policy provide parents with reassurance and guidance. Many Clubs, including a 'Footprints' club which focuses on the teachings of Jesus, as well as opportunities for trips, broaden horizons. Pupils are encouraged to discover new interests and grow in confidence. They are encouraged to experience spontaneous moments of spirituality, such as pausing to reflect on the awe and wonder of the school's cherry blossom tree. However, although there are planned opportunities for spiritual reflection within the curriculum these are not embedded.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is at the heart of school life. It reflects the school's Anglican foundation and the Christian vision. Pupils gather with respect, warmth and a sense of belonging. Staff know their pupils well and provide sensitive support enabling those with SEND to have the opportunity to engage in worship. They sing with enthusiasm and the use of music across the school is spiritually inspiring and uplifting. Bible stories develop pupils' understanding of how Christian values were taught and lived by Jesus. As a result, they learn from his teaching. Collective worship plays a key role in deepening pupils' understanding of the school's vision and values. They consider what this means for them in daily life. This encourages pupils to continue to shine confidently and positively within the school community. The school's clearly articulated understanding of spirituality enables pupils to contemplate and to wonder during collective worship. It also encourages reflection during 'time to connect' at the end of the day. As a result, pupils can confidently reflect on connection with themselves, others, the world and beyond. Clergy play an active role in leading worship including Eucharist services. Their presence strengthens the link between school and church.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The Christian vision and chosen value of service, inspires a culture of justice and responsibility. Pupils are encouraged to be a light that shines, for themselves, in their home, their community and for the world. Representation on the school council enables pupils to have a voice and develop into confident leaders. Pupils choose two local and national charities to support each school year. As a result, they understand that their actions can make a difference and are inspired to help those in need. Through the curriculum, pupils explore issues such as poverty, equality and environmental care. Consequently, pupils think about ethical choices and responsible action. Leaders support pupils in providing important opportunities to enhance the lives of others in

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the local community. This includes regular donations to the local Foodbank. Pupils are becoming agents of change. Effective school sponsorship of a boy living in El Salvador, enables pupils to feel empowered to seize chances to work for the good of others. Pupils carry out chores at home to raise money for the sponsorship. Their willingness to do this is indicative of the culture in the school. Thus, they grow as responsible citizens who shine their light in their community and the world.

Religious Education

RE holds a high status within the curriculum and is valued across the school. Effective action following the monitoring of the RE curriculum has led to a curriculum which is now more diverse in content. It is well planned and clearly sequenced. This means that pupils build learning over time. Leaders ensure that the curriculum develops pupils' understanding of a well-chosen range of religious and non-religious worldviews. A strong and effective partnership with the diocese provides valued support for RE. Specialist training strengthens teachers' subject knowledge and confidence. As a result, pupils are building secure foundations in RE and show emerging maturity in understanding diverse religions and worldviews. Pupils recognise Christianity as a world faith. Leaders carefully monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of RE. This ensures the subject continues to develop effectively.

Vision and School Culture

Strong relationships and living well together are key characteristics of the school. Inspired by the vision, this is a school where pupils and adults are encouraged to shine bright for themselves and for others. The kind and unwavering love and support created by the strong school community means pupils and staff feel valued. This enables them to flourish. Leaders create a caring and inclusive culture where pupils feel safe, supported and ready to learn. Staff help pupils build respectful relationships through calm, thoughtful support that encourages kindness and friendship. As a result, pupils demonstrate positive social interactions and empathy towards others. Teaching and learning opportunities are structured with care for pupils with additional needs. Consequently, pupils feel fully included and develop a strong sense of belonging within the school community. Leaders place high priority on staff wellbeing and professional development. Subsequently, staff are well cared for. Effective leadership contributes to a positive whole-school ethos at Whickham Parochial. This is reflected in a well-supported team that helps to create a vibrant, happy and successful environment. Through this, pupils and staff are encouraged to let their light shine before others, allowing the school community to flourish.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Broadway, Whickham, Tyne and Wear, NE16 5QW		
Date	29 April 2026	URN	108301
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	210
Diocese	Durham		
Headteacher	Rachel Walton		
Chair of Governors	Lorraine Ferguson		
Inspector	Kirsty Harrison-Brown		