

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

### Middleforth Church of England Primary School

<b>Address</b>	Hill Road South Penwortham Preston PR1 9YE		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	01/11/2018	<b>Status of school</b>	VC primary
<b>Diocese</b>	Blackburn	<b>URN</b>	119382

<b>Overall Judgement</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?		
<b>Additional Judgement</b>		
<b>The impact of collective worship</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

#### School context

Middleforth is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England primary school with 208 pupils on roll. The school has a very low level of religious and cultural diversity and very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is below national averages. Since the last denominational inspection, a new headteacher and deputy headteacher have been appointed.

#### The school's Christian vision

'Let your light shine.' Matthew 5:16

In our Church school community everyone is valued, nurtured and enabled to flourish. We encourage everyone to 'Let your light shine' in all aspects of their life, following the example of Jesus Christ. Through a supportive environment, based on our strong Christian values, everyone is encouraged to achieve their full potential.

#### Key findings

- The clear Christian vision has a significant, transforming and life-changing impact on the whole school community and all aspects of school life.
- The innovative Christian curriculum is inspired by the distinct vision that enables all pupils to flourish.
- Pupils, staff, parents and governors feel duty bound to live out their faith in action, confidentially tackling social injustice and inequality locally, nationally and globally.
- The school provides an exceptionally caring environment that ensures everyone's wellbeing is a priority and encourages everyone to 'let their light shine.'
- The Gospel message, delivered through the school's vision, enables all pupils to achieve their full potential through nurture, personalised provision and deep care for each other.
- Collective worship is at the heart of the school. It is creative, inclusive and inspirational for the whole community, offering a variety of ways to encounter God.

#### Areas for development

- To improve provision for teaching about world faiths in order for the pupils to deepen their knowledge and understanding.

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

Ambitious, passionate and inspirational Christian leadership ensures that the school's unique vision is lived out strategically and operationally. Relationships within and beyond the school are firmly rooted in Christian values which ensures that everyone is given the support, encouragement and opportunity to shine. The changes to the school badge since the last inspection reflect a renewed emphasis on the vision, which is embraced by all. One child explained, 'The rainbow reminds us of God's promise to us and the dove represents the peace we have in God's family.' The governors' commitment to professional development equips staff to teach and respond to pupil needs in an innovative way and provide guidance, support and example to the wider community. Partnerships with the diocese, local schools and the church are mutually beneficial. Self-evaluation is accurate, inclusive and informs school improvement.

Exceptional teaching and commitment to a unique Christian curriculum provides a stimulating and purposeful learning experience for all pupils. All opportunities for spiritual development are embraced in particular through questioning and thought-provoking spaces for prayer and reflection. The curriculum is tailored to meet the specific needs of individual learners, in particular the most vulnerable pupils who are additionally supported through the holistic approach of play therapists. Support is given through the social aspects of school life as well as individual and group sessions. This programme has been life changing for pupils and continues to give them the confidence and belief that they can shine whatever challenges they may face. The quality of religious education (RE) is excellent, due to the enthusiastic and dedicated leader, who monitors rigorously and provides support and encouragement to all staff. The school meets the statement of entitlement for RE and has embraced the Understanding Christianity programme. This is celebrated uniquely in a thought provoking and stimulating mural created by the pupils and proudly displayed in the school hall. Teaching about other world faiths is less effective and therefore a key area for improvement. The unwavering focus on progress for all pupils ensures that pupils make good progress across the curriculum and leave school with academic standards in many instances well above national expectations. Pupils leave with firm foundations, academically, spiritually and emotionally. Attendance is good, due to close monitoring. When issues or difficulties arise, home visits are made and targeted support is given in harmony with the school's vision.

The inspirational curriculum inspires pupils to live out their faith in action. Opportunities for pupil voice provide a framework for pupils to make a positive impact in their community and beyond. They feel that it is their duty to do so. 'We need to share and live by our Christian values' explained one child. The 3Cs (Caring Christian Children) committee is particularly inspirational in ensuring that the school's vision is evident throughout school, being advocates of positive relationships, as well as creating an inspirational Christian environment in which to learn. The encouragement between pupils to consider 'What would Jesus do?' at times of conflict is effective in fulfilling the requirements of the school's behaviour policy. This is firmly structured on reconciliation and forgiveness and understood by the pupils. They demonstrate a clear understanding of injustice and work hard to make a difference, embracing the Christian values of love, compassion and humility. For example, the recent harvest festival and RE lessons focusing on the work of the Salvation Army have led to regular contributions to the local food bank and the school becoming a collection point. Global, national and local action empowers the pupils to live out their faith.

The caring Christian community that is fostered at Middleforth enables the school to shine like a beacon in the community that it serves, which makes it a popular and well sought after school. Pupils are confident to take risks because of the caring environment that the school has established. As a consequence they are ambitious and aspirational for themselves and each other. This is evident in their learning, their relationships with each other and the ambitious way that they tackle social injustice. Inspired and touched by a talk about 'Seeds of Grace,' one child has raised a significant sum of money to continue to help make a difference. Adults feel inspired to make a difference as a result of being loved by the 'Middleforth school family.' Staff feel that governors and leaders prioritise their mental health and wellbeing, giving them the professional skills, support and attributes to be excellent teachers and inspire many to become church school leaders.

The Christian vision is instrumental in creating a truly inclusive environment where everyone is loved and celebrated as a gift from God. Staff and pupils unite to ensure that any social injustice is not tolerated. The school's

approach to equality is unwavering and all differences are celebrated. The school's buddy system and Achieve 360 enables a proactive response and strong pupil voice to any prejudicial behaviour. School leaders work tirelessly to ensure that all pupils are able to shine. They are treated at all times with dignity and respect. For instance, to provide an excellent start to their education, Governors have recently opened a nursery, which ensures a smooth transition into formal education. Nursery provision embraces the school vision, ensuring that pupils experience God's love from an early age and are introduced to the Gospel values and Bible stories.

Collective worship is at the heart of the school. It is welcoming to the whole community, inspirational and uplifting. Pupils lead worship with conviction and confidence and provide accurate evaluations. Prayer is central and often led by the pupils. The pupils value and make frequent use of the reflective prayer spaces in school and in the grounds. They provide stimulating and thought-provoking displays, which are often interactive. They find these areas and the encouragement to reflect that they provide both helpful and supportive. Private prayer is also encouraged at home, through a prayer bear and diary shared by a class. Worship enables pupils to deepen their understanding of Christianity as a world faith and they enjoy experiencing a variety of approaches to worship. They say a range of Anglican prayers with confidence and conviction and have an age appropriate understanding of the Trinity. The children have a good knowledge of the Bible and are able to articulate how stories have taught them a greater understanding of the Christian values. One child explained, 'On the playground we are all good Samaritans and look after each other.' Worship inspires action and benefits from close partnership with the parish church. The school regularly celebrates Eucharist in school and church with the parish. This is embraced as a seamless partnership, serving God and one another.

In summary, Middleforth is a school that lives out its vision. 'The Christian ethos of this school oozes out from every pore' explained one parent. As a consequence this Christian community enables all to flourish, knowing that they are loved by God and by each other.

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Inspector's name and number	Kathryn Pym 726