

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

### Roos Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

<b>Address</b>	Main Street, Roos, Hull HU12 0HB		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	23 May 2019	<b>Status of school</b>	VC primary
<b>Diocese</b>	York	<b>URN</b>	117989

<b>Overall Judgement</b>	<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>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Additional Judgements</b>	<b>The impact of collective worship</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Good</b>

#### School context

Roos is a small, rural primary school with 114 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. 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 is in line with national averages. Roos has a well-established staff, and has recently welcomed a newly qualified teacher.

#### The school's Christian vision

Together we care, learn and shine.

#### Key findings

- The strong leadership of the headteacher is empowering all staff to learn, thrive and shine in this nurturing community.
- The supportive culture of pastoral care and wellbeing in this Christian family community is tailored to the individual needs of pupils, staff and parents within a spirit of respect so all flourish.
- The strong partnership with All Saints Church is enriching the worshipping lives of pupils and adults alike. Pupils' spiritual development is effectively fostered through prayer, reflection and the strong Christian ethos of the school, which is owned by everybody. Older pupils are growing in confidence through their leadership roles in collective worship.
- Pupils are active agents of change in their local community, notably raising awareness and funds for their parish church.
- This school has established links with other schools in the local community through which it shares good practice in all aspects of Church school development.

#### Areas for development

- Deepen pupils' understanding of the biblical narrative which underpins the school's Christian vision. This includes making specific reference to living life in all its fullness, so effectively supporting the school's on-going journey of Church school improvement and commitment to excellence.
- Extend the programme of visits to a range of diverse places of worship so pupils encounter people of faith in their respective sacred buildings to nurture their spiritual and cultural development.

## **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**

This small school is very proud of its vision and values which 'underpin everything we do'. In this nurturing Christian family community friendship abounds and every child and member of staff are truly valued and so thrive. There is a strong desire for all pupils to live life in all its fullness and be the best they can be. As one member of staff put it, 'We care together, we learn together and we celebrate achievements.' Parents affirm their children really shine because the 'six cornerstones' of the school's values are high on the agenda. These deeply embedded values of friendship, forgiveness, truth, trust, respect and responsibility together provide a firm foundation for life. The school's vision and values shape policy and practice, enabling a broad and balanced curriculum so all flourish. Whilst adults can link the school vision to Jesus' teaching in the Bible when asked, pupils find this harder to do. They are aware of how the Ten Commandments help 'keep us on the right track'. However, their knowledge of where to reference Jesus' teaching on living life in all its fullness is currently limited. They are well supported in their spiritual and personal development which is helping them grow in confidence. The strong leadership of the headteacher enables staff to be empowered in their roles and responsibilities. This includes supporting staff as future leaders of Church schools. Diocesan support and training is well received by all governors and staff. Governors carry out annual curriculum reviews as well as termly monitoring days. Whilst learning walks and book scrutinies are integral to this day, currently these do not always include a religious education (RE) specific focus.

All pupils, including those with additional learning needs, at Roos are making good progress across the school, given their starting points. This is because targets are aspirational and expectations remain high for all groups of pupils, with staff working closely with parents. Pupils are stretched and supported according to their individual needs. Excellent relationships result in all pupils being able to 'really shine'. Roos' pupils especially 'are incredibly caring and very responsible towards other people'. As one pupil put it, they are 'improving in everything', including their self-worth, valuing the support of staff who treat them with respect. Older pupils are inspired by sporting personalities, such as the Brownlee brothers and benefit from attending the Brownlee Foundation triathlon events. Music too is a strength in this school, which enables pupils to grow in their self-esteem. The strong culture of pastoral care and wellbeing extends to adults in this community, including parents who have been exceptionally well supported by the headteacher. For example, one parent spoke of how the school had proved to be 'a tower of strength in adverse times'.

Roos' pupils are active agents of change, with a number of pupils voicing their concerns in the local press or on local or national television. This is because respect and responsibility and being acknowledged for their friendship and honesty is very important to them. The school's vision is seen in the way pupils communicate and their positive relationships. Some pupils are self-motivated in making a difference, both locally and in the wider community. For example, four boys who are all bell ringers, known as the 'Phenomenal Four' lifestylers, see their mission is to get people talking about children's mental health. Others are eco warriors, raising awareness of the effect of plastic on ocean marine life and participating in beach cleans. The school's curriculum enables pupils to ask big questions and helps them develop an understanding of disadvantage, such as homelessness. Such themes are often reflected in worship. The whole school unites in projects in support of worldwide disasters, One World Week, Fairtrade Fortnight, or charity work closer to home.

The school focuses on developing the whole child, including any reluctant writers, ensuring all pupils are listened to, celebrated and have a chance to shine. Driven by this vision, the environment of emotional wellbeing extends beyond the classroom to the outdoors, where pupils value 'the wow factor' of God's creation. Dignity is afforded to all. Roos' Christian values and philosophy stand pupils in good stead in their teenage years. Former pupils have chosen to be baptised or confirmed, recalling how the words of the school hymns have helped them in later life.

Parents and pupils alike treasure the involvement of All Saints Church in the life and work of the school. This is a strong partnership, serving both church and school. For example, pupils have brought renewal to the parish church and helped restore the organ to its former glory. The vicar leads weekly worship in school and the school family celebrate key events in the village year, such as Remembrance, together in church. Parents say such times raise their spirits too. Prayer and reflection is integral to worship, effectively nurturing spiritual development. Older pupils can explain the symbolism of bread and wine at Jesus' Last Supper. They can also offer their

understanding of the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit in their own words. Bible stories and the school hymn reflect God's power through the Holy Spirit, with pupils speaking of Jesus as 'God's Son come to earth'. Currently, Year 5 and 6 pupils and staff plan and lead worship, with pupils' views gathered as an important part of evaluation for on-going improvement. Whilst younger pupils are actively involved in the variety of worship offered, their leadership roles are currently limited. Pupils say, 'The teachers learn as well, not just us.' All are invited to engage with God in their own way.

RE at Roos is regarded as a core subject, with standards in line with other core subjects. RE is well led, with book scrutinies taking place termly. Class assessments are accurate, and good practice is shared locally in network meetings. Pupils can give a detailed account of the birth and boyhood of Jesus, culminating in the Easter story and Pentecost. Pupils are given the space to think creatively and ask big questions, saying, 'We also have to respect other beliefs'. Whilst pupils enjoy numerous visitors in school, their experience of encountering people with different beliefs in their places of worship is currently limited.

This school is a 'beacon of the community, supporting staff, parents, children and other schools'. This is accomplished by its commitment to 'live life in all its fullness and truly care, learn and shine.

Headteacher	Marlene Miller
Inspector's name and number	Lizzie McWhirter 244