

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

| Kilham Church of England Voluntary Controlled School | | | |
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| Address | Millside, Kilham, Driffield YO25 4SR | | |
| Date of inspection | 14 November 2019 | Status of school | Voluntary controlled primary |
| Diocese | York | URN | 117980 |

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

School context

Kilham is a primary school with 117 pupils on roll and 14 pupils in the nursery. 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 below national averages. A new headteacher was appointed in January 2019.

The school's Christian vision

With a love of learning and a resilient and persevering attitude, our community will have the ability to celebrate and embrace the differences that the wider world offers. In time, all of our children will be confident to explore life with an open mind; this will support them to flourish.

Encourage one another and build each other up. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Key findings

- Whilst the distinctively Christian vision is new, the school community, including pupils, can articulate and live out what it means to encourage one another and build each other up.
- There is a fresh impetus and priorities for all to develop the school's distinctive Christian character in this warm, welcoming family community. This has resulted in rapid improvement over the last year.
- Pupils' horizons are being widened and they are beginning to make a difference in the world so they and others flourish. The school's partnership with Malawi and South Africa is emboldening their desire to be agents of change and is a strength of this school.
- The positive partnership between church and school is enriching the spiritual journeys of the whole community.
- Pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a living worldwide faith is nurturing their personal and spiritual development.

Areas for development

- Embed the new Christian vision so that it becomes the bedrock of the journey as a Church school.
- Extend the religious education (RE) curriculum to develop deeper experiences and understanding for all pupils and adults. Enable pupils to meet people of diverse faiths more frequently to nurture their spiritual and cultural development.
- Formalise the monitoring of RE by governors and collective worship by pupils to robustly inform the school's journey of school improvement.
- Deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding of the worldwide Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit to enrich their spiritual lives.

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

'Kilham is a caring, supportive and happy place to work. Children are made to feel secure and are encouraged to support one another.' This comment from a member of staff typifies the warm and welcoming family environment at this school which enables all to thrive. Much has been achieved during the past year with regard to the school's particular ongoing journey of school improvement. The new headteacher has quickly established new priorities, with high expectations and raised aspirations. This fresh impetus has brought about rapid improvement and is transforming the school's Christian vision and culture so all can flourish. Staff are valued and supported as they too model the school's vision and values and achieve their flourishing objectives. Importantly, leaders, staff and pupils all readily articulate and live out Kilham's Christian vision to 'encourage one another and build each other up'. The verse from 1 Thessalonians is most apt and provides the integral foundation for sustaining the school on its new onward journey. Throughout a time of change, the well-established partnership with All Saints Church and its vicar has remained constant. The vision, rooted in the person and teaching of Jesus, is woven into strategic planning. It now has a higher profile, reflected in newsletters and on the website. In addition, the new cross at the front of the school, made by a former pupil, proudly displays this is a Church school. Positive partnerships exist with the diocese, especially in terms of training and support, and with other schools in the cluster.

There has been a refocus on vulnerable pupils, with governors' meetings intent on identifying particular needs so all pupils flourish. Bold decisions ensure that finance underpins the vision to strongly support where there are any gaps in pupils' learning. For example, staff are appointed to support year groups with significant needs and to support mental health and wellbeing. This is 'a new bow to the school's quiver'. The school's vision and values help all members of the school community encourage one another and achieve progress so that they live out its special Bible verse. Learning new skills on residential visits helps to build confidence in pupils. Adults learn much from the pupils, not least because God is alive and well in this place. Parents are 'eternally grateful' for the progress achieved in reading through the Letterbox Club. Vulnerable pupils choose books for themselves and the school. They are guided by a member of staff who takes the lead in reading, enabling her and pupils to flourish in these leadership roles. Staff are empowered and encouraged to lead a subject, with passion, dedicated training and expertise.

One of the hallmarks of Kilham School is its charity work. For example, it has enjoyed a long established relationship with Christian Aid. Other projects have included fundraising for stoves for Malawi as well as developing a link with Dias Farm School in South Africa. Pupils are able to build each other up through letters received as a result of their partnerships. Worship themes centre on helping others in practical ways. Being an actual voice to support and also challenge others has included writing to the Prime Minister about global warming. Pupils' passion for change through their art work has been displayed in church. This is having a ripple effect into the way the local churches respond to global concerns.

Kilham pupils are mindful of the Christian values of caring, learning and friendship. When they live out their values in action, such as respect and forgiveness, they are affirmed and flourish as VIPs. Pupils confirm there is no place for 'an eye for an eye' here. They accept difference, aware in this small school that the world is a big place. Behaviour is exemplary. The eco warriors and other pupil groups, including the school council and sports representatives, are able to lead by example. This included a successful switch off fortnight to help conserve energy. Parents affirm they learn through their children and are impressed with their depth of knowledge. They are proud of the school and the Christian values it upholds. Parents value the transition work the school does, developing independence and a good sense of right and wrong. Staff cite nothing but support from everybody in school every day, as they 'leave one home and walk into another'.

Community links are exemplified through the partnership with the church. A member of staff emphasized that the 'community is involved every step of the way'. For example, the Remembrance-tide services made a link to a former pupil. A current pupil explained that crosses planted in front of the war memorial bore the names of 'those who died in war and served here'. Pupils' prayers were enshrined within poppy wreaths, with one pupil asking to 'let the world rain down peace'. Pupils and their parents enjoy going to church to mark its traditions, such as tying the gates for weddings and the Easter pageant. Church, staff and pupils engage in planning and leading

worship, which is rooted in Christian belief and enables all to flourish. Whilst the pupil worship gang are involved in leading aspects of worship, their role in evaluating worship is limited. Pupils are inspired by Bible stories, such as the Good Samaritan. One pupil said this story helped them to 'be aware people might be struggling or are really sad and lonely'. Pupils cite the Lord's Prayer which 'helps us connect with God and others'. They use the quiet garden for prayer and reflection. They respond to key messages in worship, speaking of the importance of listening to Jesus' words. Pupils know the symbolism of the colours of the church year, such as red being 'the flame of the Holy Spirit'. Pupils reflect on hymns, such as 'Light up the Fire'. A member of the worship gang explained the meaning as 'letting Jesus out as released by the Holy Spirit'. With the support of their vicar, pupils continue to deepen their understanding of the key Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Dedicated time is given to RE and it is accorded core subject status. As a result the RE subject leader is able to reflect and prioritise objectives on the curriculum action plan. This includes deepening experiences and understanding for pupils and adults. Whilst pupils do visit different places of worship, meeting people of diverse faiths and beliefs more frequently is currently limited. All pupils flourish, making good progress in RE. They show detailed knowledge of Christianity as a worldwide faith, asking big questions. Formal monitoring by governors is currently limited.

Kilham School is likened by some staff to, 'my extended family'. Every day is a good day at Kilham where adults and pupils are Kilhamised, flourishing in its vision and values.

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| Headteacher | Robert Palmer |
| Inspector's name and number | Lizzie McWhirter 244 |