

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Lady Elizabeth Hastings' Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Dowkell Lane, Thorp Arch, LS23 7AQ
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Requires Improvement

School's vision
'Let your light shine' (Matthew 5:16). Living and learning together in the light of God.
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a wonderful positivity and sense of renewal and teamwork at Lady Elizabeth Hastings. Driven by the school's vision, the new headteacher is building on strong relationships which are at the heart of this community. • A very effective partnership with the church benefits staff, pupils and their families. The school is blessed with the committed and passionate support of local clergy. • The curriculum nurtures pupils' talents and aspirations, ensuring they live together with compassion and friendship. Plans are in place to further the links between the vision, curriculum and pupils taking social action. These are at too early a phase to evaluate their impact. • Collective worship unites the school community and reinforces an understanding of the vision and associated values in shaping the lives of the school family daily. Pupils' leadership of worship is at an early stage. Opportunities for spiritual development within collective worship and beyond are not yet sufficiently identified and planned. • Religious education (RE) is regarded as an important subject in the life of the school. Positive pupil attitudes and strong subject leadership provide a good foundation for improving the quality of teaching and learning.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a shared understanding of spirituality so that opportunities for spiritual development for pupils of all ages are planned and included across the curriculum and deepen the spiritual life of the school. • Improve the breadth and depth of subject knowledge for those teaching religious education so that staff are equipped to support the progress of all pupils effectively. • Further embed the vision of pupils becoming beacons of hope. So that the curriculum inspires and enables pupils to look beyond their own lives and make a positive contribution to the world through social action.

Inspection findings

Lady Elizabeth Hastings is a school that welcomes and nurtures pupils and adults within a caring family atmosphere. The vision of 'living and learning together in the light of God' is seen in action through the daily life of the school. Positive relationships are a foundation stone. Older pupils actively care for younger pupils, acting as role models, and staff gain mutual support within a forward thinking team. Pupils enjoy school and say they feel safe and that their teachers listen to them.

The school has made significant progress over the last twelve months as a result of the determination of the whole school community, supported by the Diocese. The decision by governors to renew the Christian vision in September 2021 and make it the driving force of improvement is transforming the school. Governors set up a working party to keep a robust focus on church school distinctiveness. Because of this, they are able to articulate the impact of the refreshed vision and to monitor the many changes this has brought about. The new school leadership team has established itself quickly and continues the momentum of working successfully to ensure everyone shines.


The personal development of pupils is a strong feature of the school. Pupils recognise how the vision and values make a difference to the decisions that they make. One pupil commented, 'we all have a light inside of us but by helping each other our lights will shine brighter and stronger'. Local clergy are instrumental in exploring the biblical underpinning of the vision and values with pupils. Pupils behave well and learn to resolve conflicts when they arise. Lessons ensure that pupils recognise that individuals and their families are all different and to value them equally. The value of compassion is lived out through charitable activities such as supporting Macmillan coffee mornings and supporting an orphanage in South Africa. Pupils are not yet advocates of change because the curriculum doesn't extend pupils' awareness of global and social issues. Vulnerable pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported well to make good progress. Leaders use the vision to inform their decision making in this area. Parents appreciate the support given to their children's individual needs, one parent commented, 'my child is flourishing in everything to do with school'.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school and embraces meaningful contributions from the whole community. Much of pupils' understanding of the school's vision and values springs from their experience of collective worship. Pupils value it as an important time to come together, they especially sing enthusiastically. The collective worship programme is successfully shaped by the church's year, the vision and the school's four commitments to respect, compassion, courage and friendship. Worship is greatly enhanced by working alongside the local churches. For example, through the recent introduction of the Try Praying initiative to the school community. The new headteacher has acted quickly in providing training for all who lead worship in school. As a result, elements of the Anglican tradition are now effectively embedded into practice. The Worship Crew take a role in leading worship but have limited impact. Pupils are keen to participate more. All classrooms have reflection spaces but these are used inconsistently, this is because staff and pupils' understanding of spiritual development is underdeveloped.

The recently reviewed RE curriculum is effective as it follows the Diocesan syllabus and is supported by a resource called 'Understanding Christianity'. This ensures that subject matter and progression of skills are accurate and that RE expresses the school vision. Pupils enjoy RE, can

explain why it is important and are confident to discuss and ask questions. For example, younger pupils talked with interest about the Jewish festival of Rosh Hashanah, eating apples and honey and how it is important to have a fresh start. Pupils' books show they take pride in their learning but opportunities for critical thinking, philosophical questions and a deeper exploration of faiths and beliefs are underdeveloped. School leaders, including governors, value RE. As evidence of this, RE is well-resourced and has sufficient time allocated to it.

Lady Elizabeth Hastings is an improving school where all members of the school community are known and cared for. The school vision of 'Let your light shine' is at the heart of decisions made by school leaders and illuminates all aspects of school life.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Requires Improvement	
	<p>The RE subject leader has been supported by diocesan training and advice and is keen to secure improvement. She has a clear picture of the strengths and areas for development within the subject. Some teaching is good but this is not consistent. Teachers lack the subject knowledge required to ensure that teaching is precise and assessments are accurate. As a result, not all pupils are flourishing academically in RE.</p>			
Information				
School	Lady Elizabeth Hastings' Church of England VA Primary School	Inspection date	17 October 2022	
URN	108010	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	
Diocese/District	York	Pupils on roll	115	
Headteacher	Katie Barnett			
Chair of Governors	Erica Swales			
Inspector	Darren Dudman	No.	2101	