

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Mount Pleasant Church of England Junior School, Market Weighton	
Address	Princess Road, Market Weighton, YO43 3BY
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

School's vision
<p style="text-align: center;">Learning through Faith, Family and Friendship</p> <p>We are a happy, safe, inclusive school where excellence is celebrated. A Christian ethos encourages responsible behaviour and respect through Friendship, Trust and Forgiveness. We inspire a love of learning that encourages individuality, creativity and independence that extends from the school family into the wider world, enabling all to flourish. Jesus said, 'Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' John 13:34</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The well established vision and values are lived out with 'faith, family and friendship' at their heart. They are the driving force of this highly inclusive, welcoming community, where all are valued and supported to flourish. • Friendship, trust and forgiveness, exemplified by the school's leadership, drives and encourages the whole team. Following recent changes, processes for systematic monitoring and evaluation of the school as a Church school are re-establishing. • Rich and creative opportunities support the individuality and spiritual development of pupils. A consistent, school wide understanding of spirituality and its impact on life and learning is not fully in place. • Enriched by a strong partnership with the local church, collective worship is varied, inclusive and invitational. As a result, pupils' confidence and participation is increasing. • The profile of religious education (RE) has been successfully raised and has inspired a love of learning. It is valued by staff and pupils. Key knowledge and vocabulary have not been consistently identified, limiting pupils' understanding of a range of religions and worldviews.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish systematic rigour in the monitoring and evaluating of the school as a Church school. This is so it informs improvement, enabling leaders, including governors, to measure the impact of the vision and values over time. • Develop a consistent approach to spiritual development. This is to maximise the impact of the range of creative opportunities and ensure spirituality contributes to the flourishing of all. • Refine key knowledge in the planning of RE. This is to enable all pupils to understand and explore core concepts and questions about a range of religions and worldviews.

Inspection findings

Rooted in faith, family and friendship, Mount Pleasant is a loving and nurturing school. The distinctive Christian vision and biblical narrative, to love one another, permeates daily life. Parents value the welcome and care provided together with the varied ways in which pupils are encouraged and enabled to be themselves. Strong, supportive relationships are lived out through daily acts of kindness and respect. This enables an aspirational learning community, where all pupils develop their creativity and independence. The highly committed headteacher, leaders and staff promote the vision and values with passion. They welcome and respond to feedback with humility, building trust with parents and the community. This has led to improved communication and wide involvement in local events. Leaders' everyday actions model the words of Jesus to 'love one another'. These extend beyond the gates to close working relationships with other schools in the area, enabling pupils to settle quickly. Each member of the school community is of equal value, regardless of their role. As such, there is a tangible understanding that everyone can flourish through working together.

Encouraging and respectful relationships are reflected in the positive behaviour across the school. This is seen in the ways that older pupils support those that are younger. All live out the well-established values of forgiveness, reconciliation and courage. Pupils know that this means ensuring they are 'giving people another chance' and 'carrying on even when you're scared'. Bullying of any type is rare, but when disagreements do arise, relationships are swiftly and effectively restored. Throughout this happy, safe and inclusive school everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Pastoral support is strong. Parents speak highly of the communication, time and support given to them by the school. One inspiringly commented that the support had 'changed their child's life'. A determination to develop and protect the emotional health of all is a strength of Mount Pleasant. Leaders are mindful and supportive of staff workload and as a result staff feel valued. Investment in developing leaders and future leaders is given high priority. This inspires staff loyalty and a deep sense of belonging to a family. Leaders know the vision well and passionately explain how it drives improvement. Governors care deeply about the school and its community. Their actions are bold, ethical and vision-led. These include a willingness to second a member of senior staff to support another school and funding new spaces to support those with sensory needs. Following a period of change, a systematic programme to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the school as a Church school, is not in place.

The vision and values are at the heart of the school's ambitious, creative curriculum. It celebrates the uniqueness of every child and develops individual gifts and talents through music, sport and art. Learners use their natural curiosity to raise and investigate 'big questions'. These excite pupils to learn and shapes their enquiry into themes such as the environment. These broad, creative opportunities bring learning to life. Pupils flourish because learning is tailored to their needs. Everyone's views are valued and opportunities such as the school council and the eco-team are supporting the emerging opportunities to challenge injustice. For example, support and welcome for refugees. This enables pupils to think critically beyond themselves. They know that their voice matters and that they can have influence in the wider world. Difference in its many forms is explored positively and sensitively. A broad understanding of diversity is being woven into the curriculum. As a result, learning is inclusive and all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), fully participate and flourish. There are wide ranging opportunities for reflection, awe and wonder. These include a daily ten minute reflection time and an impressive yurt-based prayer space. Although these opportunities enhance spiritual development, school wide understanding of spirituality is not yet in place. Therefore, some

opportunities for spiritual flourishing are lost.

Collective worship is highly valued and recognised as a special time when all are invited to come together as a family. Moments of stillness allow those present to reflect on the core Christian values, Bible stories and how they live out their Christian vision day to day. This inspires caring and respectful relationships across the school. The use of music and the lighting of three candles at the start of worship creates a sense of focus and stillness. Pupils understand that the candles represent the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Invitational prayer is supported by regular opportunities across the school day, including grace at lunchtime. Pupils value the time to pray for others and to be thankful, which enhances their spiritual development. All ages enthusiastically participate in supporting parts of worship, but do not yet have regular opportunities for planning or leading worship independently. The centrality of the school's vision and values is reflected in the half-termly nomination and celebration of the 'always child'. This award enhances worship, drawing the school community together. It also recognises the individuality and creativity of each pupil as a child of God. A close partnership with the local church has a transformational impact on the school community. Not only does the link strengthen pastoral care and practical support for families, but it also nurtures spirituality within the school community. Through special times of coming together, Christianity is celebrated as a living and relevant faith. The vision of 'family, friendship and faith' extends to all, so all know they are invited and welcome to worship together.

Leaders ensure that RE has a high profile which enriches pupils' love of learning. Pupils value time to think, reflect, talk and write about their ideas. This variety of approach is supporting an emerging understanding of religious diversity and pupils' ability to see things from different points of view. The Understanding Christianity resource brings academic rigour and has been well implemented. It is challenging deeper thinking and enquiry about the Christian faith, building confidence in exploring a range of 'big questions'. Support from the diocese ensures that staff are skilled in the delivery of RE. As a result, lessons are varied, creative and support spiritual development. Core subject knowledge and associated vocabulary in RE has not been precisely identified. This limits pupils' ability to recall prior learning and develop an age-appropriate understanding of a range of religions and worldviews.

At its heart, Mount Pleasant is a supportive, inclusive family where all can 'have their moment to shine.' Loved by God, and celebrated as unique, every day is a new opportunity to flourish.

Information			
School	Mount Pleasant Church of England Junior School, Market Weighton	Inspection date	28 February 2023
URN	117982	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	York	Pupils on roll	295
Mr	Dan Nixon		
Chair of Governors	Caroline Pinchbeck		
Inspector	Simone Bennett	No.	949