

FINAL REPORT

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St. Francis of Assisi Church of England Primary School	
Address	Lowfields Avenue, Ingleby Barwick, Stockton on Tees, TS17 5GA
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	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
<p>We live, love and learn together in the light of Christ.</p> <p>“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result of the school's deeply embedded vision, there is a powerful sense of acceptance of all. Everyone is known, loved and nurtured as the unique person they are. This radiates like a guiding light into the community. Ignited by a passionate, yet humble, leadership team all are enabled to flourish. This leads to life-giving and transformational change in others. Enriched through clearly planned and high-quality training, the new RE curriculum ensures a deep understanding of worldviews and faiths, including Christianity. All from within the community watch over each other in love. This is a natural and unforced result of the living out of the school's distinctively Christian vision. Redeveloping links with the local church are at a reasonably early stage following the pandemic and the appointment of a new vicar. Worship provides joyful and meaningful opportunities for the school to come together. It is valued by pupils, and their leadership of it is well embedded. Leaders aspire to extend this further within school and the wider community.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further enrich opportunities for pupil led worship in partnership with the local church. This is so that adults and pupils can be guiding lights beyond the school and enhance the spiritual flourishing of all.

Inspection findings

This school has a deep understanding of its biblically rooted and distinctively Christian vision. Leaders, staff and pupils are able to articulate their calling to be guiding lights for others. They have an acute awareness of wanting to let their own lights shine brightly. Sharing their God-given uniqueness with others is central to school life and leads to a life-lasting transformational impact across the school.

Leaders are inspirational role models for all. They ignite tangible sparks for adults and pupils through their own positivity and belief. This has a profound impact on the lives of staff. It inspires confidence and enables all within the community to flourish. Adults readily share their light with other schools, contributing meaningfully to spiritual development and wellbeing in the wider community.

The vision is deeply embedded in the culture of the school. As a result, relationships are exceptional. For example, peer mentors talk avidly about their work with their school friends. They explore vision-infused values through their carefully planned games in the playground. This leads to a pervading sense of peace and wholeness across the school. Behaviour throughout St. Francis is exemplary. Pupils have a deep understanding of forgiveness and reconciliation

Radiating beyond the school building and into the wider community, the vision empowers pupils to be agents of change in and beyond the school. This profound understanding enables all to flourish within a dynamic environment, where transformational change is clear for all to see. Harvest services inspire pupils to establish a regular foodbank donation point in school. Pupils' generosity and grace are a real force for good, both within the school and beyond.

Meaningful partnerships with St. Francis' Church further enrich the school's vision-led togetherness. The recently appointed vicar supports with worship and RE lessons in school. Family services held on a Sunday are well attended by families from the school. A culture of love and service is reflected in leaders' proactive approach to building community links. There are well-formulated plans for future strengthening of these.


Personal and moral development are excellent. This makes everyone hopeful for the future and equips all with a strong moral compass. The wellbeing and mental health of all within the school community is a priority, alongside the development of resilience, perseverance and determination. As a result, pupils are motivated to make a positive difference because of the resourcefulness and insight that their worship and learning provide.

Leaders prioritise the spiritual nourishment of all within this community. A progressive plan for spiritual development underpins all learning. This enables pupils to develop and extend their natural curiosity and rich questioning skills across the whole curriculum. Moments of stillness and reflection are deeply appreciated by pupils and adults. Reflection areas are present in every classroom. Pupils use them regularly, actively exploring their individual spiritual journeys. The school site manager has created an abundance of evocative spirited art. This is displayed throughout the school building, further infusing an enriching and deeply reflective school culture.

The school's challenging and ambitious curriculum is clearly driven by the vision. Collaborative work throughout the school community ensures absolute clarity in how the vision impacts on all aspects of learning. The Trust is an excellent support to the school, providing external rigour and high-quality expertise. This ensures a culture of learning and development in which pupils enjoy achievements that routinely surpass expectations. A holistic and cohesive understanding of the values the school wishes to instil is clearly planned for. This is underpinned by the curiosity and determination the school aspires to develop in all. Pupils are therefore well equipped with the wisdom, knowledge and skills they need to shine when they move on to secondary school.

RE is central to the school’s curriculum, with high priority given to staff development in the subject. A new syllabus began this academic year, which has been adapted to ensure that it meets the needs of the community. Staff have high expectations for all learners. As a result, pupils in all age groups highly value their RE lessons. These are engaging and provide varied opportunities for question and debate. Pupils can clearly articulate how their learning impacts on themselves as individuals and on the wider community. They have a strong sense of acceptance of people. They understand how important it is to learn about world faiths and beliefs, to ensure their community is respectful and peaceful.

This deeply loving culture of acceptance feeds into collective worship, which is valued by adults and pupils. It provides opportunities for joyous singing, celebration and moments of deeply reflective peace and reflection. This is highly inclusive and is at the very heartbeat of a deeply prayerful and spiritual community. The headteacher ensures that it is accessible to all. One pupil explained that, ‘The stories from the Bible are not just meaningful for Christians, they speak to us all.’ Pupils talk with enthusiasm about what worship means for them, ‘It helps us connect to God, who listens deeply to our prayers.’ They demonstrate confidence and enthusiasm when participating in worship. The school council passionately share their desire for justice and equality for the wider world. They plan and lead thoughtful worship which inspires social action and enhances lives beyond school. School leaders equip adults and pupils to be inspirational catalysts for good. They recognise that further development of pupil led worship will support their drive for dynamic and relentless compassion for God’s world. Pupils have a deep understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinity. The school reinforces this by the lighting of three candles at the beginning of every act of collective worship.

	The effectiveness of RE is	Excellent
	<p>As a result of a carefully planned, balanced and sequential curriculum, teaching and learning in RE are excellent. Pupils throughout the school are highly engaged by creative and consistently challenging lessons. They retain their learning and use religious terms accurately and confidently. Assessment is rigorous and meaningful. Consequently, pupils know what they need to do to improve and therefore make excellent progress.</p>	

Information			
School	St. Francis of Assisi CE Primary School	Inspection date	10.03.2023
URN	147275	VC/VA/Academy	VA
Diocese/District	York	Pupils on roll	400
MAT/Federation	Dales Academies Trust		
Headteacher	Louise Probets		
Chair of Governors/ Trust Board	Haleem Ghafoor		
Inspector	Helen Tait	No.	C21/22