

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

| Wetwang Church of England VC Primary School | |
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| Address | Pulham Lane, Wetwang, YO25 9XT |
| 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 |
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| <p>Learning and growing in the love of God.</p> <p>Our vision focuses on love, because we know that God loves everyone. 'We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in them.'</p> <p>1 John 4:16</p> |
| Key findings |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision, and associated values, underpin the life of this compassionate and caring community. As a result, each child of God grows and flourishes. • Leaders and pupils are deeply connected to their community. They express love by challenging injustice locally. Opportunities to engage in partnerships and social action more globally are emerging. • The vision drives an increasingly rich and varied curriculum. It excites pupils, giving them confidence to address big questions. Opportunities for spiritual development in the wider curriculum are not yet embedded. • Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and enjoyed by all. Prayer and reflection opportunities enable pupils and staff to learn and grow together. • Religious Education (RE) makes a positive impact on the school community. Pupils' extensive knowledge of Christianity and global religions reflects the school's inclusive vision to grow together in the love of God. |
| Areas for development |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a shared approach to spirituality is woven through the revised curriculum. This is so that a coherent approach can be clearly articulated and support the spiritual growth of all. • Extend pupils' opportunities for engaging in social action. This is to deepen their understanding of global issues and challenging injustice. • Maximise opportunities to work with other schools and the diocese. This is to enable mutually beneficial partnerships to further enhance the spiritual flourishing of all. |

Inspection findings

Wetwang is a small, happy rural school where the light of its Christian vision shines brightly. The school's vision inspires a nurturing, welcoming school community, where pupils and adults 'learn and grow in the love of God.' As a result, there is an environment of calm and purpose in which all flourish in harmony. The vision focuses leaders' choices, and they ensure that the pupils are always at centre of the decision-making process. A sense of joy and service motivates staff to go above and beyond to meet the needs of the community that they serve.

The school's positive relationships form the core of its success. Leaders promote staff and pupils' wellbeing and recognise the importance of continuous professional development. School staff, regardless of their role, are valued with equal respect and kindness and everyone describes Wetwang as 'one big family.' Governors care deeply and are committed to working in partnership with the headteacher and staff to do the best for all pupils in the school. The governor's presence in school is well-established. Systems have been introduced for them to ensure that the effectiveness of the school as a church school and the impact of the vision are monitored and evaluated. They clearly articulate how the vision drives strategic decisions and the cohesive way they support the school leadership team. For example, the bold decision to prioritise the establishment of a pre-school at Wetwang has had a positive impact on pupils and families.

Leaders are passionate in their aim for pupils to flourish spiritually, academically and socially. The focus on God's love in the vision promotes mutual respect, hope and aspiration in staff and pupils. This is enhanced by a genuine understanding of the school's local context. Leaders are able to access a range of support and development opportunities and are well-equipped to offer their colleagues support. The strong cohesive culture is evident within school and in the wider federation with Sledmere school. The impact of the vision is evident in the provision for pupils with additional needs. Rooted in love, the school's pastoral care makes a difference. Staff are well supported to ensure that everyone, regardless of their background or ability, can flourish and make progress. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about school. They describe Wetwang as a safe and supportive environment and value the ways that staff regularly welcome them into the life of school.

Pupils enjoy school and are inspired by the vision. They understand that they are encouraged to learn and grow in different ways. Pupils are confident to speak up if they feel something isn't right both in and outside of school. For example, they feel strongly about caring for nature and wildlife in their locality and are inspired to act to help preserve this. The school has a clear Christian distinctiveness and displays around the school, including those linked to the school's values, complement this. They foster pupils' natural inquisitiveness about who they are and an understanding of Christian beliefs about God's creation. Alongside this, staff model the vision daily, leading to a calm and purposeful atmosphere. The school promotes Christian values of forgiveness and reconciliation as the foundation of its approach to behaviour management. As a result, the behaviour and attitudes of pupils throughout the school are exemplary. They show each other dignity and respect. They talk enthusiastically about the way that they are supported by their teachers and have positive attitudes towards each other. The emphasis placed on 'nurturing the wellbeing of each child' means that pupils welcome and treat those who are different to themselves with love.

Guided by the vision, the recently redeveloped curriculum provides opportunities to learn and grow through meaningful experiences. For example, older pupils have recently studied the global slave trade and can talk about how this impacted on the lives of those who were affected by this. Pupils enthusiastically describe lessons as an 'exciting time for learning'.



Support for moral development is inspired by the vision. Curriculum and text choices ensure that learning is rooted in understanding of cultures around the world and the children's acceptance of diversity is impressive. 'Big questions' used in some aspects of the core and broader curriculum, prompt wide-ranging discussion. Reflection spaces are carefully curated around the school to encourage pupils to take precious time to think. However, specific opportunities for spiritual development across all subjects are insufficiently identified or planned.

The school's 'Journey Days' have a tangible impact on all members of the school community. Pupils encounter a range of different theological ideas and have been encouraged to engage in conversations with the clergy and an Imam to powerfully demonstrate how much different communities have in common. Everyone values these multicultural activities and welcomes celebrating their differences and similarities.

Pupils actively engage in community work, including wildlife protection activities and supporting the local food bank, making them a voice for change. School councillors show initiative in decisions about the school's support for charities. They are aware of wider global issues and want to take action. For example, they chose to raise money to help those suffering through the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. The result is an awareness of the impact of these on those in need. Inspiring pupils to consistently engage in wider social action and become courageous advocates for change is still in its infancy.

Collective worship is the highly valued, beating heart of the school. It nourishes everyone as it brings to life the school vision. Pupils and staff are provided with a shared opportunity to come together to reflect. All value the opportunity to 'stop and think' and 'just be.' Worship is inclusive, invitational, and inspiring. Pupils participate through reflection, prayer and enthusiastic singing of songs that reflect the values. They respond well to the invitation of leaders and enthusiastically join in with prayers and other responses. Inspired by the aspiration to of the vision, pupils experience and learn about different styles of Christian worship. Through the partnership with the church and organisations such as 'Open the Book', pupils also benefit from inspiring and engaging stories from the Bible. Clergy and church members provide warm, inclusive support and enhance the worship cycle in creative ways.

Religious education (RE) makes a positive contribution to the curriculum and provides high-quality, experiential opportunities for pupils to express the school's vision. The vision underpins the content of and the approach to RE. The subject leader is skilled and committed to the prioritisation of RE. The broad and balanced curriculum empowers pupils to demonstrate good levels of religious literacy. Pupils value RE highly and see it as a vital space to find out how others contemplate God and the world. They can talk confidently about concepts such as pilgrimage and communion. They are respectful of different views and enthusiastically share their knowledge of these, including Islam, Hinduism and humanism.

Wetwang is a warm, authentic Church school where every pupil is known and cherished. The love of God is evident throughout the school, where the vision inspires and encourages all to be the best that they can be.



| Information | | | |
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| School | Wetwang Church of England VC Primary School | Inspection date | 28 April 2023 |
| URN | 117997 | VC/VA/Academy | Voluntary controlled |
| Diocese/District | York | Pupils on roll | 48 |
| Executive Headteacher | Peter Richardson | | |
| Chair of Governors | Andrew McCormack | | |
| Inspector | Lee Talbot | No. | 2123 |