



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bugthorpe Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Stephenwath Lane, Bugthorpe, York, YO41 1QQ
School vision	
<p>As a loving family who take pride in our environment, our vision is to sow the seeds in our young people, growing compassionate, confident learners, who harvest respect for others: developing their special gifts, enriching each individual child in God’s image.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘Follow your pathway and grow with confidence’.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 13: 1-9 (The parable of the sower)</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision with its strong biblical roots is clearly understood and articulated by the whole school community. Led by a passionate headteacher, leaders ensure the vision is at the core of every aspect of school life. • Inspired by their vision, staff welcome pupils as unique seeds. The development of the whole child is paramount. Talents are recognised and nourished and as a result all flourish as compassionate and confident learners. • As a loving family, this is a school where everyone cares. Exceptional relationships at all levels ensure that everyone is treated well. The mental health and wellbeing of all is given the highest priority. • The school culture of justice and responsibility to others, empowers pupils to be leaders of change. They have the confidence and voice to make a big difference, both locally and globally. • Despite the recent long term absence of a key member of staff, the high quality provision of religious education (RE) remains a priority. RE is both challenging and engaging and is valued by all, 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to embed recent work in spiritual development across the curriculum . This is so that pupils more naturally reflect upon all aspects of their learning. • Continue to deepen the impact of worship so that everyone, including pupils, takes greater ownership of the spiritual life of the school community. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Inspired by their distinctly Christian vision, leaders at Bugthorpe strive to ensure all members of the school community flourish. A shared determination, driven by strong leadership from a passionate headteacher, ensures the unique talents of each individual are recognised and nourished. This enables all to flourish as they follow their own pathway. The vision at Bugthorpe is deeply rooted in</p>	

the rural context of this school and as a consequence is understood and lived out by all. Governors articulate the vision well, giving many practical examples of how it drives decisions and policy. They measure the impact through a programme of regular monitoring and as result know the school well. Federation with another small church school has significantly strengthened leadership at all levels. Staff value the opportunities this has offered them to develop their own leadership skills as they work across both schools in subject leadership groups. They appreciate the many opportunities offered for staff development, enabling them to flourish in their roles. Staff wellbeing is given the highest priority. All speak about the positive impact of the time they are given to carry out their roles effectively. Partnerships with the diocese are strong. Leaders value the effective support the school has received in enhancing their development as a church school.

This small village school offers a warm and caring welcome to everyone. Relationships between pupils are exceptional. Parents value the caring and respectful way pupils treat each other. This is evident in the way children play together at break times. Behaviour in school is good. Pupils talk of school being a safe place to be. They value the support of adults in helping them solve any arguments in a positive and reflective way. In line with the vision, parents speak of the way 'Bugthorpe is just like one big loving family.' However, they agree that if pupils need support with behaviour, this is effectively given. Every child is welcomed and cared for as an individual. Leaders and staff know the pupils very well. Those with additional needs are treated with love and respect and nurtured to make good progress. The mental health and wellbeing is a priority for the whole school community. Support extends to all staff and families, who speak warmly about the care they receive from school.

In line with their vision, leaders have developed an enquiry based curriculum that enables pupils to develop their special gifts. Asking big questions and following their own pathway in their investigations is intrinsic to the way pupils learn. The impact of learning is carefully monitored by curriculum leadership teams. Leaders talk proudly of the success of their pupils when they move onto secondary school. The curriculum is enhanced by regular visits to inspire pupils and broaden their horizons. An example of this is the residential trip for pupils in Years 5 and 6 to London. Outdoor learning is given high priority. New outdoor learning spaces are currently being installed to enhance this. All pupils have weekly forest school and gardening lessons. They talk proudly of selling their produce on a market stall situated at the school gate. The purchase of a school minibus enables pupils to access outdoor learning more widely and frequently. The extra-curricular offer is wide and varied. Pupils are tasked with leading their own lunchtime clubs which prove very popular and include dance, drama and litter picking. Developing pupils as spiritual beings is important to leaders as they take a holistic approach to developing the whole child. There is a shared language of spiritual development across school. Training has enabled all to consider opportunities across the curriculum to deepen the way pupils reflect on themselves and the wider world and these are currently being embedded.

'Harvesting respect for others' and 'taking pride in their environment' is a real strength at Bugthorpe. Pupils take their responsibility in making ethical choices and being agents of change very seriously. Opportunities are embedded into daily school life and pupils are given the confidence to stand up for what they believe in and challenge injustice. Examples of the impact they have had on their local environment are plentiful. These include litter picking in the village and helping the parish council with planting at Jubilee Pastures. Children are encouraged to speak out when they think something is not right and many of the ongoing projects are legacies of previous pupils. Recently concern about plastic pollution in the oceans, led to a successful campaign for the school to stop using single sachets of sauce at lunchtimes. Strong partnership with Nyabyeya Primary School in Uganda has enabled pupils to consider how they can have an impact on a more global level. This ongoing work, with regular updates from the school has prompted pupils into action. These include raising money to fund a librarian and provide books and also sponsor a girl through

secondary school each year. Pupils are proud of the impact they have and the difference they can make to the life of others.

Collective worship is inclusive and central to life at Bugthorpe. It strongly expresses the vision of a 'community enriching each child in God's image'. Leaders have created a carefully planned and sequenced worship programme, underpinned by Christian values. This develops pupils' understanding of biblical texts and how they can be applied to their own lives. 'Picture News' and regular videos from Nyabyeya School spark pupils into social action. A strong partnership with the local church enriches worship and develops pupil knowledge of Anglican practices. Families are welcomed to join seasonal services in Church. Prayer and reflection are valued aspects of school life. Reflection areas in classrooms are used to consider the school values and engage in spontaneous prayer. Pupil 'Leading Lights' support aspects of worship and meet with the headteacher to evaluate the impact. As a result, worship helps to guide actions, enabling pupils and adults to flourish. However, to ensure all are fully involved, leaders have rightly identified the need to increase pupil participation further.

The RE curriculum is based on the local syllabus but has been adapted to meet the needs of learners, enabling all to flourish. Despite the recent long term absence of a key member of staff, leaders prioritise the provision of high quality RE. Lessons are enquiry based, offering opportunities for questions, discussion and reflection. Pupils speak enthusiastically about RE, how it helps them to know and share different faiths and beliefs. They have some knowledge of Christianity as a global faith. Books and discussions with pupils reflect the creative, rich, and engaging opportunities pupils use to develop their knowledge of world religions and worldviews.

The inspection findings indicate that Bugthorpe Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	23 October 2023	URN	118000
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	74
Diocese	York		
MAT/Federation			
Executive Headteacher	Bracken Holtby		
Chair	Alison Ross		
Inspector	Susan Thackray	No.	979