

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Caton St Paul's Church of England Primary School	
Address	Moorside Road, Brookhouse, LA2 9PJ

School vision

‘One family, belonging, believing and learning together.’
 ‘So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.’
 Romans 12:5

We belong to a school that children and staff feel proud to be part of; where there is mutual support amongst families and the wider community, and where everyone feels valued. We believe that God’s love is central to all that we do; that with His love, we grow in faith. We love and respect one another and we take care of the world in which we live. We learn together in an inspiring and secure environment, where our children’s unique skills and abilities are recognised and nurtured, preparing them for life’s challenges and opportunities.

School strengths

- The clear Christian vision is lived out in all aspects of the work of the school. Pupils and adults are nurtured in a loving community family and are able to flourish as a result.
- Shaped by the Christian vision, the curriculum is built around each pupil belonging to a set of ever widening circles of community – local, national and global. Through rich first-hand experiences and explorations of diversity, pupils grow spiritually and gain a strong sense of identity.
- The school is a welcoming and inspiring community with worship at its heart. Pupils, staff and people in the wider locality benefit from shared experiences that encourage their spiritual growth.
- Everyone is treated with a high level of care and deep respect for the uniqueness of each individual. As a result, the school is a strong community with a culture of wellbeing in which adults and pupils thrive.
- The enquiry-based approach to religious education (RE) provides valuable opportunities for pupils to explore ideas through art, music and drama. In this way they are strongly encouraged in the development of their own beliefs and convictions.

Areas for development

- Extend the range of opportunities for pupils to deepen their understanding of world faiths and worldviews. This is so that they are able to further develop respect for the beliefs and practices of others.

Inspection findings

The Christian vision ensures that everyone can grow as a member of a loving family. Adults and pupils are valued individually and fully included in the wider school community. As a result, all are able to flourish. The vision is built on the biblical principle that the church is one body built of many



parts. Each part has a unique role to play for the body to fully function. In the same way, each person has an important part to play in the life of the school. The impact of this is evident across all activity. Care given to the development of individual pupils and staff creates a nurturing environment for all. Pupils thrive academically in a culture balancing high expectations with focussed support. They are well prepared for secondary education through a wide range of opportunities to develop character. Staff are happy and settled because leaders take into account their personal circumstances. The experienced governing body supports the school very effectively. Inspired by the Christian vision, finances are allocated to meeting the specific needs of individuals. Although often challenging, this approach improves the learning experience of many. A strong network of mutually beneficial relationships, with church and other groups, helps the community to thrive.

Pupils' learning is supported by a carefully structured curriculum shaped significantly by the Christian vision. Building on the idea of layers of belonging, pupils explore places, people and issues at local, national and global levels. They develop an understanding of the natural world through regular forest school sessions and lessons outside the classroom. Regular trips and inspiring visitors ensure that learning is enhanced by quality first hand experiences. These include exploration of more challenging aspects of local history, such as links to the slave trade. In this way pupils explore examples of injustice that go to the heart of what it means to be human. They are able to grow spiritually, reflecting on the ways in which lives and communities are shaped by experience. As pupils gain knowledge and develop enquiry skills, they cultivate a sense of their own belonging in the world.

Worship is central to the life of the school, contributing significantly to the experience of family and belonging. Great care is taken to ensure that everyone feels welcome in whole school gatherings. All pupils, regardless of age, need or background are fully included and able to contribute. Staff also benefit from the support and challenge provided by daily worship. A recent Eucharist service, led by local clergy, had a significant impact on adults, including governors and visitors. The experience of worshipping as a wider community deepened the relationships that enable spiritual flourishing. Planning is based around the school's Christian values with a strong emphasis on teaching about the full Bible narrative. Through the variety of approaches, pupils and adults are inspired and respond to themes, stories and prayers in different ways. The ethos group, run by older pupils, creates and maintains worship tables and displays in each classroom. These are used regularly to support further reflection and discussion. As a result, all are able to flourish spiritually, encouraged on their individual journeys.

By fostering a sense of belonging, leaders have created a culture in which everyone is treated well. The Christian vision guides the work of staff and governors, ensuring that pupils' individual needs are given high priority. This is evident in successful early identification and focussed intervention for those who need additional support. Pupils benefit from the school's commitment to building good relationships with families. Care is also taken to provide support as often as possible within the class setting. In this way, all pupils are included in class groups, growing as part of the community as well as individually. Wellbeing is further enhanced by the strong sense of safety felt across the school. Pupils express a deep trust in the adults working with them. Staff feel cared for and are well supported by leaders, both personally and professionally. In many instances the school, as a community built on God's love, serves as a place of healing.

Pupils are provided with a wide range of opportunities to act as agents of change. The Christian vision, expressed through the school's values, supports and makes this part of the culture. From early on, pupils are encouraged to behave responsibly, think of others and work towards fairness for all. The curriculum, including well-chosen fiction texts, introduces examples of injustice to enable pupils to discuss and develop appropriate responses. This is taken to a deeper level in older classes. Issues such as unfairness in global trade are studied and possible solutions explored. The school

council and eco group plan and lead projects, enabling all pupils to engage in meaningful activity. They have made a difference to the natural environment by providing bird feeders and clearing litter. Pupils have also been introduced to equality legislation and the nine protected characteristics, which has raised awareness and prompted discussion. Individual pupils are encouraged to act when they feel strongly about an issue.

RE is highly valued across the school and is given priority as an academic subject. This commitment is evident in the way pre-school pupils are introduced to Bible stories and religious festivals. Teachers benefit from the knowledge and experience of leaders who provide good quality training and a high level of support. Resources include in-depth background information for staff which ensures accuracy of delivery. The curriculum is carefully structured to account for the current class organisation. Pupils are introduced to themes and ideas, learn new vocabulary and develop their understanding in a logical sequence. In many units of work, they return to ideas and build on learning from previous years. This provides challenge by encouraging a range of perspectives which aid discussion and help pupils develop their own beliefs and convictions. Lessons include opportunity for questioning and reflection in an environment where pupils feel safe to share their own thoughts. Learning is enhanced by regular use of the local churches and visits from clergy and other faith leaders. However, there are limited opportunities for pupils to develop understanding of a variety of both religious and non-religious worldviews.

The structure of the curriculum, good quality resources, regular training and support from leaders enable the effective teaching of RE. As a result, pupils enjoy learning and are able to talk about it enthusiastically with knowledge and understanding. They develop a good level of religious literacy, using vocabulary accurately and applying what they already know to new learning. This is supported by a clear approach to assessment that provides information on which teachers can plan future lessons. Pupils make good progress in RE because teaching builds on ideas steadily over time.

The school is highly effective in its vision to see individual pupils and adults flourish for the good of the whole community. By working together as 'one family' everyone belongs and is able to grow.

The inspection findings indicate that Caton St Paul's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	12 December 2023	URN	119524
VC/VA/Academy		Pupils on roll	171
Diocese	Blackburn		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Ian Gittins		
Chair	Anna Shone		
Inspector	Peter Barfoot	No.	2216