THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE

The Methodist Church

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bishop Monkton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School					
Address	**St John's Road, Bishop Monkton, Harrogate, HG3 3QW**				
Date of inspection	11 July 2019	**Status of school**	Voluntary Controlled Primary		
Diocese	Leeds		**URN**	121551	

Overall Judgement	**How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?**	**Grade**	**Good**
Additional Judgements	**The impact of collective worship**	**Grade**	**Good**

School context

Bishop Monkton CE (VC) Primary School has 112 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage and there are no pupils who speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below national averages.

The school's Christian vision

Faith to flourish. Our village school, rooted in its Christian foundations, provides a welcoming, caring family environment in which all children can flourish. Through biblical values we support our children to be healthy, happy and vibrant individuals, preparing them to become responsible and respectful citizens in the wider world. Matthew 19:14.

Key findings

- The dedicated leadership of the headteacher and her passion in supporting pupils and adults, aided by her leadership team and the governors, enables pupils and adults to flourish within this Christian school. Relationships between all members of the school community create a learning environment of happiness and positive encouragement that nurtures success within each pupil's learning journey.
- Pupils, especially those who are most vulnerable, benefit from being in a safe and happy environment where they develop a love of learning and for each other alongside friendship and courage. This provision is in response to the biblical teaching of the infinite value of each person as a child of God.
- The wellbeing of all, the importance placed on this, and the care for all is particularly strong, leading to a culture in the school of everyone working to be the best they can be.
- Pupils and adults have a good understanding of the Christian vision and values and can explain how they make a demonstrable difference to actions and behaviours.
- All have embraced the vision of faith to flourish and this can be seen in the inclusive and invitational collective worship, in Religious Education (RE) and the responses to the big questions of life, engaging and inspiring all to flourish. However further work is now needed to support pupils in their understanding of major world faiths.

Areas for development

- Enhance teachers' pedagogical knowledge in RE to enable a consistent approach to effective questioning, which supports pupils' philosophical and sociological understanding of religion and belief at all levels.
- Provide learning opportunities that promote wider understanding of global diversity in belief, language and lifestyle in order to help pupils develop respect, tolerance and empathy for a greater range of cultures and beliefs.

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How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

Strategic decisions, planning and daily life create a culture in which all can 'flourish in faith'. This culture flows directly from the school's Christian vision. The vision, recently reviewed and led by the committed and inspirational headteacher, ensured all members of the school community have contributed to its development, creating a Christian vision for all stakeholders. A Governor stated that the 'biblically inspired vision emphasises the faith that God has in us, and the belief that each child is valued and special because they are made in God's image underpins all that we do.'

Relationships within and beyond the school are firmly rooted in Christian values, ensuring all are given the support, encouragement and opportunity to succeed. As a result pupils develop a deep love of learning and respect for the world and all people. These values are lived out in the interactions at school, and at home. Staff morale is extremely high. Staff feel valued, respected, listened to and their wellbeing is considered at all levels of decision-making. Parents say they are consulted and listened to. All staff benefit from targeted professional development opportunities. Strong diocesan links support all in developing the school as a church school. Knowledgeable, committed governors are passionate and act strategically to support and grow this church school.

The school's Christian vision successfully reaches out into the wider local community. Nurturing the development of pupils' personal spirituality, arising from the awe and wonder that are experienced within their learning and collective worship. One pupil reported that 'collective worship moved them from the dark to the light like a beacon'. The school's vision and values have shaped personalised planning, driving the 'Fair-aware awards' and the care of the family support worker. Several staff are trained to identify any wellbeing and mental health issues supporting all pupils, parents and staff, embedding the principles of 'Valuing all God's Children' celebrating diversity and difference. The school's multicultural theme days and working towards the Dementia Friendly award provide opportunities for the pupils to live out the Christian vision of understanding and friendship. One parent noted that, 'There are no differences in this school, just one big equal family.' This results in the highest standard of respectful, considerate behaviour where instances of bullying are extremely rare and quickly eliminated. The school supports pupils in becoming confident and resilient learners, ambitious to achieve well. Pupils are encouraged to support each other and they do this both socially and in class. This courageous determination for success and a nurturing environment, leads to all living out the school's Christian vision. This leads to all pupils making above national progress from their starting points. Pupils enjoy coming to school and attendance is very good.

A wide range of pupil opportunities are undertaken by all year groups. Greenbugs, school council, Fairtrade and young leaders demonstrate sound leadership in their care of younger pupils within their school family and all work well together in these committees. The greenbugs became agents of change, as one pupil said 'I want to tell everyone what their plastic is doing to the animals.' The school takes great pride in its charitable fundraising and the school council has raised awareness of social injustice and inspired the whole school to raise money for 'Operation Orphan' by creating and delivering PowerPoints about the plight of refugees. Working towards their third Fairtrade award is helping to widen the experiences of pupils. Pupils are aware that there are people in need of support nearer to home as well as globally. Pupils visit local nursing homes and day centres, donate food for deprived families and have raised money for an operation for a pupil. Year 5 pupils engage in community in action in connection with the Archbishop of York's young leaders' award scheme. Pupils are respectfully accepting of difference in lifestyle, faith and language. However this is limited because of where they live and is an area for improvement. Pupils are confident to express their views in a culture of respect for one another.

Worship is central to school life; it is invitational and meets statutory requirements, allowing all to contribute with integrity. It is fully inclusive and all worship uses Makaton sign language to support the pupils with speech and language difficulties. Children plan, lead and evaluate worship regularly, both as a whole school and in daily class liturgies. Opportunities for pupils to reflect on worship and their own lives are embedded across the school and contribute to spiritual development through prayer. Worship allows pupils to increase their knowledge and understanding of Bible stories and they are able to articulate how these help them to understand how Jesus used values to teach people how to behave. After hearing about the Good Samaritan in class worship a younger pupil said 'My bucket is full of kindness now.' Children understand the church's calendar and celebrations of the Christian year through key event worship and services at church. Following recommendations from the previous SIAMS inspection, pupils, Clergy and other visitors take worship on a regular basis and children enjoy the variety of

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approaches. They say a range of prayers and have an age appropriate understanding of the Eucharist and Trinity. Pupils use the numerous reflection areas around school to respond to key questions and make personal prayers. Opportunities for stillness and reflection, both during school and class worship enable pupils to be at peace and be calm within. As noted by a parent, 'It gives them space and peace to just be.'

The RE curriculum is in the middle of a rethink, drawing upon Diocesan support to introduce Understanding Christianity along with the locally agreed syllabus and RE today resources. RE is led by the headteacher who ensures teaching is good and lessons are interesting, stimulating and engaging. An example of this is the use of Da Vinci's 'Last Supper' painting and a modern painting of the Trinity. Written work is of high quality. However theological enquiry questions do not form part of regular lessons. Pupils of all abilities enjoy RE because it enables all to achieve well. RE topics are often linked to collective worship themes and the wider curriculum. Use of inclusive discussion and debate in RE enables pupils of faith or none to reflect upon personal beliefs, and to be challenged by the big questions. Religious education scrapbooks record discussions, allowing the subject leader to effectively monitor the progression of specific RE skills.

As a pupil said, 'Values are important because they make you a better person, if we don't learn them in collective worship they are just words, but then they are just things we know and that's not enough. At Bishop Monkton we live them.'

Headteacher	Sally Cowling
Inspector's name and number	Elaine Bowers 960

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