

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Stainton Church of England Primary School

Address	Stainton, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0ET		
Date of inspection	11 July 2019	Status of school	VA Primary
Diocese	Carlisle	URN	112411

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

School context

Stainton is a voluntary aided primary school with 143 pupils on roll. The school has a very low level of religious and cultural diversity and very few pupils 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 (SEND) is below national averages. Since the last inspection, the school has been judged as good by Ofsted.

The school's Christian vision

As a Church of England school, we encourage our children to live a life rooted in faith and love. We nurture our children to enable them to flourish and achieve their full potential academically, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually within a loving and secure environment.

Our motto is to; 'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 13:34

Key findings

- The deeply embedded Christian vision significantly shapes and defines all aspects of school life. It is inclusive, enabling the whole school community to flourish and know that they are loved by God.
- Inspirational Christian leadership and governance creates a vibrant learning community, firmly committed to school improvement.
- The unique curriculum, which is linked effectively to the vision, inspires pupils to develop spiritually, excel academically and become courageous advocates for change.
- Strong nurturing relationships, firmly based on Christian values of love, compassion and forgiveness, support all members of the school family. These sustain pupils and adults at times of need and enable them to overcome adversity.
- Excellent religious education (RE), outstanding collective worship and challenging Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) results in the pupils' impressive spiritual and personal development.

Areas for development

- Improve pupil knowledge of the Eucharist, so that they can deepen their understanding of Anglican theology and traditions.

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

Stainton's Biblically-rooted, deeply-held and widely-understood vision underpins all aspects of school life. It shapes and infuses all policies, strategic decisions and activities of the school. 'Love one another as I have loved you,' (John 13:34) underpins all relationships, securing a strong commitment to everyone's wellbeing and mental health. Leadership at all levels is inspirational and instrumental in ensuring that the whole community flourishes. The investment that Governors have made into Christian leadership has been pivotal in equipping staff to create a thriving Christian community that is a beacon in the centre of the community that it serves. Since the last inspection, the school has been transformed. Governors now play a significant role in shaping the strategic direction of the school. They are highly committed and passionate about the Christian distinctiveness of the school. Governor contribution to self-evaluation and monitoring is robust and ensures an informed response to the needs of the school community. Governors, staff and local clergy meet regularly to pray and worship together. They provide further opportunities for the community to join them, such as the 'Cheese and Quackers service,' monthly Café church and school worship.

The dedicated and highly effective staff team, under the inspirational Christian leadership of the headteacher, ensure that all pupils are able to flourish. Partnership with the diocese and other schools ensures that provision is constantly improved to meet the needs of individuals. All staff feel valued and as a consequence create a community that is rooted in love.

The school's unique and creative curriculum, founded on the vision, motivates and inspires all pupils to make excellent progress academically and spiritually. Attendance is excellent and pupils are inspired to learn. Careful consideration to provision-mapping, effective and inclusive support for pupils and outstanding teaching ensures that all pupils reach their full potential. PSHE is a particular strength and this, coupled with excellent RE equips pupils to have respect for others and to treat all individuals with dignity. They are knowledgeable about cultural diversity and speak with confidence and passion when discussing equality and human rights. Religious literacy and inquisitive minds equip pupils with the curiosity to explore religion further.

Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. They are proud of the caring and forgiving community that they create. Pupils are dedicated to their roles and responsibilities in school, such as play leaders, buddies and ethos leaders. Gospel values are the bedrock of all relationships and pupils can articulate confidently their significance in their lives. Bible stories inspire pupils to live out their Gospel values. Pupils are now keen to build upon this by deepening their understanding of more stories from the Old Testament.

Pupils are empowered and highly motivated to make a difference to others and live out the vision through both practical and prayerful support. Pupils talk passionately about ways in which they live out their vision and put faith into action. Inspired by both the curriculum and collective worship, pupils have campaigned for and promoted causes locally, nationally and globally. Powerful and informative letters to Water Aid is one example of influential action. Pupils provide support and friendship to the local hospice through regular visits and joint activities. They make a significant contribution to the local Marmalade Festival and open the school grounds to 'share a smile' for those who may feel lonely. The pupils' response to 'Change the world for a fiver' is particularly inspiring and enables individual pupils to be confident and independent advocates of change.

Parents speak extremely highly of the school and the significant impact that it has had on their children's character development and academic progress. They have a confident understanding of the school's vision and the difference that it makes to the ethos of the school as well as to individual pupils. Parents recognise the impact that the core values have on pupils and are particularly impressed with how individual pupils are encouraged to be advocates of change. Parents value highly the support that they are given and the unwavering love that staff feel towards each individual pupil. Parents recognise the personalised support that pupils receive so that they can flourish as unique individuals. They recognise the impact that the school has in equipping pupils to be kind, loving and caring human beings.

The inspirational worship life of the school is at the heart of all it does. It is transformational, creative and inclusive. It is led by a committed, passionate and faithful leader who has inspired significant changes since the last inspection. Pupils value the contribution that they are now able to make in terms of planning, leading and evaluating worship and are able to articulate the changes that have come about as a result of their suggestions. The ethos group ensure that the Christian distinctiveness of the school is celebrated at every opportunity in school and outside. Pupils value their prayer and reflection spaces and are challenged by the deep questions that are displayed. The prayer life of the school is particularly strong and pupils are encouraged to contribute to the regular staff and governor prayer meetings. Prayer stations in school are inviting and relevant to the curriculum and often focus on world issues. Pupils value the opportunity to visit prayer stations in the local Methodist chapel. Extracurricular provision including a highly popular 'Build your faith brick by brick' club is strengthening the pupils' Bible knowledge in a creative way. Partnership with the parish and local Methodist church is particularly strong. Parishioners support the school in prayerful and practical ways. Pupils enjoy worshipping in church, but do not have a secure knowledge of the significance of the Eucharist to Christians.

Vibrant, purposeful and enlightening RE displays encourage deep discussion and theological debate. Pupils are proud of their achievements in RE and are inquisitive to deepen their understanding and widen their knowledge of Christianity and other world faiths. They are challenged to debate religious and social issues, which often transfer into social action.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

Teaching and learning in RE is outstanding. Diocesan training and passionate, knowledgeable and inspiring subject leadership ensures that the provision is of the highest standard. The diocesan scheme and 'Understanding Christianity' units are taught imaginatively and inspire all pupils to excel. Curriculum planning and robust assessment procedures result in high rates of progress in line with or above other core subjects. Regular moderation of pupils' work motivates staff and secures best practice. The focus in lessons on deep questioning and debate challenges pupils and often inspires social action. Pupils show a mature knowledge and respect for other world faiths.

Headteacher	Helen Dunham
Inspector's name and number	Kathryn Pym 726