

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

### Cartmel Priory Church of England School

Address	Headless Cross, Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7SA		
Dates of inspection	13-14 February 2020	Status of school	Stand-alone academy inspected as voluntary aided.
Diocese	Carlisle	URN	137338

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

#### School context

Cartmel Priory is a secondary school with 322 students on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few students 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 above national averages. The present headteacher was appointed with effect from September 2019.

#### The school's Christian vision

The statements 'I have come that you may have life and live it to the full' John 10:10 and 'Run Faster, Reach Further, Aim Higher, Grow Tall, Work Harder, Think Deeper, Laugh Louder, Love All' reflect the ethos and mission of Cartmel Priory Church of England School. That is, we are committed to the development of the whole student academically, morally, socially, physically and spiritually as a complete person

#### Key findings

- Governors and leaders act with integrity so that the biblical vision and mission statement successfully promote the strategic and operational direction of the school. Leaders at all levels understand its impact in transforming lives and therefore it is enabling all to flourish. The vision for leading a full life results in a creative, innovative approach to curriculum planning that ensures all students have access to a rich, broad and balanced education.
- Tolerance, compassion and forgiveness in all relationships ensure that each individual is supported to be strong, honest and aspirational. Students appreciate that the school embraces them for the person they are and the person they wish to be. Exceptional pastoral care and an exciting extra-curricular programme support this ambition.
- The vision for thinking deeper and reaching further means that courageous advocacy is deeply embedded. The inspiring Mission Group enables students to use their leadership and influence to bring positive change. This contributes to the whole community having an excellent understanding of Christianity as a global living faith.
- RE provides students with a safe and challenging learning environment. Through excellent leadership and highly effective teaching students, including those with additional needs make impressive progress.
- Collective worship is excellent and provides the heartbeat of the community. It is relevant, respected, varied and memorable. The newly appointed collective worship ambassadors are already effectively enhancing tutor group worship. Students make a rich contribution to parish worship.

#### Areas for development

- Continue to support Christian leadership development and opportunities at all levels so that the excellent practice currently in place is sustainable for students and adults.
- Develop the physical environment so that it provides additional opportunities for reflection that contribute to the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of the school community.

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**

Cartmel Priory is an excellent church school. Its embedded and carefully understood vision is woven through every activity and impacts on every decision. The vision enables the community to understand Christian beliefs about Christ as the foundation for a good and flourishing life. The newly appointed headteacher, building upon the legacy of her predecessor, is already making a significant impact. She is supported by visionary governors and academy trustees who are a welcome presence in the school. They act with integrity and, with leaders, rigorously evaluate the school's effectiveness as a church school. Christian leadership ensures that adults and students are nurtured, mentored and supported to be successful. Governors regard the on-going development of Christian leadership as key to sustaining the high quality of Christian education. As new leaders and staff have recently joined the school, this remains an on-going priority. Adults and students appreciate that leaders trust and enable them to reach further, aim higher, work harder and think more deeply. Consequently they flourish.

Creative curriculum planning ensures that all students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Consequently, students thrive academically. All groups make excellent progress. Each student is offered the curriculum most appropriate to meet their needs and raise their aspirations. A small number of older students follow personalised programmes that include external provision. Each department promotes a different Christian value. Compassion can be seen in the relationships promoted in English and in the choice of literature and literary themes for study. In modern foreign languages, tolerance is promoted and issues of diversity considered. This innovative, embedded approach successfully promotes students' learning experiences, appreciation of the impact of religion and personal spirituality. Attendance and behaviour are excellent. This is because students enjoy their learning and the sense of achievement that accompanies being part of this community. They appreciate that adults always have time for them and that rewards are tangible and available to all.

Social action and courageous advocacy is integral to the way the school works out its vision. The school promotes justice and wellbeing locally, nationally and internationally. The impressive mixed-age student Mission Group coordinates the selection of charities generously supported each year. Working with local parishes and partner primary schools, they are creative in their fundraising initiatives. The Cha Cha Plank for Cancer Research and the Water Climb for Rwanda are examples of how they energise the whole community and make a difference. There is a developed appreciation among students of the Church as the agent of change in many parts of the world. For example, they understand how sponsoring the education of two students in Uganda transforms their life chances. Internally, the environment powerfully celebrates the school's Christian identity, warmth and welcome. Artwork and thought provoking quotes from scripture encourage moments of contemplation. Externally, the Faith and Courage cross is a striking focus for reflection. The school is keen to develop the potential of other spaces to support wellbeing.

The vision for enabling all to live life to the full results in excellent pastoral care and exceptional relationships. This ensures the physical, mental and academic wellbeing and inclusion of all. Parents and students recognise that belonging to this inclusive, nurturing Christian community, where opinions are sought and valued, is a special experience. Students who join outside of the normal time frames feel particularly embraced. Like other students at Cartmel Priory they find friendship, understanding and success. This equally extends to all adults. Forgiveness and reconciliation are at the core of behaviour policies and students appreciate that when sanctions are required, they are applied fairly. The Whispering Wednesday initiative, offered by the school's Haven room, typifies the creativity applied to supporting wellbeing. In this instance, providing the greater calm and quiet necessary and appreciated by many students, including those with additional needs. External support is provided by agencies that endorse the school's vision and values.

The vision for reaching further means that the school values collaborative practice. It works closely with designated primary schools and the South Lakes Federation to share expertise, enhance learning and offer older students leadership opportunities. All departments contribute to transition activities that ensure students are familiar and enthusiastic about high school. Parents appreciate the successful interventions the school arranges so that students are prepared for the next steps of their educational journey. The level of additional, discretionary effort by all staff is impressive. A member of staff commented about offering extra-curricular opportunities, 'We don't have to, we want to'. This demonstrates the school's vision in practice and enables adults to provide opportunities and experiences for students that transform lives, expand horizons and shape thinking. Mixed-age history club students demonstrated mature insight when considering whether a soldier driving a train to Auschwitz was a perpetrator, collaborator, or bystander of the Holocaust. Opportunities include sport, visits, productions, clubs and leadership

awards.

Collective worship makes an exceptional contribution to the school and its impact extends to the parish community. The considerable commitment offered by local clergy ensures that students experience the breadth of Anglican worship. The parish worship to which the school Mission Group contributes is rejuvenating the local church community. Adults and students appreciate visiting the parish church regularly. One student described worship in the Priory as 'just amazing'. The Thought for the Day resource ensures that all school worship reflects the needs, worries, ambitions and concerns of the entire community. Revised annually, it collates the ideas of students, staff, parents and governors. The engaging content of scripture, music and inspiring people of faith is the bedrock of all worship. As a result, all worship is special, invitational and inclusive. Collective worship ambassadors, a relatively new role, are ensuring that even more students have the opportunity to lead and evaluate worship. The annual prayer spaces week promotes spiritual development and reflection.

The leadership and teaching of RE is inspiring. Subject specialists share their expertise and creativity with other schools. They provide safe, challenging learning spaces where students can express their views and work both independently and collaboratively. Imaginative team names such as Brilliant and Fantastic encourage mixed ability learners to achieve their best. They share age-appropriate theological, philosophical and sociologically informed views. They use complex religious vocabulary with confidence. The curriculum is appropriate to the interests of the students and contributes to their exemplary attitudes towards diversity and tolerance. It enables them to grow in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths. Provision meets the expectations of the Church of England *Statement of Entitlement*. Carefully chosen visits and visitors are deftly woven through the curriculum to enhance learning and maximise students enjoyment of RE.



### **The effectiveness of RE is Excellent**

Rigorous monitoring and evaluation by leaders and governors makes a significant contribution to the high standard of teaching. Student outcomes, including for vulnerable students and those with additional needs, are excellent. Across both key stages, they are in line with the impressive results achieved in other core subjects. Potential underachievement by any student, in any year group, is quickly identified and effective interventions implemented.

Headteacher	Sarah Beestone
Inspector's name and number	Fiona Ashton 860