

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

### Yealand Church of England Primary School

<b>Address</b>	Footeran Lane, Yealand Redmayne, Carnforth, Lancashire LA5 9SU		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	6 June 2019	<b>Status of school</b>	VA primary
<b>Diocese</b>	Blackburn	<b>URN</b>	119546

<b>Overall Judgement</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Good</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>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>Good</b>

#### School context

Yealand is a primary school and nursery with 29 pupils on roll. The school has a low level of religious and cultural diversity and no 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 in line with national averages. Since the last inspection, the school has ceased operating as part of a collaboration and appointed a full time head teacher in January 2019.

#### The school's Christian vision

Inspire a love of learning in God's world. Through awe and wonder for God's world, we will inspire a true love of learning, creativity, curiosity and imagination. Through independent thought and a passion for the lives of others we will work with our community to care and consider all, following in the teachings of Christ. 'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith.' 1 Timothy 4:12

#### Key findings

- The passionate Christian leadership of the head teacher and courageous actions of the governing body have re-established the school at the centre of the village, where all are nurtured, loved and inspired to flourish.
- The distinctive and inclusive Christian vision has a transforming and inspirational impact on the whole school and wider community. This is not yet underpinned by theological understanding that reflects the Christian foundations of the school.
- Pupils, parents, staff, governors and parishioners inspire each other to live out Gospel values, enabling each other to flourish and respond to social injustice and inequality. Pupils feel a deep responsibility to be advocates for change locally, nationally and globally.
- Collective worship is at the heart of the school. It is creative, inspirational and inclusive, enabling all in the community to encounter God and develop spiritually. Pupils play a significant role in planning, leading and evaluating worship.
- The unique curriculum, inspired by the local environment and Christian vision, is personalised so that all pupils make significant progress in religious education (RE) and across the curriculum.

#### Areas for development

- To embed the theological underpinning of the school's vision, so that everyone understands the Christian foundations.
- Improve provision for teaching about world faiths in order for the pupils to deepen their knowledge and understanding.
- Strengthen the pupils' Biblical knowledge, to increase their understanding of the old and new testaments.

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

The ambitious, passionate and Christian leadership of the headteacher ensures that the school's unique vision is embraced and lived out by all. The end of the collaboration has enabled governors and staff to review and re-energise all aspects of school life and to financially stabilise the school. Governors are highly effective in all aspects of their work, in particular with regards to strategic planning and robust self-evaluation of the school. Foundation governors are passionate about securing the Christian foundations and working in unison with the parish. This has been particularly evident with regards to the recruitment and retention of Christian staff. They provide appropriate challenge and support to the headteacher as well as practical support in the daily life of the school.

The staff team has been strengthened by the full time presence of the headteacher, who has a very high profile in village life. This has ensured that the school is a focal point for community life one more. Strategic and operational changes have culminated in a vibrant, aspirational and inspiring school, firmly rooted at the heart of the community that it serves. Staff have welcomed opportunities for professional development and consequently are able to support pupils' development with greater skill and expertise. This has been particularly instrumental in terms of special educational needs. All staff spoke passionately of their shared commitment and love of the school. Staff now feel valued and supported following a period of instability. The renewed vision is embraced by all and inspires pupils, staff and visitors to flourish and embrace opportunities to unite such as the mini church and coffee stop. However, there is as yet insufficient understanding of the theological basis of the vision. Partnerships with the church, diocese and other local schools make a positive impact on 'this small but mighty school' as described by a pupil.

Pupils are rightly very proud of their school and have a heartfelt responsibility to 'inspire others to be the best that they can be.' Their behaviour and love for each other is exemplary. Pupils understand the need for forgiveness and reconciliation and feel a deep sense of duty 'to inspire each other so that everyone can shine.' Through this clear vision, they embrace and love each other as unique individuals. Pupil voice is exceptionally strong and has enabled them to be advocates for change locally, nationally and globally. Pupils speak with knowledge and confidence about their involvement in various projects such as the Olive Branch Project and Water Aid. They have a strong sense of justice and responsibility to bring about social equality and provide practical support to local charitable organisations.

Pupils make good progress academically, although this is not always reflected in national data, due to very small cohorts and high rates of inward mobility. Learning is personalised for all pupils. Outcomes in early years have been strengthened by the establishment of a nursery. A significant number of pupils benefit from additional support, academically or socially provided by well-trained and dedicated support staff. All pupils are allocated a wellbeing champion to support emotional development. Attendance is now a strength due to practical support given to families in need. The unique Christian curriculum is inspired by the natural surroundings and learning environment. Lessons are creative and often include working with pupils from other schools or educational visits. This provides regular opportunities for pupils to work in larger groups. Opportunities to reflect and develop spiritually are further enhanced by the pupils' independent contributions, such as artwork and prayers. Pupils enjoy RE and can speak confidently about Christianity and the positive impact that faith can have on the world. However, the school has begun to improve teaching about world faiths so that pupils can deepen their understanding and knowledge.

The school's Christian vision is instrumental in creating a truly inclusive environment where everyone is cherished and loved. The school's approach to equality is unwavering and celebrated. All pupils are treated with dignity and respect. Many pupils have joined the school through in-year admissions with additional emotional, educational or behavioural needs. Through love, nurture and individual learning programmes they have been able to shine. Parents speak particularly highly of how their children have flourished since joining the school. A significant number travel extensively for their children to attend the school. 'The forty miles a day is worthwhile as my child is accepted here and making good progress.' Pupils are encouraged to discuss concerns and inspire each other to 'be the best that they can be.'

Collective worship is central to the life of the school and reaches out to the whole community. In partnership with the parish church, 'mini church' has been established to improve Biblical knowledge in a creative way and to stimulate awe and wonder. Pupils and other local children benefit from this unique initiative that gives firm foundations for pupils to grow spiritually and in knowledge of the Christian faith. In addressing the development point from the last inspection, a worship team has been established that is now pivotal in planning, leading and evaluating worship. Pupils enjoy leading worship in school, in the outside prayer area and in church. Worship provides opportunities for pupils to learn about Anglican traditions. They say prayers and responses with confidence and encourage each other's personal prayer through stimulating reflection areas and prayer boxes. Plans are in place to focus more precisely on 'God's Big Story,' to strengthen Biblical knowledge and understanding.

In summary, Yealand is a good Church of England Primary school due to the distinctive Christian vision that unites and strengthens the Christian community that it serves and inspires all to flourish as unique individuals. It has a strong foundation to grow into an excellent church school.



**The effectiveness of RE is Good**

The quality of RE teaching and learning is good. Academic progress made by all pupils, including disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils, is good as a result of the meticulous planning and shared leadership. RE is taught in a creative, inspiring and imaginative way and opportunities for spiritual development and reflection are embraced across the whole curriculum. Assessment procedures are effective and inform the next steps of learning. Pupils are passionate about RE, but now want to learn more about world faiths and deepen their understanding of the Biblical stories so that they can relate to these in their own lives.

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