

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Melling St Wilfrid Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Lodge Lane, Melling, Carnforth, LA6 2RE
School vision	
<p>For the love of Learning, Friendship and Faith</p> <p>We endeavour to understand God's world through learning in a Christian community built on friendship and faith. Within this community and the wider world, we are encouraged to live out our Christian values to shine with God's light for all to see. 'Let your light shine.'</p> <p>Matthew 5:16</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision 'Let your Light Shine' shapes the nurturing and exceptionally inclusive culture of the school. Everyone is treated well, encouraged to fulfil their potential and take advantage of the opportunities life has to offer. • Through the recently revised curriculum and extra-curricular offer, pupils are well supported to recognise, understand and celebrate difference. They are able to identify and respond to injustice in their local and global communities. • Varied, well-planned and engaging worship is a daily highlight. The supportive relationship with the local church enhances powerfully the impactful worship life of the school. • The strong collaboration with another local primary school contributes significantly to the flourishing of all. Pupils' experiences are enhanced, and staff members benefit from mutual support and training opportunities. • Vibrant and engaging religious education (RE) lessons contribute to the flourishing of pupils. They enjoy learning about Christianity and have a good understanding of the religion as a living, diverse and global faith. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance systems to monitor the impact of the Christian vision on all areas of school life. • Develop and embed a shared understanding of spiritual development. This is to support planning for spirituality within the curriculum so that every opportunity is identified and taken. • Embed the recently revised RE curriculum and develop the monitoring and evaluation of the progress of pupils' learning in RE. This is to ensure that pupils' understanding of religions and worldviews, other than Christianity, is secure in all year groups. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Every member of the Melling school community knows themselves to be loved and cherished. The Christian vision to 'Let your Light Shine' has helped leaders to establish an exceptionally inclusive and nurturing school culture. The school's golden rule, 'be kind to all you meet', is lived out by everyone on a daily basis. Pupils explain that it 'is what Jesus would want us to do'. It is evident in</p>	

the ways that pupils interact with one another, in lessons and at break times. It is equally visible in the warm and supportive relationships staff have with one another and with pupils. Staff know all pupils and families well. Parents and carers recognise and appreciate the lengths to which staff members go to develop their children as individuals. Reflecting the school's Christian vision, the distinct gifts and talents of every pupil are identified, nurtured and celebrated. Pupils delight in sharing in the achievements of their classmates and the wider school community.

The wellbeing of staff is prioritised. In-keeping with the school's vision, every member of staff is well supported to let their own light shine. Staff members value opportunities for training and professional development, including release time to complete national qualifications. Staff are also grateful for the personalised support they receive from leaders to help them in their personal lives. They appreciate the opportunities for collaboration with another local school. The pastoral care and role-specific development they receive through this cooperation contributes significantly to their wellbeing. Opportunities for training, development and mutual support are powerful and have a marked impact on the lives of school staff members. Leaders are committed to further enhancing monitoring the impact of the vision on strategic decision-making and the flourishing of pupils. They are determined to ensure that their monitoring informs and enhances next steps for the school.

The recently revised curriculum reflects the school's Christian vision. Leaders ensure that it enables all pupils, including the most vulnerable, to flourish. It is engaging and carefully tailored to the Melling context. Every opportunity is taken to develop pupils' confidence and resilience. For example, appropriate risk taking in the recently re-introduced key stage 2 forest school sessions is having a marked impact. Carefully chosen trips and visitors to school are broadening the horizons of pupils and raising their aspirations. They describe, powerfully, how experience days with neighbours at their partner school enhance their learning. Staff go above and beyond to bring learning to life and make it memorable. Every unit of work starts with a hands-on experience day which is a highlight of school life for many pupils. Opportunities to develop pupils' understanding of social justice are carefully planned in every subject area. Texts studied and books in the library are thoughtfully chosen to promote diversity and provoke discussion about justice. Pupils are beginning to think independently about how they can best respond to injustice and be agents of change. For example, after hearing about vandalism to a neighbouring garden, one pupil spends breaktimes gardening to improve the environment for all. During breakfast club a group of friends make kindness cards for lonely or vulnerable community members. Staff are positive role models, sharing their love of learning, what they find challenging and how they overcome barriers. However, the extent to which spiritual development is a planned and intrinsic part of the curriculum is limited.

Pupils gain a thorough understanding of Christianity through well-planned and sequenced acts of collective worship. Shaped by the vision, leaders use collective worship to sensitively develop pupils' understanding of Christianity as a global, living faith. Visitors to school enhance this experience for pupils, offering insight into different ways to worship, pray and reflect. Pupils speak with insight about similarities and differences in the celebration of Christian festivals across the globe. The half-termly song through which pupils encounter worship around the world has a powerful impact. This helps pupils to understand themselves as global citizens. The positive impact of worship is evident in the way pupils speak about their own self-regulation and behaviour. It is also evident in the respect they have for those whose backgrounds are different from their own. Pupils, particularly those in key stage 2, benefit significantly from their regular opportunities to plan and lead collective worship. They describe how deep reflection in planning sessions helps them to understand the relevance of messages from the Bible. Pupils value the opportunity to reflect on and shape worship sessions led by their peers. The extent to which pupil evaluation of other acts of collective worship is gathered and acted upon is less well established.

The positive relationship with the local church is having a marked impact on the effectiveness of

Melling School in a number of ways. Pupils and staff benefit from engaging and thought-provoking worship, delivered regularly by church leaders. The teaching of RE is enhanced by the theological expertise of church colleagues. Staff members are grateful for the practical and spiritual support they receive through this relationship. Pupils and their families appreciate the contribution of the church to their mental and spiritual wellbeing.

Leaders give RE a high priority in the timetable. For example, additional staffing in key stage 2 facilitates specialised teaching for pupils. RE lessons are planned to be highly engaging. As a result, they are enjoyed by pupils in every year group. Pupils demonstrate a detailed understanding of Christianity. Although pupils study a range of religions and worldviews beyond Christianity, they are less confident in their understanding of these. Leaders recognise that developing this area of learning via their newly revised RE curriculum is important for the school. They are committed to supporting and monitoring the impact of the RE curriculum.

The inspection findings indicate that Melling St Wilfrid CE Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	30 November 2023	URN	119536
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	28
Diocese	Blackburn		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Fiona Ip		
Chair	Mary Jackson		
Inspector	Charlotte Tudway	No.	2115