



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

Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy	
Address	Fairfield Road, Fairfield, Stockton on Tees, TS19 7AJ
School vision	
<p>‘Together to learn, to grow, to serve,’ and this is embodied in the words: ‘Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms’ (1 Peter 4:10). The Academy’s vision is underpinned by 5 core Christian values: joy, hope, forgiveness, wisdom and perseverance.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recently refreshed, but long-established, Christian vision provides the strategic direction and secure underpinning for all aspects of academy life.</li> <li>• There is an unrelenting focus on, and coherent approach to, ensuring that difference is seen as positive and highly valued. This means that members of the academy feel safe to be themselves.</li> <li>• This outward-facing academy has nurtured a wide range of mutually beneficial partnerships. These partnerships include families, the diocese, the trust, local churches and the community. All relationships are rooted in the Christian vision and enhance its impact.</li> <li>• Collective worship is having a transformational effect on pupils and adults. A rich variety of worship experiences are carefully evaluated and appropriate changes are then implemented.</li> <li>• Exceptionally high-quality religious education (RE) teaching and a bespoke curriculum ensure very positive outcomes, attitudes to learning and engaged learners.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To embed the academy's shared understanding of their language of spirituality. This is so that opportunities for spiritual development are threaded through the curriculum and pupils can describe the impact these have on them.</li> <li>• To empower pupils to independently initiate social action, based on their strong awareness of justice. This is so that pupils can further develop as agents of change enhancing the lives of others.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>At Ian Ramsey Academy togetherness, growth and service are a way of life for pupils, staff and governors. The Christian vision is firmly rooted in its accompanying Bible verse and associated values. Members of the academy explain this in their own ways, live it out and draw strength from it daily. Within each governors’ meeting leaders ask themselves how their decision-making is guided by the vision. Leaders at all levels are completely committed to the flourishing of members of their community. This includes the pupil leadership team who have responsibilities linked to areas of the vision. Ian Ramsey Academy has developed positively as a Church academy since joining Northern Lights Learning Trust (NLLT). The vision of the academy and that of NLLT enhance one another. The academy welcomes both support and scrutiny and works closely with partners to ensure that both pupils and adults are flourishing. For example, staff benefit from leading and participating in</p>	



diocesan and trust training. Governors have welcomed trust support in developing their roles. Pupils regularly contribute to diocesan and trust events including services at Durham Cathedral, a pilgrimage to Lindisfarne and the trust parliament.

The Christian vision of the academy infuses the curriculum. A parent correctly described the vision as 'thick within the curriculum'. It is carefully crafted so that pupils can discover and then use their gifts. For this to happen, learning is highly personalised and very flexible. Therefore, the curriculum includes a nurture group, the Aspire group and a range of off-site provision. Many extra-curricular activities allow pupils to use their skills to serve their community. These include opportunities to be peer mentors, anti-bullying ambassadors, and a well-developed prefect system. The Christian vision supports the learning experiences of pupils who have special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND) creatively. This includes specific learning spaces to support the needs of all pupils, and easy access to timetable and uniform adaptations when needed. The academy has recently developed a shared language of spirituality 'look up, look in, look out'. This is well-known and understood and referred to as IOU (In, Out, Up) by pupils. This language of spirituality is beginning to be visible within the curriculum. However, confident use of this language is not embedded. Consequently, pupils and adults are at an early stage of being able to articulate, share and deepen their personal experiences.

Collective worship at Ian Ramsey Academy is planned around, and embodies, the Christian vision of togetherness, growth and service. Pupils and adults experience a wide variety of forms and styles of collective worship and value this richness. Staff and pupil feedback has been used to carefully evaluate the impact of worship and to implement highly effective developments. The work of worship leaders (adults and pupils), supported by the trust and diocese ensures that all can flourish spiritually. Pupils correctly describe worship as 'refreshing'. Worship journals, completed by each form class, are valued by students and staff. These provide further valuable opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth. The chapel is well-used, with a range of prayer and reflection stations that have been taken 'on tour' to a local primary school. Ian Ramsey Academy has successfully normalised a culture of worship. This is supported by a range of clergy from local churches and the school chaplain. Careful thought has been given to ensuring that worship is accessible to all members of the academy's diverse community. As a result, a specific prayer has been created to send members of the academy community out to serve others. This reflective approach to worship in all its forms, across the academy, ensures that pupils and adults are flourishing spiritually.

This is a community where pupils and adults are treated well and thrive. There is an almost visible emphasis on togetherness, inspired by the vision and described by members of the academy community as 'stickiness'. Ian Ramsey Academy takes every opportunity to celebrate its diverse community and to empower pupils and staff to use their voices. Initiatives including working with the Anne Frank Trust and the academy's 'pride group' and 'diversity magazine' ensure that everyone feels safe to be themselves. The Christian vision ensures that all are actively championed to discover their gifts. The emphasis on treating everyone as a unique child of God means that people's wellbeing is enhanced. NLLT has made a significant contribution to staff wellbeing, with increased opportunities for career progression, and professional and personal support.

Pupils demonstrate a well-developed understanding of both justice and responsibility and link them to the service aspect of the vision. They have a range of meaningful opportunities to explore aspects of justice. These include through collective worship, a range of extra-curricular activities and within the taught curriculum. The amount of leadership opportunities offered to pupils is compelling, pupils correctly say 'It's easy to have my voice heard here.' They describe this culture as 'working towards change to make things better'. However, currently this social action is not yet regularly instigated by pupils.

The RE curriculum is exceptionally effective. It is regularly reviewed and developed, taking into account local and national context whilst being at the forefront of developments in RE education. The department welcomes external verification of their work. The quality of the curriculum and teaching is such that many pupils study courses based on the teaching of RE post-16. RE staff are extremely highly qualified and deeply engaged in enhancing their subject knowledge and teaching skills. Their strength of subject knowledge increases pupil knowledge and understanding. The rigorous monitoring and evaluation strategies used mean that leaders are very well informed about the quality of RE teaching. Intervention strategies are finely pinpointed and help ensure outcomes are well above average and the highest in the school. Assessment strategies used are carefully tailored to those used in external exams and thus pupil confidence and competence are enhanced.

Ian Ramsey Academy lives out every aspect of its Christian vision, strengthening the way adults and pupils 'serve' and 'grow' together.

The inspection findings indicate that Ian Ramsey Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	7 March 2024 - 8 March 2024	URN	141369
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	1171
Diocese	Durham		
MAT/Federation	Northern Lights Learning Trust		
Acting Headteacher	Mal Patrick		
Chair	Beth Miller		
Inspector	Ruth Houston	No.	947