

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Jarrow Cross Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Borough Road, Jarrow, NE32 5UW
School vision	
Encourage one another and build each other up. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a nurturing community built on a Christian vision where pupils and adults encourage one another and build each other up. • Underpinned by the Christian vision and the belief that everyone is valued, Jarrow Cross Church of England Primary School provides an inclusive environment for learning and growing together. Pupils, staff and parents are valued within the highly supportive and caring community. Leaders' focus on wellbeing and good mental health is enabling all to flourish. • Collective worship is welcoming and inclusive to all and inspires pupils and adults to live out the vision. People make explicit links between their actions and the teaching of Jesus and the Bible. This contributes to the spiritual development of those present in worship. • Pupils are valued and their voice is heard. They live out the school's vision through caring for each other, through social action and by challenging injustice. • High quality religious education (RE) is a strength of the school. Dedicated leaders have developed a rich curriculum that challenges thinking and ensures pupils ask questions about religions and worldviews. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed the whole school approach for spiritual development within the curriculum and collective worship. This is so that pupils and adults have increasingly deeper opportunities to explore and articulate their own spiritual development. • Ensure that governors' monitoring has a clear focus on evaluating the impact of the school's Christian vision. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Jarrow Cross is a nurturing school where every person is thoroughly known and cared for. A deeply rooted Christian vision and set of values, which are known and lived out by all, ensure that everyone is supported and valued. There is a deep feeling of unity and encouragement at this inclusive school. Inspired by the school's Christian vision, this support has benefitted many during difficult times. 'Encourage one another and build each other up,' permeates through school and as a result, there is a cohesiveness and relevance to how the Christian character of the school is positively impacting the lives of the community. Families speak, with justification, of the distinctive and transforming support and care which makes them feel part of the school community. This clearly expresses the vision of encouraging one another, in action. The vision guides leaders' actions and decisions.</p>	



Governors know the school well and are highly invested in ensuring pupils and adults have opportunities to flourish. Governor monitoring on evaluating the impact of the school's Christian vision is underdeveloped.

The vision-inspired, knowledge-rich curriculum has been carefully designed to support and value all pupils. This enables vulnerable pupils and those with additional needs to thrive. Pupils develop well academically. The curriculum is planned by linking lessons in an age-appropriate way to different careers, training and skills. As a result, pupils are encouraged to think about future jobs, whilst nurturing aspirations and challenging stereotypes. Pupils enjoy a variety of extra-curricular activities with choir, yoga and sewing club being particularly popular. Along with visits and residential trips, these activities help pupils to live out the vision by encouraging each other in their teamwork. Throughout the day, there are opportunities for spiritual growth. These include times for quiet reflection, appreciating the local environment or discussions on the big questions of life. The school has developed its approach and a whole school shared understanding of spirituality. Pupils and adults share the language of 'Glimmer and Growth' to consider moments of wonder and deep questions coming from these. Plans are in place to extend the spiritual development strategy even further.

Inspirational worship binds the whole school community together. It is inclusive and welcoming. This enables pupils to engage on the level that is right for them, whatever their faith or belief. Thoughtfully and carefully planned, it reflects the church and secular calendars. Worship is a time to further understand the school's Christian vision, values and to learn from the teachings of Jesus. Opportunities for prayerfulness punctuate each day. Moments of quiet, spiritual reflection occur during worship and throughout the school day. The strong partnership with St Peter's and St Paul's Churches deeply enriches this school community, nourishing the spiritual lives of all. Their involvement in worship and their chaplaincy are invaluable. Bible stories are brought to life through drama in the 'Open the Book' worships that they lead. Pupils are beginning to take more responsibility for leading worship. This is deepening their experience of worship and enriching opportunities for spiritual flourishing.

Exceptionally strong relationships across the school community demonstrate the vision in action. Staff are approachable and trusted. This enables families to reach out for help when needed, knowing that they will be supported. This is an effective catalyst in providing targeted support for all, including those who may be disadvantaged or vulnerable. Inspired by the Christian vision, leaders are proactive in aiding good mental health and wellbeing for pupils and adults alike. Good mental health underlies the physical structure of the building and the interaction within. Areas such as the nurture room, sensory corridor and zoned outside play areas are vital. They are a reminder of the school's mission of valuing everyone as a unique individual made in the image of God. They offer a space to be heard, be still, explore or be nurtured. Pupils openly talk about the impact of these. Space to manage their own feelings and needs enable all to thrive and become the best person they can be.

Motivated by a desire to build up and encourage people beyond the community, pupils act as agents for social change. They are eager to undertake a wide range of social action projects within school, locally or globally. Over time, these have included supporting the school foodbank and writing letters to supermarkets to encourage them to cease stocking items containing palm oil. Pupils have also been inspired to then take individual action themselves. For example, pupils have been inspired to save their pocket money to buy toys to donate at Christmas time. Pupils from the early years of education onwards are encouraged to be advocates for the wellbeing of the planet. The eco-warriors and school council members engage in decision making which develops their sense of agency. Decisions have included pupils taking an active part in recycling and litter picking within the school community. This signals pride in the community and a response to learning about

the environment and stewardship of God’s creation. Pupils speak passionately about the importance of this social action work, explaining that they need to take care of the planet that God has created and how they are caretakers of the world.

RE has an exceptionally high status in school. As a result, pupils are well equipped to understand others and thrive in our richly diverse world. Leadership of RE is highly effective. It is rooted in an understanding of pupils needs and of the profile of the community. The schools achievement of the Quality Mark Gold Standard for RE recognises the commitment of raising the profile of RE in school. Strong partnership work and impactful training with the diocese ensures staff expertise is developed. Leaders have ensured that RE is planned sequentially and effectively using the local syllabus and the Understanding Christianity resource. The rich curriculum is challenging, sequenced, relevant and engaging. Consequently, teachers are well equipped, and lessons are well resourced. Pupils speak enthusiastically about RE and have a strong understanding of a range of world religions and views. Pupils see their RE lessons as a safe space in which they can discuss their ideas and ask big questions. Pupils' learning and understanding is enhanced through meeting representatives from a range of religious backgrounds and visiting places of worship. These wider opportunities further enrich the spiritual development of pupils.

Encouraging one another and building each other up is the heartbeat of this close-knit school family. This Christian vision has sustained and equipped the community at Jarrow Cross to endure and adapt during difficult times and to flourish together.

The inspection findings indicate that Jarrow Cross Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	30 January 2024	URN	133680
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	301
Diocese	Durham		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Susan McBeth		
Chair	Claire Aberdeen		
Inspector	Kirsty Harrison-Brown	No.	2228