

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bishopton Redmarshall Church of England Primary School

Vision

As a child of God, made in his image and likeness, every member of our community is loved, valued and respected. Being generously hospitable, we enable all to grow and nourish their God-given talents; developing curiosity in order to flourish and embrace life in all its fullness.

'Like the mustard seed, with God's love and strength, we are small but grow mighty'

Based on Matthew 13:32.

Strengths

- Leaders are committed to the Christian vision, which guides strategic thinking and daily responses to the needs of pupils and adults. Inspired by this vision the school provides rich experiences for pupils and adults, enabling them to thrive academically and spiritually.
- There is an active culture of justice where pupils and adults alike take responsibility for themselves and others. Championing others and social action are woven into the very fabric of the school.
- Collective worship reflects what drives the school community. It inspires pupils and staff to live out their Christian vision and put their school values into action.
- Trusting and generous relationships enable everyone to thrive. They form the basis of a loving community where pupils and adults are nurtured and encouraged to grow in all aspects of life. Support is well matched to the particular needs of individuals, as everyone is known and heard.
- Religious education (RE) provides pupils with a well-planned, challenging and exciting curriculum. They make progress and speak about their learning with enthusiasm, using extensive religious vocabulary and demonstrating respect and curiosity.

Development Points

- Build upon current good practice in RE to add depth and breadth to the curriculum. This is to enhance pupils' learning about a diverse range of religions and worldviews.
- Enrich opportunities for spiritual flourishing by offering explicit instances across the curriculum where pupils can develop spiritually.



Inspection Findings

The Christian vision at Bishopton Redmarshall is an ever-present feature throughout the life of the school, enabling individuals to thrive. Adults and pupils explain how the vision applies to them and how, like the mustard seed, they grow and flourish. All are welcomed into this genuinely hospitable school community in the belief that everyone is a child of God. The talents, of both staff and pupils, are encouraged and celebrated enabling individuals to grow. The school values of love, friendship, respect and resilience form a natural part of the language used and the daily experience of adults and pupils. The calm, nurturing and purposeful environment this creates is palpable. This in turn, enables the school community to 'grow mighty', in accordance with their vision.

Committed leaders ensure that the Christian vision is lived out in decision making and everyday practice. Local academy councillors know the school well and are highly invested in ensuring that all pupils and adults flourish. They strategically monitor the impact of the school's vision and regularly make purposeful visits to the school. The academy council is guided by the Christian vision. This includes making bold decisions around staffing and finance, enabling pupils to thrive. Bishopton Redmarshall is part of the Durham and Newcastle Learning Trust. Trust leaders have a collaborative approach to everything that they do. As a result of the support and shared resources offered, learning provision is enriched. Pupils and adults are part of an effective trust family, whilst still being able to cater for the needs of their own school community.

The school has created an ambitious curriculum which enables pupils to foster a love of learning and curiosity about the world. Leaders' approach to pupil growth is successfully guided by research and carefully considered strategies that give pupils the best opportunities to thrive. The carefully planned and well-crafted curriculum builds upon the school's vision and values. It ensures that the interests and varied needs of pupils are embraced. It develops curiosity, nourishes their talents and empowers pupils. As a result, pupils are fully engaged, highly motivated and 'love' learning at this school. School leaders firmly believe that all children should be enabled to 'grow mighty' like the mustard seed. This inspires them to work, consistently, as a team to ensure that pupils flourish. The needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), or those who are vulnerable are carefully considered. Adults pride themselves on knowing each pupil individually and ensuring that their needs are met. Leaders are determined to provide positive learning experiences that are inspiring and inclusive and that this is enjoyed by everyone. The curriculum is enhanced by an extensive offer of extra-curricular clubs and wraparound care. Leaders are clear about what spiritual development entails. There are many spontaneous opportunities for spiritual development within the curriculum and in extra-curricular provision. These are not, however, planned for, meaning that some opportunities are missed for development.

Collective worship is a valued part of the school day. It strongly expresses the vision of a community built on love and respect, where all are valued. Leaders have carefully planned and sequenced a worship programme, underpinned by the church calendar and Christian values. This develops pupils' understanding of biblical texts and how they can be applied to everyday life. Pupils know that all are welcomed into worship and choose to participate in whatever way they feel comfortable. It is highly inclusive enabling pupils, regardless of their worldview, to engage with readings, responses and prayer. Pupils will happily respond during worship and are confident to share their thoughts with the whole school. This enhances the spiritual development of adults and pupils. A strong partnership with local clergy is well-established and much valued. Families are welcomed to join in seasonal services in the local church. Thus, worship unites the whole community. Pupils enjoy worship and value it as a time



to 'reflect and be calm.' Singing is also a highlight. The songs chosen enable pupils to express themselves creatively. As a result, they sing with a deep sense of joy.

Leaders create a highly effective, supportive environment where members of the school community are loved, valued and respected. Consequently, a welcoming atmosphere pervades the whole school. School leaders recognise the importance of prioritising the wellbeing of all as a way of living out the Christian vision. There are many examples of personal and pastoral support through challenging times, from all sections of the school community. Parents spoke often of the 'home from home' feeling school offers and how staff 'go the extra mile' to ensure that pupils can flourish. Staff and parents highly value the open-door policy offered by school leaders. As a result, they are listened to and feel like valued members of the school community, enabling them to thrive. Strong relationships in school enable staff to be excellent role models for pupils and their families.

School leaders have carefully crafted opportunities for pupils to learn about matters of justice, fairness and equality. Justice is highly valued. Adults and pupils understand the importance of social responsibility within the context of their school vision. They demonstrate that although they are small, they can have a 'mighty' impact. Some pupils belong to a pupil action group. They tell staff what they would like to do to promote justice and fight injustice, and staff support them to do it. Recently, following a concern raised after seeing homelessness firsthand in a nearby town, pupils pledged to respond. Inspired to act, the school community came together and have donated hundreds of welfare packages to organisations supporting the homeless locally. Pupils are empowered by experiences like these to identify injustice and to take action to improve both their local community and the world around them.

The profile of religious education (RE) within the school reflects the vision. RE encourages pupils to be curious and to value and respect others. The RE curriculum has been carefully devised to ensure that it is relevant to the context of the school. RE is confidently taught by staff. Lessons are well planned, engaging and challenging. Staff are well supported in the professional development of RE. This enables them to effectively draw upon resources that increase their confidence and enhance teaching and learning in the classroom. Pupils enjoy their learning in RE. They are proud of their work and talk about what they have learnt with confidence. Pupils respond very well to sacred texts and use an impressive array of religious language. However, leaders accurately identify the need to add breadth and depth to teaching and learning on religious and non-religious worldviews other than Christianity. Teachers have created a safe space for pupils to explore and share their opinions to questions raised within RE. Pupils say that RE helps them to 'learn how to grow up to be a good person', because they understand each other. Therefore, pupils, including the most vulnerable and those with SEND, flourish in RE.

Information

Address	Cobby Castle Lane, Bishopton, TS21 1HD		
Date	13 November 2024	URN	137021
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	87
Diocese/District	Durham		
MAT/Federation	Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust		
Headteacher	Jonathon Bull		
Chair of Governors	David Robinson		
Inspector	Natalie Dodd		