

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Newton-on-Trent Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	High Street, Newton on Trent, Lincoln, LN1 2JS

School vision
A Christian vision for the future is full of hope. It envisages a society in which all people live well together and understand each other as valued and valuable in the eyes of God. At Newton on Trent Church of England Primary School, all members of our school community will be given every opportunity to flourish – to aim high, to have high expectations of themselves and each other, to enjoy the journey together and be inspired to achieve the highest level of personal and academic excellence in order to become a valued and valuable member of society. Please send them on their way in a manner that honours God. 3 John 1:6
School strengths
• Leaders have carefully crafted a Christian vision that is lived out by staff and pupils in every aspect of school life. As a result, the school is a beacon of light within the community where adults and pupils thrive. • The vision inspired curriculum supports pupils because it is inclusive and aspirational. Leaders make careful decisions to enrich pupils' experiences. Pupils flourish because of the support of the conscientious staff team. • Thoughtful collective worship is carefully planned to be relevant in the school community. Pupils enjoy learning about people and stories from the Bible and make links to the school's vision and values. • Honest and respectful relationships are a palpable strength of this friendly community. There is a culture of openness and trust. The school actively provides tangible compassion and care. • Religious education (RE) is well planned and resourced. Pupils respond to good teaching with calm and purposeful attitudes to learning.
Areas for development
• Provide further opportunities for pupils to explore issues of injustice in the world and encourage them to respond. This will increase their awareness that they can be agents of change in school, the local community and the wider world. • Embed opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection across the curriculum allowing all pupils and adults to grow spiritually.

Inspection findings

The Christian vision of Newton on Trent Primary School is central to school life. The vision is the heartbeat of the school and drives all its actions. Leaders consistently make use of the vision to make considered, nurturing decisions and constantly challenge themselves about their impact. This enables pupils and staff to thrive within this small school. Dedicated governors support the staff. This is because they regularly visit and effectively monitor, evaluating the implementation of the vision and Christian values. Leaders know their school well. The vision is used as a benchmark against which they review achievements and respond to opportunities. It has a tangible impact on the flourishing of all.

The curriculum, driven by the Christian vision, provides a well-rounded educational experience. Highly effective adaptations ensure that pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) make progress in their learning. Pupils with additional needs, or who are vulnerable, receive bespoke support. The determination to provide a broad range of inspiring, inclusive learning experiences is central to curriculum planning. This is enhanced by varied enrichment opportunities, helping pupils to flourish in their learning. The 'Enjoyment, Enrichment and Experiences Passport' supports pupils to have key experiences during their time in school. Leaders ensure that all pupils have opportunities such as baking bread, making a daisy chain and enjoying a ride on a roller coaster. They value these activities which help pupils to appreciate the awe and wonder around them.

'Living well together' is central to life at Newton on Trent. Relationships are extremely strong. Pupils know they are unique, loved and nurtured and that adults will help and support them. This enables pupils and staff to flourish. Parents, pupils, staff and governors describe their school as a family. Loving and supportive relationships within school are particularly valued by parents who speak extremely highly of the school. Pupils enjoy coming to school as they say it is a caring and happy place where everyone plays together well. Behaviour is exemplary. Pupils clearly all understand their role in making this school a caring and safe place. Newton on Trent is a small and very special school community where all feel 'valued and valuable'. This is as a result of the school's Christian vision being lived out in all they do.

Newton on Trent has a unique relationship and mutually beneficial partnership with the local Christian community and members of the parish. Pupils enjoy direct and open access to the church building which is used for collective worship, assemblies and lunches. This partnership has been enhanced by the recent appointment of the new reverend who has already had a positive impact on the school. This enables the vision of the school to be lived out within the whole community.

Newton on Trent is a small school with a big heart. The school's shared love for all inspires pupils and adults to help those in need and in their own community. A 'Donation Station', collecting food for the local foodbank, has made a real difference to many. The recent 'community month' demonstrates the school's commitment to 'live well together'. During the month of January, the school opened its doors to the whole community. They provided pies and peas, sent home ingredients to make a meal and provided a warm space for all. This example of vision into action enables pupils to become active citizens. However, the planned opportunities are largely adult led. Leaders have rightly identified that this means that pupils are not as socially active as they could be.

Collective worship is engaging and a valued time of coming together for the whole school community. Recent, creative changes in the planning and organisation of collective worship has raised its impact. Worship follows a consistent structure throughout the week. Opportunities in collective worship allow pupils to reflect on new ideas and Bible stories shared with the whole school at the beginning of the week in smaller groups. The school is proactive in supporting the

needs of vulnerable pupils so they can fully engage and reflect. Pupil involvement in worship provides some opportunities for spiritual development through prayer. They take the messages given in worship and act on them. For example, one pupil stated, 'We all should share', after hearing the story of the feeding of the five thousand. They can explain the meaning of stories they have heard and how they relate to their everyday lives. Areas around school that allow pupils to reflect and explore their spirituality are less well developed, limiting personal spiritual development.

RE is enthusiastically led and taught, ensuring the high provision and profile of this subject within the whole curriculum. Pupils are enthusiastic about their learning in RE. Well-sequenced activities are taught creatively through art, music and drama. This means that pupils easily access learning. The RE curriculum is adapted to support the changing needs of pupils in mixed age classes as well as those with SEND.

Leaders support teachers continuously to improve their knowledge of the subject. They access national experts to support this. For example, staff recently received bespoke training to support their teaching of Judaism. Leaders proactively seek this support as they are keen to continually develop and refine their teaching of the subject. Leaders also engage with the diocese who work with them to improve the quality of RE. The RE leader facilitates staff development ensuring effective practice is shared regularly. As a result, teachers are confident and enthusiastic about what they teach.

Pupils have a very good knowledge of Bible stories and can relate them to their own way of living. They have a sound understanding of Christianity and a number of world faiths and world views which are all explored in lessons. Pupils speak with enthusiasm about learning different faiths and how important it is to learn about world views. They skillfully compare similarities and differences between selected world faiths including Christianity.

The inspection findings indicate that Newton on Trent Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	23 April 2024	URN	120578
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	63
Diocese	Lincoln		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Aimee Riley		
Chair	Charles Nicholds		
Inspector	Jane Davis	No.	2210