



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Walton & Lees Hill Church of England Primary School	
Address	Lees Hill Farm, Lees Hill, Brampton, CA8 2BB
School vision	
<p>Caring, sharing, and always learning. ‘Our love should not be just words and talk. It must be true love which shows itself in action.’ 1 John 3:18</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision and supporting values are at the heart of every decision made in the school. They form a language used by the whole school community to encourage, support and challenge. • The words of the vision ‘Caring, sharing and always learning’ shape the culture of the school. A carefully planned curriculum and appropriate interventions for all pupils enables all to flourish at their own levels. • The pastoral care and support of all members of the school family is highly effective. Nurturing and caring relationships are paramount across the school ensuring that all are treated well. • Collective worship is a daily highlight, creating a strong sense of community that is deeply valued by all. It offers opportunities for prayer and reflection and contributes significantly to pupils' spirituality. • Religious education (RE) is highly valued by pupils. Pupils are given opportunities to discuss the diversity of religions and worldviews and reflect upon their own beliefs and others. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and embed a shared understanding of spirituality so that all opportunities for spiritual development are identified and taken. • Broaden opportunities for pupils to engage in meaningful social action and to challenge injustice. This is with a view to inspire all to make a difference in the world in which they live. • Build upon current good practice in RE to develop a challenging and relevant curriculum. This is to further enhance pupils' learning about a diverse range of religions and worldviews, including Christianity. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The school’s Christian vision, ‘Caring, sharing, always learning’ underpinned by life-enriching values, infuses, and enhances every part of school life. Adults and pupils clearly understand the vision. The biblical root of the vision, focussing on ‘love not being just words, but actions too’, weaves its way through every aspect of school life. This creates a purposeful environment for learning and development, where all are valued and generously supported. The vision is deeply embedded into the very fabric of the school. Despite a period of significant change, it remains the beating heart of the school, where all can flourish.</p>	



Governors are active, supportive, and knowledgeable in their monitoring and support of Walton and Lees Hill (WLHS) as a Church school. The biblically rooted vision, resulting from collaborative work between leaders and the wider school community is the driving force for action. It influences decisions, developments, policy, and practice throughout the school. Focussed monitoring by leaders, including governors, ensures that there is an understanding of the effectiveness of the vision within the specific context of the school. Evaluation of the vision's impact and influence in all parts of school life is not yet fully established.

The school is highly inclusive and ensures that everyone feels cared for, loved, and valued, enabling them to flourish. Everyone is treated well with dignity and respect. Positive and open relationships between staff and parents create a culture of nurture and support. The approachability of the staff and the support the school leaders offer is highly valued by parents. This leads to a sense that every member of the school community is deeply loved, with their needs appropriately met. Parents appreciate the school's loving, personalised approach and nurturing of their children. They are deeply grateful to the school for their accurate understanding of the needs and concerns of their whole family. The powerful culture of care and love creates a sense of family at WLHS where everyone is welcomed.

The pastoral care for all is anchored in the school vision. Staff care deeply for their children in school. Pupil voice and the openness offered in groups, like the school council, allows a deepening of relationships and understanding of all. Pupils are respectful and demonstrate a loving kindness towards each other. There are areas in every room of the school for emotional support, enabling pupils to easily talk about their concerns and worries. This helps them to continually care for all in the school community.

Through difficult social circumstances and local challenges, the school has prioritised the community which it serves. The vision inspires leaders to employ imaginative solutions in their persistent work to remove barriers or hinderances that arise. For instance, in response to an identified community need, nursery provision in the school has recently been extended. This has facilitated support for those who need it most, whilst offering a supportive learning environment for the youngest members of the community.

Inspired by the Christian vision, leaders are determined that pupils embrace a full and enriching learning experience. The curriculum recognises the uniqueness of each pupil and enables them to enjoy their studies whilst developing breadth in their learning. Extremely positive, affirmative relationships are strongly evident throughout the school. This contributes to the happy atmosphere of encouragement and optimism. Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those who are more able have their individual needs met. They are supported and challenged in their work. Adults pursue every opportunity to expand pupils' knowledge and prepare them for life after their time at WLHS. A well-planned and supported programme of school trips, extra-curricular provision, and partnership activities with other schools further enriches pupils' experiences. Whilst there are some opportunities to explore spirituality beyond RE and collective worship, these are not routinely planned across the curriculum. As a result, there is a limited vocabulary to explore and articulate spiritual and ethical issues at depth. This in turn limits opportunities for spiritual flourishing.

The strong partnerships with the parish church, and schools within the local area demonstrates how the vision underpins relationships at all levels. Productive partnerships are nurtured with the local church, initial teacher training programmes, the Diocese of Carlisle and the local authority. Leaders work well with these partners to ensure that knowledge and expertise is developed, shared, and embedded in school life.

Collective worship is highly inclusive and all are welcomed to participate. It is an integral part of school life. The Christian vision underpins all worship and allows everyone, pupils and adults, the opportunity to engage. Pupils talk with great enthusiasm about worship and how it influences them as individuals. For some it has been transformative in considering their exploration of their own faith and beliefs. This provides the whole school valuable opportunities to discuss faith and views. Worship is led by a variety of different people, who each offer different styles that effectively contributes to the spiritual development of pupils. The school values its relationship with the local church and embraces involvement of the clergy in supporting the staff and pupils. Community connections are being strengthened as a direct result of the joint services held at the local church at key times of the year. Pupils participate in worship with relish. Opportunities to enhance their spiritual development through extending how they lead and plan worship are not fully embedded.

Pupils live well together; behaving well, forgiving each other, and respecting one another's points of view. As a result, relationships flourish as they play and work well with each other. Pupils understand how the school's Christian values are very important in their personal development. They are awarded Christian value tokens for demonstrating these values and these are displayed in the school hall. Pupils also receive personal and class rewards. Many pupils choose to work together to achieve the class rewards that can be shared with their group or as a whole school, demonstrating the great care that they have for one another. The rewards system and its links to the Christian values positively encourages pupils in their personal character development. They enjoy working together on fundraising initiatives and aspire to make a difference to the world around them. The school council involves all pupils who meet regularly. They have a desire to help others, support charities identified by the school and enable change in the world around them.

RE has a high profile within the school and is led by a passionate and knowledgeable RE subject lead. Pupils talk with enthusiasm about their learning in RE, particularly the trips to local churches, cathedrals, and a Buddhist temple. These visits help them to understand more about different beliefs, diversity within religion and worldviews. Pupils respond well to sacred texts and are developing their religious literacy. Leaders accurately identify the need to review the RE curriculum this is to ensure that a challenging and relevant curriculum for all is developed.

The vision of 'caring, sharing, always learning', is lived out daily by the whole school community. This makes for a truly inclusive school that lovingly supports the flourishing of all adults and pupils.

These inspection findings indicate that Walton and Lees Hill Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	4 October 2023	URN	112256
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	23
Diocese	Carlisle		
MAT/Federation			
Head Teacher	Mrs Lynn Rooney		
Chair	Mr Joss Scouler		
Inspector	Natalie Dodd	No.	2201

