

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St James' Church of England Academy, Bransholme

Vision

Together we live and learn in the light of God.

With God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

Strengths

- Pupils and adults talk about the school's Christian vision and values. They describe how the vision and values help them to live and learn together in the light of God
- The curriculum and extra-curricular offer are rooted in the Christian vision. They provide transformative experiences to meet the particular needs of the pupils.
- Collective worship is a special time at the start of the school day for pupils and adults to come together. The relationship with the church nourishes the worship and spiritual life of the school.
- As a result of the school's Christian vision and values pupils and adults support and treat each other well. There is an ethos of reciprocal trust between members of the school community.
- There are strong and mutually beneficial partnerships between the school, trust schools and leaders and the Diocese.

Development Points

- Develop a shared understanding and language of spirituality. This is so that pupils experience progressively deeper spiritual opportunities as they mature and move through the school.
- Ensure pupils learn and understand about the diversity of practice and belief within religions and worldviews. This is to enrich and enhance the religious education (RE) curriculum and prepare pupils for their future lives in our diverse world.



Inspection Findings

The school community is proud of its Christian vision and Bible verse. 'With God all things are possible' reflects the high aspiration for pupils living on this large estate. This is a school that changes lives for the better. Three core values of kindness, respect and perseverance are deeply embedded and describe how life is lived in the school. Robust systems and structures enable a calm and safe haven for pupils to succeed. Although a very small team, governors know the school well and visit regularly. They are deeply committed and contribute fully. There is a mutually beneficial relationship with the Diocese. An example of this was the school leading a project to provide collective worship at the annual Diocesan conference. Likewise, there is a collaborative relationship with the Hope Sentamu Learning Trust and its other schools. The St James' and trust visions complement each other. Leaders work together to produce policies and curriculum documents that are then customised by individual schools. The school is well served by the central team of the trust, who respond according to need. The impact of the Christian vision is rigorously monitored and evaluated.

The school's curriculum and extra-curricular offer are driven by the Christian vision. Pupils have multiple opportunities to raise their aspirations and life chances and heighten their awareness of different cultures. The school ensures that no pupil misses out on these. Everyone is encouraged to embrace their talents. The curriculum is increasingly being developed to include resources that illustrate the diverse world pupils live in. Pupils who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, are very well supported by a thoughtfully coordinated approach. Specialist and well-qualified staff are employed. Outside agencies provide additional support when needed. As a result, pupils thrive. Training on spiritual development has been completed and leaders have begun to identify spiritual experiences across the curriculum. For example, children in the early years enjoy time in the outdoor forest area. Adults' clarity of understanding and shared language of spirituality is limited. Therefore, there are insufficiently deep spiritual opportunities for pupils as they mature.

The vision, values and the school's Christian foundation shape daily collective worship. Music and lighting a candle contribute to an inspirational atmosphere of peace, calm and spirituality. Pupils and adults join in with joyful singing. Worship sets them up for the day. Everyone is encouraged to reflect on a 'big question' or complete a challenge. This might be a pupil being kind and helping their partner when stuck in a lesson. Pupils are proud members of the collective worship crew, helping with various aspects of worship. They plan and lead special services in Church, such as a harvest celebration. Pupils learned that harvest is celebrated in different ways around the world. Donations of food were distributed by pupils to parishioners. This demonstrates the close relationship with St James' Church. Members of the church come into school for occasions such as Christingle. Church wardens and the trust chaplain ably supported the school during the vacancy for a vicar. Pupils use the reflection areas in classrooms if they want a quiet moment or are feeling sad or worried. Prayer is an integral part of the school day, bringing a sense of comfort and thankfulness. In keeping with the Christian vision, prayer helps pupils and adults to feel that with God all things are possible.

Pupils, staff and leaders care about and for each other and the school. They are sensitive to each other's feelings and needs. Pupils are polite, respectful and kind and so behaviour around the school is good. Pupils talk articulately about following the three core values. They show empathy, for example when talking about Remembrance Day. One pupil 'felt sad for the families of people who didn't come back from the war'. They say they 'help and introduce new pupils, play with them and make them feel welcome and comfortable'. Pupils blossom because of the leadership opportunities they have. For example, playtime buddies are there to look out



for other pupils when needed. The length of service of many members of staff indicates how happy they are working here. Strong support networks exist in the trust. Staff look out for each other and a recent audit demonstrated that they feel fully supported. Small and large acts of kindness are common. For example, motivational quotations and a basket of small luxury items in the staffroom for people experiencing difficult times. The caring ethos of the school means some parents choose it over schools closer to home.

There are multiple examples of pupils helping to organise charity fundraising events and initiate social action projects in the community. For example, litter picking by the eco-warriors inspired one pupil to ask their parents to buy a litter picker. Other pupils have had their hair cut to support a charity. The school council decided to raise money for the Church after it was vandalised. These examples show pupils are developing into responsible and just citizens and are standing up for what is right. The school has good relationships with local organisations, including care homes and the police. At the 'International Pupil Council', two Year 6 pupils meet up with pupils from other local schools to discuss global issues. They then report back to pupils in the school, helping to broaden local and global horizons.

Leaders have ensured that RE has a high profile in the school. Its position in the curriculum, on the timetable and in displays are evidence of this. St James' leaders helped shape the trust RE curriculum and policy, which meet the expectations for church schools. The curriculum has been very carefully designed so pupils can develop the required skills, knowledge and understanding. The diocesan syllabus and resources such as 'Understanding Christianity', are used. Pupils learn and talk articulately about the way of life of people from different religions. Some videos, visits and visitors enable pupils to experience a range of faiths and worldviews. Pupils are highly respectful towards people of faiths different to their own. One pupil was excited to share information about their own faith in RE lessons. Pupils enjoy their learning. They work hard in lessons and take great pride in work in exercise books. Consistent marking and comments from teachers ensure pupils know how well they are doing. When appropriate, they are expected to edit or improve their work. A close check is kept on pupil progress and attainment. This shows pupils make good progress. Noteworthy monitoring, evaluation and support maintains a high standard of teaching. Regular professional development ensures RE remains highly effective.

Information

Address	Dorchester Road, Bransholme, Hull, HU7 6BD		
Date	22 October 2024	URN	141387
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	203 (including nursery)
Diocese	York		
MAT	Hope Sentamu Learning Trust		
Headteacher	Julia Strickland		
Chair of Governors	Patricia O'Brien		
Inspector	Janet Tringham		