

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

### Lancaster Christ Church Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

*'Have faith...in yourself...in others... in God', because "Nothing will be impossible with God."*

**Luke 1:37**

Lancaster Christ Church Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

#### Notable Strengths

- The aspirational Christian vision that 'Nothing will be impossible,' is deeply embedded and lived out by leaders. Reflecting their vision, leaders, including governors, make courageous decisions. This enables the flourishing of both pupils and adults.
- Modelled by leaders, exceptionally strong relationships built on love permeate school life. As a result, an atmosphere of deep trust is created with belonging at its heart. This benefits pupils, staff and families.
- The provision and curriculum offer for pupils who are vulnerable and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is highly effective. Consequently pupils thrive.
- Varied, carefully-planned and engaging worship is a daily highlight for pupils and adults. The supportive relationship with the local church contributes significantly to the impactful worship life of the school.
- Leaders ensure that pupils have opportunities to be responsible for each other. As a result, they have a strong understanding of justice across the school.

#### Development Points

- Deepen pupils' knowledge of a range of worldviews and religions, and the diversity within them. This is to support their understanding of the impact that differing beliefs and religious practices have on people's lives.
- Enhance planned opportunities for spirituality in all curriculum areas. This is to extend the range of experiences pupils have to develop spiritually.



## Inspection Findings

### Vision and Leadership

Lancaster Christ Church is a highly effective Church school. Leaders, including governors, ensure that the school's Christian vision is a lived reality. Their strong commitment to the belief that 'Nothing will be impossible' shapes policy setting. It also underpins financial decision making, for example, in relation to the innovative staffing structure. As a result, pupils and adults flourish at this extremely inclusive and welcoming setting. Pupils recognise the way that the vision encourages them to be the best version of themselves. They understand that it guides them in their learning, their relationships and in their life beyond the school gates. Parents appreciate the 'whatever it takes' attitude modelled by leaders and staff. They value the exceptional lengths to which staff go to support them and their children, whatever their needs. This approach ensures that their children's individual talents are identified and nurtured. Leaders empower staff to grow and develop professionally and personally. The well-embedded vision permeates the daily life of the school. As a result, pupils and adults are sustained and nourished, including during challenging times.

### Vision and Curriculum

Shaped by the vision, the school's ambitious curriculum reflects the local context and leaders' determination to enable pupils to flourish. It is rich and filled with life-enhancing opportunities. Leaders ensure that the needs of pupils who are the most vulnerable or who have SEND are met. Courageous use of the budget and the generosity of the local church fund specialist teachers for creative subjects and sport. Consequently they are valued as highly as core subjects (such as English and maths) by pupils and adults. This enables pupils to feel successful and that 'Nothing is impossible', whichever area of school life they excel in. It supports their resilience and perseverance. Equally, it contributes significantly to their wellbeing. Leaders are effective in fostering a spirit of hope and aspiration. The curriculum including the extra-curricular offer supports pupils in trying new things, helping them to identify their individual talents. It also provokes deep reflection. Pupils engage with a range of global issues such as climate change and racism meaningfully. In some subject areas careful planning supports pupils' spiritual development. For example, in English, chosen texts evoke feelings of wonder and curiosity. However in some subject areas, planned opportunities for spiritual flourishing are limited.

### Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship provides a treasured time for the whole school to come together to pause and reflect. The carefully-crafted programme offers pupils and adults rich and meaningful worship that reflects the school's vision and associated values. Engaging sessions are led by a range of school staff and partners from the local church. Pupils value the variety of worship styles they encounter. Staff appreciate the 'breathing space' daily worship gives them to contemplate and reflect. They are inspired by contributions from pupils, including prayers and joyful singing. The impact of worship on the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults reaches beyond the school. Close collaboration with Christ Church Lancaster brings the church and school communities together. Adults including staff, families and church members cherish the well-attended, special half-termly Eucharist services at school. Pupils understand the value of prayer and reflection which enrich their spiritual development. This often extends beyond the school day. Parents appreciate the opportunity for contemplation that the school's values and worship themes afford them.

### Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Reflecting the vision, leaders ensure that pupils have a clear understanding of justice and responsibility. Pupils 'have faith in' staff to act fairly. As one explained, 'if someone's getting more help than me, it's because they need it and I don't'. Modelled by leaders and staff, they have a strong sense of Christian service. Older pupils readily take up the wide range of leadership opportunities that enable them to serve their younger peers. This is seen in the lunch hall where, hygiene-trained, Year 4 pupils run the salad bar. It is also evident at playtimes



where young leaders in Year 5 organise games. Chances to reflect on the impact of human activity on creation are planned across the curriculum. For example, in design and technology lessons, pupils explore alternatives to single-use plastic for packaging. Pupils feel keenly that, whatever their needs, they have a responsibility towards others. They appreciate their relative blessings and seek ways to effect change. Consequently following learning about the underpayment of some cocoa workers, pupils respond by making and displaying 'buy Fairtrade' posters.

#### Religious Education

Quality RE provision is a high priority at Christ Church school. This is evident from the school's timetable, curriculum planning, professional development for staff and budgeting by leaders. The RE curriculum is highly effective in enabling pupils to gain an exceptional understanding of Christianity. Pupils enjoy studying, and have a considerable recall of, stories from the Bible. They appreciate that Christianity is a diverse, global faith. Pupils understand how what they learn in RE is relevant to their own lives. They share their views confidently and debate big questions with their classmates respectfully. Supported by the diocese, skilled leadership in this subject area ensures that the curriculum is carefully sequenced and challenging. Pupils value encountering a range of religions in their learning. However, opportunities to gain a deep understanding of worldviews and religions beyond Christianity are currently underdeveloped.

Pupils progress well in their RE learning as they move through school. Carefully-timetabled, regular opportunities for rigorous and collaborative evaluation ensure that staff members' understanding of progress is accurate. Teachers benefit from training that leaves them well-equipped to cater for the needs of the range of learners in their classes. The school's highly inclusive approach ensures that the RE curriculum is accessible to the most vulnerable. This includes some who do not always view themselves as successful in other areas of academic life. Effective use of assessment shapes future planning and learning opportunities.

#### Vision and School Culture

Leaders' commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of the pupils and adults in their care is exceptional. They go to extraordinary lengths to provide support to colleagues, pupils and their families. Their authentic, distinctively Christian leadership creates a culture of love, trust and belonging. As a result, reflecting the vision, adults 'have faith in' leaders to help them. Positive relationships are prioritised. This is evident in the way that staff care for one another and act as role models to pupils. It is equally visible in the warmth pupils share together. Strategies to support pupils who are new to school, whenever they join, enable them to feel welcome. As a result, they settle very quickly and are proud to belong to this school community. Parents appreciate the holistic approach which values wellbeing alongside academic flourishing. The behaviour policy, filled with love and forgiveness, exemplifies the school's culture.

## Information

Address	Highfield, Derwent Road, Lancashire, LA1 3ES		
Date	20 November 2025	URN	119532
Type of school	Voluntary aided	No. of pupils	199
Diocese	Blackburn		
Headteacher	Emma Simpson		
Chair of Governors	Jane Watson		
Inspector	Charlotte Tudway		