



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Waddington and West Bradford Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	West Bradford Road, Waddington, Clitheroe, BB7 3JE

School vision

In our Christian family, we Encourage, Serve and Respect everyone and shine in the light of Jesus.

As members of God’s family, at Waddington and West Bradford Church of England Primary School, we aim to love one another as Jesus loves us. (John15:12-13)

We do our best to Encourage, Serve and Respect everyone. (Thess 5:11)

Our Christian values of compassion, hope, joy, forgiveness, and courage are at the heart of school life and guide our behaviour towards each other, our local community and the wider world.

Together we build each other up to be the person God has created us to be and shine in the light of Jesus.

School strengths

- Effective leadership has created a nurturing learning environment with a clear Christian vision at its heart. All members of the community know and live the vision, enabling all to flourish.
- Through the curriculum and extra-curricular offer, the school prioritises the development of the whole child. Pupils are actively supported to realise their full potential and shine.
- Trusting open relationships enable everyone to thrive. They are the basis of the loving community where respect, encouragement and service are threaded throughout daily interactions.
- Collective worship is an inspiring and joyful expression of the school’s vision and values. It has a significant impact on pupils, helping individuals to develop compassion, courage and forgiveness.
- Religious education (RE) provides a safe place to explore beliefs and what it means to live in a diverse world. Learning activities are enhanced through visitors and creative approaches including art and drama.

Areas for development

- Ensure a shared language of spirituality is used across all aspects of school life. This is to empower pupils in their spiritual flourishing across a range of curriculum experiences.
- Develop pupils’ understanding of injustice and global inequality within the world. This is so that they can be supported to make a difference, by acting as agents of change.
- Embed systems for assessment and moderation within RE. This is to ensure that information is more effectively used to support teaching, enabling pupils to make the best possible progress.

Inspection findings

The Christian vision to 'Shine in the light of Jesus' is a living reality at Waddington and West Bradford School. Leaders, including governors, have ensured that the vision underpins decisions and actions. As a result, the Christian foundation of the school is valued and promoted to all. Honest, reflective self-evaluation supports leaders in their uncompromising focus on Church school improvement. Consequently, pupils and adults thrive. The close working relationship with the diocese is an integral part of the school's improvement journey. This includes access to a range of professional development opportunities that enhance and foster Church school leadership. The Christian values of compassion, hope, joy, forgiveness and courage are part of the daily experience for adults and pupils. They pervade all relationships, help bring the vision to life, and enable individuals to shine.

Leaders routinely monitor, adapt and enhance the curriculum so that the vision is 'entwined' within all aspects of provision. As a result, learning opportunities are rich and vibrant. Leaders are clear in their ambition that the curriculum should empower pupils to be the best version of themselves. This is achieved through the focus on learning experiences that promote responsibility, optimism, self-belief and independence. Pupils grow in confidence through the breadth of inspiring experiences that they encounter. The creative curriculum secures high engagement; helping pupils to develop a genuine love for learning. Activities such as diversity week and charity events for local and global organisations support pupils to appreciate and understand difference. The curriculum is further enhanced through a wealth of musical, sporting and artistic opportunities. These broaden pupils' horizons and help pupils to live life to the full. Parents rightly express confidence in the school's support for pupils and families. They value how the embedded approach to nurture is transformational for pupils. Needs are promptly addressed with love and sensitivity. This ensures that all individuals, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), flourish.

Opportunities to promote spiritual growth through each of the five senses are proactively planned into curriculum experiences. These include exploration of nature within forest schools, musical performances and encounters with the environment. Experiences help pupils to be amazed about the wonder of God's world. They enjoy accessing the prayer spaces that allow them to think about who they are and why they are special. However, the school's approach for recognising and articulating spirituality is less developed. Consequently, opportunities to promote and deepen understanding of spiritual flourishing are limited.

The vision's call to 'love one another as Jesus loves us' creates a culture where everyone is treated well. Open loving relationships are a strength of the school, resulting in excellent behaviour and attendance. Pupils appreciate the time and effort that is made to know and value each individual. As a result, talents and interests are cultivated enabling pupils to ignite their lights and shine within their community. The good mental health and wellbeing of adults is a priority for leaders. Staff positively engage with support to address challenges and build their confidence. Pupils from different year groups come together to collaborate in regular 'Rainbow Days' led by elected pupil representatives. These opportunities enable relationships across the school to flourish. Leadership roles including, school council, wellbeing and worship warriors enable pupils to play an active role in school life. Pupils rightly describe how leaders listen to their thoughts and ideas and are open to change. Initiatives to support organisations within the community are championed by pupils. However, pupils' understanding of issues relating to global inequality and injustice is limited. This means that the opportunities for pupils to promote issues, take action and advocate for change are less developed.

Local clergy work closely with the school to deliver inspirational and inclusive worship that promotes spiritual flourishing. Themes linked to Christian values are rooted in Bible stories and

related to life experiences developing empathy and understanding. Pupils and adults grow spiritually through moments of contemplation, stillness, music and reflection that are featured in daily worship. The strong partnership with local churches enriches pupils understanding of Christian festivals and Anglican traditions. Pupils’ active participation in all forms of worship promotes leadership and inclusion. Many interactions have a profound spiritual impact on pupils and the wider community. This was seen at the Easter service when Year 6 boys performed a moving dance about the crucifixion and resurrection. High quality spiritual prayer spaces in corridors and classrooms enhance opportunities for pupils to reflect and respond beyond the hall. Class reflection books are filled with pupils’ thoughts, illustrating how Christian values have resonated with individuals to support spiritual flourishing.

The profile of RE as a core subject within the school’s curriculum has been raised. Pupils are enthusiastic about their learning in RE. They talk with confidence about the breadth of opportunities that they encounter and how learning is fun and varied. Colourful, symbolic artwork illustrating the stations of the cross and Pentecost evidence a rich creative approach to learning. The implementation of the diocesan syllabus ensures that the curriculum is challenging and well-sequenced. The strong relationship with the diocese provides regular support through visits and training that enables leaders to improve teaching. Clergy support in lessons, providing expertise in the delivery of curriculum content. RE reflects and reinforces the school vision to show love and respect to everyone. By participating in discussions about religions and worldviews, pupils develop an understanding and appreciation of a range of faiths and cultures. The school uses drama, artefacts and resources effectively to bring learning to life.

The effectiveness of teaching is evident in pupils’ explanations and understanding of concepts and areas of study. Pupils can describe how big questions help them to build on prior learning and apply their understanding. Class big books provide a broader picture of teaching, evidencing how pupils have explored ideas and beliefs. However, leaders do not make effective use of assessment and moderation to evaluate how well pupils are achieving over time. Information is not routinely used to plan training and support to enable pupils to make as much progress as they could.

Waddington and West Bradford Primary is an inclusive, caring ‘Christian family.’ It is a place where the love of Jesus is emulated and shared so that everyone is encouraged to shine.

The inspection findings indicate that Waddington and West Bradford Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	21 May 2024	URN	119687
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	180
Diocese	Blackburn		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Sarah White		
Chair	David Austen		
Inspector	Steven Holmes	No.	2233