

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Pye Bank Church of England Primary School (VA)

Vision

'Learning Together, Learning to be Together, Sharing God's Love'

'We love, because God first loved us.' 1 John 4:19

Pye Bank 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.

Strengths

- Leaders within the school and trust demonstrate a strong commitment to the Christian vision and effectively translate it into strategic actions. They provide clear direction and support, fostering an inclusive ethos within the school community.
- The curriculum for religious education (RE) is highly effective. Pupils have a clear grasp of Christianity and major world faiths.
- Pupils and adults have opportunities to grow spiritually through collective worship, which includes a time for reflection. This helps them consider values such as justice and responsibility to others.
- Leaders ensure that the wellbeing of individuals is at the heart of all that they do. The provision of strategically planned, targeted mental health and pastoral support enables pupils, staff and families to flourish.
- The teaching and assessment of RE are of a high standard, engaging pupils and promoting active learning.

Development Points

- Embed pupils' understanding of spirituality and the language used to discuss it. This will help them to better express and engage with opportunities the school provides to support their spiritual flourishing.



Inspection Findings

Pye Bank Primary School embodies a unique Christian vision. It is rooted in values which are deeply integrated into the daily life of the school. The vision, 'learning together, being together, and sharing God's love,' is well understood and embraced by the school community. Pupils use values-based language and understand the biblical stories behind the values, deepening their significance. The school's Christian vision, promoted by leaders and supported by effective partnerships, underpins action and policy. Consequently, pupils present as confident, resilient learners and they are well equipped to navigate their learning, relationships, emotions and challenges. The vision, rooted in scripture, resonates with the school community. Leaders make bold decisions that are grounded in the Christian vision, which underpins school life. As a result, pupils and staff are inspired to flourish and are cherished in this supportive environment. Engagement with local clergy and the diocese effectively enhances the theological understanding of the vision among staff and stakeholders.

Pye Bank Primary School has developed a bespoke curriculum that reflects its Christian vision. Leaders perceive their role as removing any barriers to learning, so all can flourish. The curriculum is thoughtfully designed. It addresses the unique context of the community, particularly the high percentage of pupils with English as an additional language. Prioritising reading, oracy and inclusion highlights the school's commitment to overcoming learning barriers and ensuring equality. The school enables families to visit the library outside regular hours. This promotes a love of reading and fosters the ambition for learning at home, reflecting the school's vision and values. This approach builds a strong knowledge foundation, supporting pupils' academic and spiritual growth in line with the school's Christian vision. The comprehensive extra-curricular offer ensures that pupils can access enriching experiences without barriers, reflecting the school's commitment to equality. Opportunities for spiritual development are embedded throughout the curriculum, and pupils actively engage with and benefit from them. However, the absence of a shared, consistent vocabulary limits their ability to express and further develop their spiritual growth.

Collective worship at Pye Bank is central to school life, reflecting the vision that everyone is made in God's image. The active pupil collective worship council and Pye Bank prayer highlight worship's central role in daily life. Worship is inclusive, ensuring all members of the diverse school community feel welcomed and highly regarded. Parents appreciate how everyone is valued. Staff engage with worship, enriching their spiritual growth and sense of belonging. The school's structured worship plan covers the liturgical calendar and promotes spiritual development for all. Various worship experiences, including clergy-led, pupil-led, and celebratory worship, provide rich opportunities for reflection, prayer, and stillness. Multi-faith events, like Harvest, foster community and include contributions from local faith leaders. These events offer staff opportunities to connect with families and enrich their understanding of faith.

Pye Bank Primary School fosters ambition, equality, kindness, and respect, rooted in its Christian vision of love. Secure relationships are foundational to pupils' success. This is demonstrated through the revised behaviour and relationships policy, which emphasises relational practice and unconditional positive regard. Reflection spaces are valued as opportunities to consider personal growth, spiritual development and the embodiment of the school's Christian vision and values. As a result, these spaces promote holistic development and a thriving, supportive community. Explicit teaching on equality, diversity, and difference, ensures that pupils are well-prepared to engage with a diverse world. The school's pastoral support, including the innovative provision for pupils with complex



needs, exemplifies its dedication to meeting individual needs. Pupils enjoy family-style dining at lunchtime, fostering respect, shared responsibility and reflecting the school's Christian vision and values. Staff are held in high esteem. A wide range of professional development opportunities are offered, helping them to feel valued and respected. In addition, parents and carers appreciate the school's dedication to regular, prompt communication, which creates a sense of inclusion and partnership. Using surveys for feedback and changes shows the school's dedication to fostering a flourishing environment for staff, pupils, and parents.

Inspired by the Christian vision, pupils make a difference through helping others and fundraising. Pupils sing at retirement homes and make regular donations to food banks, showing their commitment to service and compassion. They take on various responsibilities as they grow, preparing them for the future. Projects promoting a safe and clean environment demonstrate their passion for improving their surroundings. Pupils say, 'this helps them understand how their actions can positively affect themselves and others.' Fundraising initiatives instil empathy and solidarity, reinforcing their role as disciples of change. They learn about fairness, rules of conduct and listening to others' viewpoints. Opportunities to discuss global justice and being agents of change are explicitly included in the curriculum.

Religious education holds a prominent place within the school's curriculum. Pupils and parents rightly agree that RE is a valued subject. The RE curriculum is well-structured. It is thoughtfully designed to provide depth and engagement with both Christianity and other world faiths. The curriculum's emphasis on pupils exploring and articulating their beliefs alongside their peers promotes a respectful and inclusive environment. The Christianity element, based on the Understanding Christianity programme, enhances pupils' engagement with the Bible and Christian core concepts. Visits to the church to learn about Christianity enrich lessons on Advent, Easter and Pentecost. The decision to focus on fewer world religions, allows for more in-depth exploration of Islam, Judaism, and Hinduism. This fosters a deeper understanding of these faiths. RE is well resourced, and as a result, makes an important contribution to the Christian character of the school. Leaders effectively monitor and evaluate RE, enabling them to clearly identify the next steps in learning. The trust provides high quality training for all staff and therefore, the staff feel very confident teaching the subject. Participation in local subject networks contributes to ongoing training and professional development. The vision has created a culture whereby school is a safe place to speak freely about religion and to disagree respectfully.

Valuable expertise within the leadership team, ensures consistently high-quality teaching and strong pupil progress in RE. Assessment outcomes and book work highlight pupils' ability to reflect on personal beliefs and retain knowledge of major world religions. Pupils, particularly in Years 5 and 6, benefit from the spiral curriculum, which supports long-term retention and understanding. Behaviour in RE lessons is excellent, with pupils showing curiosity and making meaningful connections to their lives. They are reflective, analytical, and confident in making links and comparisons. RE contributes not only to academic development but also to pupils' spiritual growth and flourishing.

Information

Address	Andover Street, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S3 9EF		
Date	16 January 2025	URN	146841
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	472
Diocese	Sheffield		
MAT	The Diocese of Sheffield Academies Trust		
Headteacher	Mrs Rhea Kurcewicz		
Chair of Governors	Mrs Lucy Davies & Mrs Khadra Dirir		
Inspector	Paulette Osborne		