Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hoddlesden St Paul's Church of England VA Primary School

Vision

As God's Family, together we achieve.
"So in Christ we, through many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12.5

Hoddlesden St Paul's 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 Christian vision, which is clearly understood by the whole community, creates the foundation from which decisions are built. It shapes the daily experiences of pupils and adults and makes a significant difference to people's lives.
- The strong culture of inclusion is at the heart of the school's work. Pupils are accepted and embraced as unique individuals. As a result, pupils succeed in this school.
- Religious education (RE) is given high priority within the curriculum. Knowledgeable and purposeful leadership equips teachers to deliver a creative curriculum. Leaders have invested time and resources into refining the RE curriculum to meet the needs of the school community. This ensures pupils engage in learning which is appropriate, engaging and enriching.
- Shaped by the Christian vision, the curriculum is carefully constructed so that pupils develop their unique gifts. Opportunities for developing spiritually weaves their way through each subject area. Alongside a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, pupils grow and develop holistically. This includes pupils who are considered vulnerable and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Collective worship, which is valued by the school community as a meaningful time together. Deeply rooted in the vision, pupils and staff are empowered to live out the school values throughout the day.

Development Points

- Enhance pupils' thirst for knowledge and firsthand experiences of other faiths. This is so their understanding about other ways of worship deepens.

Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Hoddlesden St Paul's Primary School is an oasis of calm and care within the village community it diligently serves. Leaders and staff are deeply committed to promoting a welcoming and highly inclusive school. Living out the vision, 'As God's family together we achieve', a compelling sense of shared purpose and togetherness is created. This is supported by the biblically rooted text from Romans 12:5. It nurtures a sense of belonging and desire for everyone to succeed and achieve irrespective of individual starting points. Governors demonstrate strong commitment and understanding of the school's work through regular visits and active engagement including monitoring and evaluating the impact of the school. Driven by the vision, leaders take strategic action to ensure provision meets the varied needs of pupils. For example, through investment in highly inclusive staffing and resources to support engagement in the curriculum and mental wellbeing.

Vision and Curriculum

The purposefully shaped curriculum expresses the school's Christian vision. It enables pupils to thrive and develop their unique potential. It is highly inclusive and reduces barriers to learning for many pupils. For those requiring additional support, staff work closely with families and external partners to provide adapted provision. As a result, pupils, including those with SEND, enjoy learning and achieve. Extra-curricular activities enrich learning and widen pupils' understanding of the world. Moments of spiritual development are identified throughout each pupil's journey through school. A particular example is the use of outdoor areas. They are supported in connecting with nature and respect for life, the environment and each other. This helps the school community learn with respect and kindness. As a result, pupils love and look forward to coming to school and are excited about the opportunities that are available to them.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is a faithful expression of the school's Christian vision, enriching opportunities for pupils and adults to grow spiritually. Pupils and adults gather with purpose in the inspiring space for worship which is at the heart of the school. The space is shared with the parish and used for Sunday worship. Pupils play an important role in shaping worship through the values committee. They contribute effectively to planning, delivery and evaluation of worship. In addition, they are active in developing the prayer spaces around school. They strive to ensure that these highly valued spaces both inside and outside can be used by pupils of any faith. Pupils show kindness and make thoughtful decisions as a result of what they have explored in worship. Reflective questions prompt further thought and pupils' responses illustrate their developing skills in spiritual reflection. Worship is evaluated and this guides improvements, helping it to remain relevant and impactful. Classes plan and develop worship every half-term, which is shared with the whole school. Parents rightly value these opportunities which make a significant contribution to this family focused school where worship is at its centre. The impactful spirituality days give pupils and adults opportunities to slow down, listen and wonder. These activities reinforce the clear message that in this school spiritual flourishing matters as much as academic success.

Religious Education

RE has a high priority within the whole school curriculum. Leaders have ensured that the RE curriculum meets the needs of their school community. This is so that pupils build on prior learning and focus on areas outside their experiences. The RE curriculum is embedded. Staff are confident RE teachers. Over time, they have engaged with diocesan training and guidance. Leaders have made sure that the curriculum is well resourced, including guidance for staff with a 'how to' handbook. This is valued highly by teachers and ensures a consistent approach to the teaching of RE across school.

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The quality of work seen in books and through discussion demonstrates that pupils are thinking deeply about faith, belief and meaning. Pupils enjoy RE and can compare beliefs respectfully, recognising diversity within and between faiths. The older pupils respectfully show understanding for those who don't follow any faith. However, although pupils are curious, they do not have enough opportunity to deepen their understanding of other faiths through firsthand experiences. Teachers use a wide range of methods to challenge pupils' thinking. Assessment is thorough and used to measure impact, inform curriculum development and lesson planning. Pupils are enthusiastic about RE, build on prior learning and make progress over time.

Vision and School Culture

The Christian vision creates a welcoming and compassionate community where relationships are at the centre of life. Staff model the school's values showing kindness, responsibility and respect. Many describe the benefits of being a small village school, where strong relationships enable people to feel supported. Leaders ensure inclusion is central to school life. Staff work closely with families and external partners to provide tailored support for pupils facing challenges. Consequently, strong pastoral care for pupils deemed vulnerable enables them to grow in confidence and participate fully. Staff, parents and pupils feel valued and listened to. Pupils and adults are nurtured to take responsibility, speak out for what is right, and serve one another in community. When disputes happen, restorative conversations and peer mediation build mutual understanding and encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own choices. As a result, behaviour across school is good and pupils feel safe. Leaders prioritise professional learning for adults so that they have a shared approach to support pupils in distress and those who struggle to manage their emotions. Leaders prioritise the wellbeing of both pupils and staff. Staff appreciate leaders actively encouraging a good balance between school and life. This means staff are happy and feel supported, "no one is left to struggle alone".

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The strong Christian ethos drives leaders and staff in the way they support pupils' development and sense of responsibility towards others. As a result, they are caring, confident and reliable young people. Through a wide range of leadership roles, pupils know their voice is important and are keen to be part of such groups. Recently pupils raised funds for the local hospice and focused on the Christian values of compassion and dignity. This demonstrates their care for others and knowing they can make a difference in the local community. Through collective worship and the curriculum, pupils are given opportunities to identify injustice and explore ethical choices. This helps pupils to understand challenges faced by people outside their own village community. For example, pupils know that some people are treated unfairly because of the colour of their skin, gender or disability. Partnerships within the village community, the church and other schools provide genuine contexts in which pupils serve others. Leaders' emphasis on preparing pupils for life beyond St Paul's ensures that respect and responsibility become enduring qualities.

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Information

Address	Bayne Street, Hoddlesden, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 3NH		
Date	11 June 2026	URN	119455
Type of school	Voluntary aided	No. of pupils	241
Diocese	Blackburn		
Headteacher	Christopher Dugdale		
Chair of Governors	Claire Warner		
Inspector	Angela Knowles		