

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

### Green Lane Church of England Primary School

<b>Address</b>	Green Lane, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LG		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	1 July 2019	<b>Status of school</b>	Voluntary Controlled
<b>Diocese</b>	Durham	<b>URN</b>	114219

<b>Overall Judgement</b>	<b>How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>Additional Judgements</b>	<b>The impact of collective worship</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

#### School context

Green Lane C of E is an average sized primary school, with 231 pupils on roll. The school serves both the town of Barnard Castle and surrounding rural areas. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is above national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is just below national averages. The headteacher was appointed in April 2018. He is also the Course Director for High Force Education, School Centred Initial Teacher Training.

#### The school's Christian vision

'Educating for Life in all its Fullness' (John 10:10)

Our deeply Christian vision and core values are central to the experiences our children have each day as part of 'Team GL.' Through them we aim to develop young people who can flourish in all areas of their lives developing the intellectual, spiritual, moral and physical attributes, becoming proud and respectful members of our community.

#### Key findings

- Highly innovative work on character development permeates all areas of school life. It focuses on developing the whole child, preparing them for a full and flourishing life.
- The school's deeply Christian vision and its associated values are woven through the work of the school and are a central part of its everyday life. Adults and pupils clearly articulate the vision, its biblical roots and how they impact positively on their lives in school, and beyond. This gives them hope and aspiration to live life to the full.
- The headteacher is passionate about educating every pupil for 'Life in all its Fullness'. Leaders have been relentless in the pursuit of excellence for all, shaped by the school's explicit and distinctively Christian vision.
- Leaders at all levels provide a genuinely warm and nurturing environment where pupils, staff and families can be supported to be the best that God created them to be. Excellent relationships across the whole school community, exemplified by the term 'Team GL', ensure that everyone feels valued, and encouraged to flourish.
- The strong and sustained partnership between the school and the local church community has led to creative and inspiring collective worship which motivate, engages and inspires. Pupils engage with the Eucharist through 'admission to communion', and pupils say that they can 'choose to be a Christian'.

#### Areas for development

- Extend the use of the excellent work on character development in order to further enhance the whole school curriculum.
- Explore how the changes to relationships and sex education, and physical health and mental wellbeing education, can be used to enrich the curriculum, so that all children continue to flourish and are each valued as a child of God.

**How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?**  
**Inspection findings**

Green Lane's highly effective Christian vision, which is shaped by biblical teachings, is at the heart of all that the school does. Leaders are passionate and 'unashamed about the Christian distinctiveness' of the school. They provide exceptionally strong foundations for their pupils so they can be 'educated for life in all its fullness'. Pupils and adults who make up 'Team GL – Together Everyone Achieves More', live and breathe the Christian vision through the core values of care, respect, forgiveness and honesty. Leaders value all in their community and ensure that their work is nurturing and inclusive and 'nobody is left behind'. The special partnership between the school and the local church is mutually beneficial and highly treasured by all. The priority given to both collective worship and religious education (RE) has resulted in high quality, and often transformational experiences for all. Pupils are energised and inspired to respect and protect God's creation, for example by exploring the use of single-use plastics.

Leaders have developed a highly innovative approach to education which is founded in character education, inspired by Church of England guidance, 'The Fruit of the Spirit'. Behaviour policies, creative curriculum opportunities and teaching and learning methods cultivate pupils' character. As a result, pupils are developed as 'whole people' who know they have a key role to play within God's world. Pupils at Green Lane are confident in the knowledge that they can make a difference. They make positive choices which will empower them to lead a full life. The inspirational headteacher reflects the teachings of Jesus, working with wisdom, kindness and humility. He is supported by the dedicated leadership team and governors who all act as role models, showing God's love. All staff feel valued, cared for and willing to go the extra mile. Parents and carers say this is a real strength of the school. They feel all staff are 'endless givers' who put their children first so they can flourish.

There is a tangible culture of extremely high expectations for all, where everyone can achieve their full potential. This results in all groups of pupils making exceptional progress and achieving outstanding standards across the curriculum. Pupils discover, explore and challenge themselves in their learning, in order to understand how to live life to the full. They talk about the curriculum being exciting and stimulating. They value the use of big questions to help them learn. Leaders are relentless in their pursuit of academic, spiritual, moral and physical excellence – truly 'educating for life in all its fullness'.

Pupils clearly articulate how the school's vision and values impact on their hopes and aspirations for others. They learn with confidence and show compassion for others. This is born out in their commitment to making a difference in the world, through social action both within the local community and beyond. An example of this is pupils regularly visiting the local care home. This has led to Reception children going to play and have fun with the residents – something that brings joy to all those involved. The church community is working jointly with pupils to raise money for a toilet twinning project in a developing country. Parents talk passionately about, and fully support, the school's vision and values as they feel they are 'something for our children to live by, a moral code'.

Pupils and adults live well together in a community built on Christian love. Leaders go over and above to meet the needs of pupils in their care. They notice and respond to individual needs even if it means making staffing and organisational changes to accommodate them. Behaviour is exceptionally good as a direct result of the focus on developing pupils' character. Highly effective relationships are evident across the whole school community. Pupils speak the language of forgiveness and reconciliation, both in school and in their homes. They celebrate and rejoice acts of kindness, care and thoughtfulness shown by their peers. This is enhanced by the innovative use of character charts, which act as constant reminders to pupils about how to live well. Year 6 buddies act as impressive role models to their friends in Reception, setting high expectations for behaviour and character from the start. Leaders actively promote wellbeing and positive mental health for pupils and adults. The 'being kind to your mind' programme has provided an excellent resource to support this work. Staff highly value the headteacher's reassurance, affirmations and encouragement. The vision for all ages to flourish is, therefore, as effective for adults as well as children. This is what makes the school an excellent Church school.

From walking through the doors at Green Lane it is clear that the school's vision has created a special and unique Christian community. All members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. The school offers planned curriculum opportunities to celebrate difference and diversity, alongside opportunities which respond to the lives of pupils. The school's policies and approaches, including the 'votes for schools' programme, effectively

supports pupils' deep understanding of issues around prejudicial behaviour and the impact it can have on others. The school's policies and curriculum do not yet include the revised guidance on approaches to relationships and sex education, and physical health and mental wellbeing education.

Collective worship is the essential heartbeat of the school, binding the community into the close-knit team where all flourish. Pupils see that they are part of 'something bigger', and they say that collective worship makes them feel like they 'can do anything'. They share and celebrate the core messages from worship with their families. Innovative work with the vicar and the local church demonstrates the power of their joint working and how they can apply their shared vision to change their own and others' lives. Together they provide high quality opportunities for pupils to reflect, pray and develop spiritually through the use of the 'big story' and Godly play. This is further enhanced by prayer weeks which provide engaging and interactive prayer opportunities which are regularly used to support and help staff and pupils. Child-led worship is a real strength of the school. Pupils lead uplifting and thought-provoking worship which enable all pupils to have a sense of responsibility for and wonder in God's world. Through 'admission to communion', pupils have been given authentic opportunities to explore the Eucharist and truly understand God's love. This demonstrates the powerful impact of the vision to develop the character and spiritual life of each individual.

RE effectively expresses the vision of the school and is central within the curriculum. Pupils creatively explore their own and others' convictions, through enquiry, discussions and debates. Pupils confidently demonstrate their understanding of Christianity as a living faith and of other world religions and say that 'RE is creative and it helps you think about what you believe'.

The school's distinctive Christian vision is fundamental to the work of leaders at Green Lane. This has resulted in pupils who are extremely well 'Educated for Life in all its Fullness.' They are a real credit to the school and a living witness to its effective Christian vision.

Headteacher	Rob Goffee
Inspector's name and number	Jo Warner 950