

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Fylingdales Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Address	Thorpe Lane, Fylingthorpe, Whitby YO22 4TH			
Date of inspection	10 May 2019	Status of school	VC primary	
Diocese	York	URN	121528	

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

School context

Fylingdales is a primary school with 77 pupils on roll. 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 below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is in line with national averages. Since the last inspection, significant staffing and governance changes include the shared appointment of the headteacher with Hawkser-cum-Stainsacre Church of England Primary School, both members of the Heritage Coast Primary Church of England Federation.

The school's Christian vision

'In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.'

Matthew 5:16

Flourish, succeed; let your light shine.

Key findings

- Led by the headteacher, dedicated staff and governors work together within this nurturing Christian family community to ensure pupils and adults flourish, succeed and let their light shine. Given the changes in staffing and governance, much has been achieved in a short space of time, and this is why the school is currently judged as securely good on its journey of school improvement.
- This small, rural school has a special place at the heart of the village in serving its local community. Whilst leading the way in the newly formed federation, it still preserves its uniqueness.
- The strong partnership between the churches and the school enriches the worshipping lives of pupils, parents and staff. This stems from the inclusive set of beliefs and values they all share.
- The commitment to develop the school's Christian distinctiveness, with rapid improvement over the last year, means prayer and reflection are now integral to everyone's on-going spiritual journey.
- The child-centred approach to the curriculum enables pupils to have a voice as active agents of change, both locally and globally. This continues to be developed.

Areas for development

- Extend the whole school community's knowledge of the biblical roots which underpin the school's vision and values in order for everyone to understand that their source is Jesus' teaching.
- Enable pupils to experience and meet people of diverse faith and beliefs more frequently to nurture their spiritual and cultural development.

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

Fylingdales is a 'special place that nurtures every child, adult and family', enabling all to flourish and succeed. This is because the school has thought deeply about who they are, why they are here and how they should then live. Fylingdales' Christian vision 'epitomises what we're about, every child shining, from a spark to a strong flame'. Their chosen biblical verse from Jesus' teaching shows an uncompromising adherence to the school's principles, very much part of its integrity. This is voiced by leaders and pupils alike. There is a strong commitment to deepening this community's knowledge of the biblical roots which underpins its vision and values. Pupils and parents 'know the motto, but not all the quotes' and can explain the core faith values of community, hope, trust and respect. Pupils explain the importance of 'keeping on doing the right thing, work hard and don't be afraid to do what you want to do'. Since the forming of the federation in September 2018, there is one big team, seen as seamless. Much has been achieved since then, with Fylingdales preserving its own uniqueness whilst leading the way in school improvement. Led by the headteacher, who 'creates opportunities with no limits' for her staff across the two schools, everyone works well together. Strong relationships amongst the staff, underpinned by trust and service, ensure all are valued and needed and want to be here. Very good relationships exist with the diocese, with the school benefitting greatly from support and training. This ensures everyone is appraised of Church school developments. Under the one governing body, governors systematically monitor all priorities for the development of both schools.

This small, rural school has a strong focus on 'the whole child, the whole time'. Whilst academic rigour is important as there are high aspirations for all pupils, the school acknowledges there are different experiences and challenges for all. Parents testify that they see all groups of pupils supported. The school's vision helps shape what is provided for pupils so all truly flourish and succeed. Hence progress for all pupils is good, including the most vulnerable, resulting in individual success. As one pupil put it, 'You've been so patient with me, but at the same time, you've pushed me to my limits!' A parent praised the change they saw in their child, and how their 'self-esteem, sense of humour and sparkle returned very quickly'.

In this coastal location, pupils show great 'respect for the village, sea and beach and want people to take their rubbish home'. As active local and global agents of change, they have a real sense of right and wrong. The school is very much at the heart of village life and pupil voice an integral part of the child-centred curriculum. As part of their awareness of the wider world, they fundraise for wells and show their concern for the plastic in the world's oceans. This is especially championed by Year 2 pupils who voice, 'God looks after the world and you are ambassadors'. During a recent visit by the local Christian group, Hope Whitby, pupils discussed the people of Peru and how 'God loves them and the people in Peru too'. Pupils and adults believe in Christian teaching urging them to do good, which is linked to the wellbeing of all, in order to flourish. Activities such as 'Relax Kids' and mindfulness help pupils find ways of coping and become more confident in their outlook. Pupils write about their school vision and values in the village magazine to communicate more widely the importance of all 'working together to keep our village a safe place'.

Staff affirm the school is a 'safe and secure place for both pupils and staff to support each other, which allows them to grow and develop together'. This is because this caring, supportive, nurturing family values everyone's individuality and how people grow 'spiritually and academically'. They know everyone and feel comfortable with everyone, relying on one another. New staff are made to feel welcome. Forgiveness is modelled as part of every lesson, not just religious education (RE). Mental health and wellbeing is engrained here and 'under the skin', with dignity and respect interwoven, reflecting Jesus' love in action. This has led to a true desire at Fylingdales to support its community. This includes support for bereaved families.

The important partnership between all the local churches and the school is enriching the worshipping lives of pupils and adults in this community. Parents draw strength from the key Christian festivals celebrated in Church which help support their beliefs and the privilege of living in their rural community. They cite their children choosing to sing hymns and songs at home. Pupils say that the worship leaders 'help us to understand a bit more about the Bible stories'. They find the invitational and inspiring worship a time to 'connect with God and focus your mind on all the good things God has done'. Pupils are eager to take part, proud to be in the worship team

and say the welcome words and lead prayers. This includes their recipes for friendship and prayers which speak of 'the delightful creation of life and the gift of love'. Class reflection areas aid 'fizzy forgiveness, when all your doubts fade away' and there is a well-used forgiveness tree in Church. New unique class crosses for class worship, designed by pupils, aid prayer and reflection in daily worship. Pupils and adults have a shared understanding of the words of New Testament teaching to 'encourage each other and build each other up'. This incorporates letting your light shine to be the best you can be, whatever your talent is. Music is a strength in this school, enhancing worship, with some pupils playing at key events in the year, such as Remembrance-tide. It also means the school enters the sacred music section of the Eskdale festival.

RE is well led, with pupils' progress and achievement assessed in line with other core subjects and staff more confident in teaching RE. Meaningful and respectful discussions take place within an effectively planned curriculum, with pupils comfortable to ask big questions. This encompasses the school's values and themes in worship. New resources in RE are making a difference to pupils' knowledge of the detail of the Nativity and the events of Holy Week. Given the context here, whilst pupils have visited a mosque, their experience of meeting people from diverse faiths with different beliefs is currently limited.

This is a 'vibrant Church school' in which to work, learn and flourish. It supports pupils, staff and families with its distinctively Christian ethos and is a place where 'love of life and the community is celebrated'.

Headteacher	Claire Barber
Inspector's name and number	Lizzie McWhirter 244