



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Calder Vale St John Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Calder Vale, Preston, PR3 1SR
School vision	
<p style="text-align: center;">‘Reach up, Reach in, Reach out’</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We reach up to God to show us the way. We reach inside for the courage and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, to help us reach God’s goal for us. We reach out to everyone with the kindness and compassion of Jesus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“I try as hard as I can to reach the goal that is before me.” Phillipians 3:14</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school community share a strong Christian vision. The values, known through this vision, are fully understood and lived out. This impacts positively on both the development of pupils and adults enabling them to thrive. • Calder Vale St John’s is a community where all are encouraged to 'reach out' to others with kindness and compassion. This deeply embedded, nurturing ethos cultivates a happy, inclusive environment at the school. • Collective worship is a joyful part of the school day. Its inclusive approach offers relevant, welcoming and invitational opportunities for worship and spiritual development. • There is an active culture of justice where everyone takes responsibility for themselves and others in their community. Advocacy is part of the 'fabric of the school'. As a result, Calder Vale St John’s transforms lives. • Religious Education (RE) is well-led and managed. Leaders have ensured that the curriculum is carefully planned with many varied opportunities for pupils to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed strategic and rigorous systems to evaluate the well-established Christian vision. This is to support the effective monitoring and evaluation of the vision's impact. • Develop a shared language for exploring spirituality across the school. Therefore, better equipping the community to recognise, explore and articulate their spiritual growth and flourishing. • Deepen understanding of what it means to challenge global inequality and injustice. Consequently, this should help pupils to extend their charitable work beyond the local community. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>At the very core of Calder Vale St John’s School is its deeply rooted Christian vision. The Christian values of courage, wisdom, kindness and compassion are interwoven through the vision. They form a natural part of the language used and daily experience of adults and pupils. As a result, a calm,</p>	

purposeful and welcoming environment is palpable. This, in turn, enables the school community to pursue and continually strive to reach their goals, in accordance with the vision.

Governors are active, supportive and knowledgeable about the school and its work. The biblically rooted vision, resulting from collaborative work between leaders and the wider community is the driving force for action. Leaders ensure that it underpins their decisions, policies and actions. Focused monitoring by leaders ensures that there is an understanding of the effectiveness of the vision. Evaluation of the vision's impact is not sufficiently refined to fully inform leaders of its influence across the school.

Deeply connected partnerships are a real strength of the school. Calder Vale St John's is formally federated with another local school. The schools share the same Christian vision and values. This strong link has successfully led to the widening of opportunities for staff development and the school community. They demonstrate clearly how the vision underpins relationships at all levels. These partnerships, that have been carefully nurtured, are effective in the strengthening of church school provision.

The school's vision that everyone will be supported to reach God's goal for them is lived out daily. The vision has inspired leaders to employ imaginative solutions, including additional staffing, in their relentless and successful work to remove barriers or hindrances that arise. This has meant that highly effective, individual and bespoke support is facilitated for those who are vulnerable or have additional learning needs. As a result, the lives of pupils and adults have been transformed.

The curriculum is shaped by the vision and leaders ensure that there are a wide range of opportunities for all. The school ensures that enriching experiences, such as horse riding and expert visitors in school, are woven into the curriculum. Activities are designed not only to challenge the most able, but also to enable pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to thrive. A carefully crafted curriculum inspires a joy of learning and enables pupils to flourish. Learning builds upon prior knowledge and prepares pupils for the next step of their education. This enables them to courageously reach out to the goal before them. Visionary leadership has responded to the very specific needs of the school community in tailoring a curriculum to reflect their context. As a result, bold decisions have been made that benefit the pupils accordingly. For instance, a range of support packages are in place, and used creatively, to enable pupil flourishing. Although spiritual moments are not explicitly planned within the curriculum, activities such as outdoor learning sessions in the forest do offer regular opportunities for spiritual development.

Collective worship is an integral part of school life at Calder Vale St John's. It is well-planned by school leaders and supported by a local vicar. Worship is invitational, where everyone's participation is welcomed. It is thought-provoking and interactive enabling pupils and adults to be fully engaged and challenged. Pupils contribute in a calm, reflective atmosphere, where all are respected and response is encouraged. Local clergy and volunteers visit regularly, bringing Bible stories to life and making them relevant to today's world. This further enhances the worship and spiritual life of the school. An appreciation for the Bible stories that they have heard, is shown by pupils. They remember these stories and willingly explain how they relate to the school's vision, values and their everyday lives. Pupils are given a variety of opportunities to actively participate in worship. This enables them to be fully engaged and fosters a sense of community. Spiritual spaces in classrooms offer the opportunity for pupils to reflect and pray outside times of worship. These are well used, with the pupil prayers incorporated into acts of worship. Pupils and some adults, whilst they are flourishing spiritually, do not have the means to identify or articulate their spiritual development.

Driven by the vision, this is a joyful place. Pupils and adults are respected, valued and treated well. The vision and values of courage, kindness and compassion are at the heart of the school. As a

result, a warm atmosphere pervades the whole school. Staff, pupils and parents speak of the importance of being part of a nurturing community. One member of staff spoke about how ‘this is the school I needed when I was a child’. The caring relationships and high standards of behaviour illustrate this. Parents praise the school for ensuring that the pupils feel safe and secure. They comment on the nurturing strengths of the staff, recognising that they regularly ‘go the extra mile and more’. Consequently, relationships are strong so that all are encouraged to reach out to fulfil their potential.

Calder Vale St John’s is a ‘small school with a big heart’ that wants to make a difference in the world. Pupils are encouraged to constantly act with kindness and compassion. They are provided with opportunity to speak up for and act for others. Successful responses to local and national charities and appeals illustrate how this has been achieved. Most notably has been their work, inspired by a pupil in school, to support the National Deaf Children’s Society. Pupils have found their democratic voice and have reached inside to find the courage to use it in a variety of ways. However, pupils are less confident to independently initiate social action projects or to look beyond their local community.

RE has a very high status within the school. It is well sequenced, fully embedded and highly effective. Impactful diocesan training has enabled the RE leader to provide high quality support for teachers within the school. Carefully chosen resources, inspiring activities and displays about current learning aid effective teaching. Each unit of work starts with a big question that sparks deep thinking in pupils. Their responses, gathered throughout a unit of study, demonstrate the progress being made. Pupils talk enthusiastically about RE, particularly their experiences of visits to places of worship and visitors into school. Excellent links have been established with external organisations. These have enhanced teaching and learning about world faiths and developed pupil understanding of religious diversity. Pupils are very proud of their work and are keen to share their own ideas and thoughts. They say that they like RE because, amongst many things, pupils learn ‘how to become the best that they can be.’

The vision of ‘Reach up, reach in, reach out’, is lived out daily by the whole school community. This makes for a truly inclusive, school that lovingly supports the flourishing of all adults and pupils.

These inspection findings indicate that Calder Vale St John’s Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	12 June 2024	URN	119518
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	36
Diocese	Blackburn		
MAT/Federation	The Bowland Schools Federation		
Headteacher	Rebecca Scholtz		
Chair	Kim Carlyle		
Inspector	Natalie Dodd	No.	2201