

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

### Singleton Church of England Primary School

<b>Address</b>	Church Rd, Singleton, Poulton-le-Fylde FY6 8LN		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	10/10/2019	<b>Status of school</b>	VA Primary School
<b>Diocese</b>	Blackburn	<b>URN</b>	119560

<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>
	<b>The effectiveness of religious education (RE)</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

#### School context

Singleton is a primary school with 103 pupils on roll. The school has a very low level of religious and cultural diversity and 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 above national averages.

#### The school's Christian vision

To provide the children with a variety of challenging and enriching opportunities, enabling them to live life to the full. (Matthew 19:26) Developing a growth mind-set, believing that with God everything is possible. (John 10:10) To show, love, trust, wisdom and respect, becoming exemplary role models in our community and the wider world.

#### Key findings

- The recently revised Christian vision is clearly underpinned by Christian theology and has a deeply rooted biblical base. This has had a significant impact on all areas of school life and is shaping the direction of the school.
- The exemplary Christian leadership, especially by the senior staff, ensures that the Christian vision underpins all areas of provision.
- All pupils are exceptionally well supported, particularly the most vulnerable, and make outstanding progress.
- There is an impressive variety in approaches to worship which engages the whole school community and makes a significant impact on personal and spiritual development.
- Pupils achieve above national expectations in Religious Education (RE). The enthusiasm and commitment of the subject leader has been inspirational in supporting staff in introducing the new diocesan curriculum.

#### Areas for development

- Further develop the assessment system to ensure that it fully informs planning and supports pupils to gain a clear understanding of how to make good progress.
- Ensure that recruitment, induction and professional development procedures are robust and effective in supporting all staff in the development of their understanding of the school as a Church school.

**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**

The school's new vision is having a significant impact on the whole school community. All understand and can relate the biblical root of the vision and apply it to all aspects of life. Parents comment on how their children use it in everyday life outside of school. The school's vision and carefully chosen Christian values weave through the life of the whole school community encouraging all to do the best with their God-given talents and skills. God's love for all, regardless of their circumstances, shines out and relationships throughout the school are exemplary. All are treated with dignity and respect enabling everyone to flourish in this supportive Christian environment. The relationship between the school and the diocese is strong. The diocese has used the school to share their practice as an outstanding example of excellence in a church school. Ensuring that professional development remains a high priority will be important with imminent changes in staff. Governors know the school well. They have established monitoring and evaluation systems that are rigorous and effective in ensuring that the high standards achieved are maintained. Pupils play an important part in evaluation. They attend committee meetings to report to Governors. Areas for development from the previous inspection have been fully addressed.

Baseline data indicates that starting points are often below national expectations. However attainment and progress are consistently well above local and national averages. Despite financial challenges this school provides high quality teaching and targeted interventions to enable all pupils to flourish. The whole staff team are committed to ensuring that the pupils in their care are supported and challenged to reach their God-given potential. Parents who have chosen to transfer their children from other schools comment on the tangible difference this school has made in meeting their needs. Pastoral care is a strength of the school. Families and staff comment on how the school goes above and beyond supporting them in all aspects of their lives.

The school's curriculum has been reviewed and shaped by the new vision. The Fantastic Fridays are innovative and effective in developing cross-curricular skills whilst ensuring that pupils have an impressive degree of subject knowledge and understanding. Exploration and reflection are woven into every lesson enabling pupils to explore the spiritual and ethical dimensions of all subjects. In a geography lesson older pupils explored the formation of fold mountains in a variety of activities. This included open and deep discussion considering the impact of climate change on the earth's structure and what God might feel about this spoiling of his creation. Moral and ethical issues linked to RE are regularly included in lessons and pupils make thoughtful contributions to discussions. Pupils confidently reflect on the belief and practices of the religions they have studied and link these to their own spiritual journey.

Pupils are proactive in initiating and leading social action projects to improve the lives of those around them. One child chose to have 12cm cut off her hair after learning of a cancer charity that made wigs for children. Pupils recognise that they can use their skills and talents to improve the lives of others too. They regularly sing for vulnerable groups in the community and recently supported the establishment of a peace garden in the village. The school extends its vision to children overseas by their regular support for a Christian orphanage in Tanzania. Pupils are very aware of the exploitation of the natural world and are trying to reduce single use plastics both at home and school.

Pupil's behaviour is of an exceptionally high standard. There is an impressive behaviour system firmly linked to the school's vision and the teachings of Jesus. Pupils know that Jesus made a positive mark on people's lives and they try to apply this to their behaviour and relationships. In a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation everyone understands that any indiscretion can be left in the past and a new start made. Pupils know that they are safe in school and that any concerns they raise will be addressed quickly. The mental health and wellbeing of the whole school community is a high priority for the leaders of the school. Everyone feels that the school's vision is instrumental in the care and concern shown for what one adult described as 'whole health'. Physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health are all important in this nurturing Christian school.

Daily collective worship is central to the life of the school. It is vibrant, inclusive and delivered by a range of pupils, staff and visitors. There is a wide variety in the styles of worship ensuring that everyone appreciates that Christians celebrate in different ways. All speak highly of worship and the positive difference it makes to their lives. Pupils talk about worshiping God throughout the school day particularly when they are enjoying their school grounds. A year 6 pupil said, 'I worship God in the woods, it reminds me that God created the world and

I feel close to him.' The enthusiasm of the pupils to lead worship is evident through the number on their Christian Leadership Team. They confidently explain how they plan, lead and evaluate the worship they take to classes each week. Prayer pockets throughout the school enable everyone to fully engage in the prayer life of the school. Pupils and staff talk about the importance of praying for each other and the comfort in knowing that they are being prayed for, particularly at difficult times in their lives. The vicar provides a positive role model in following the Anglican pattern of worship. Elements of Anglican liturgy are skilfully adapted to reach the school community. Pupils understand the importance of different elements of worship such as response, reflection, prayer and praise. Teaching in worship develops a secure understanding of 'God's Big Story' through both old and new testament stories. Worship also enables an exploration of the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity helping to promote personal spiritual growth.

The RE curriculum is exceptionally well led and planned, drawing on and adapting the diocesan scheme of work to meet the needs of the school for a two year cycle of teaching. Understanding Christianity is used as a resource to support the teaching of RE and pupils are developing a good understanding of key Christian concepts. A comprehensive assessment system tracks the progress of pupils and is beginning to inform planning. The inspirational RE subject leader provides support and challenge to ensure that effective teaching enables all pupils to flourish both academically and personally.



#### **The effectiveness of RE is Excellent**

A wide range of supportive and challenging activities in RE fully engages all pupils. Teaching in all classes is strong and work produced by the pupils of a very high quality. Work in books and displays around the school celebrate the high standards achieved in RE. A variety of teaching styles enthuses and inspires the pupils to respond creatively in RE lessons. Pupils are encouraged to be reflective and explore 'big questions'. They enjoy their lessons and make excellent progress given their low starting points. Pupils speak confidently about what they have been taught in RE demonstrating a deep knowledge of Christian beliefs and practices. Teaching of other religions is equally vibrant and engaging. Visits and visitors enhance the teaching and help the pupils to relate the teaching of different religions to living in the world today.

Headteacher	Mrs Amanda Clayton
Inspector's name and number	Mrs Tracy Hallows 151