

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

Barton St Lawrence Church of England Primary School	
Address	Jepps Avenue, Barton, Preston, PR3 5AS
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
<p><i>Learning together, rooted in God – Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me, and I in you, you will bear much fruit." John 15v5</i></p> <p>Happy, confident, articulate children with a love of learning and sense of service, who celebrate their own individuality and the individuality of others. They are generous, kind and welcoming; they are forgiving and understand justice. With God by their side, they face the world with resilience, integrity and joy.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school's distinctive Christian vision has a profound, formational and transformational impact on the lives of pupils and adults. All members of the school community are cherished and highly valued. Everyone benefits from plentiful opportunities to excel.</li> <li>Relationships with the wider community, including the church, are exceptionally strong and of mutual benefit. Bold and courageous decision-making has led to the school being a tremendous force for good in the local community and beyond.</li> <li>Collective worship is inspirational and inclusive. It is welcoming, creative, exciting and life instructing. It has a profound impact upon all school community members and is a very powerful outworking of the vision.</li> <li>High-quality religious education (RE) contributes richly to pupils' religious literacy. Pupils engage in balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief. They thoughtfully articulate their convictions and opinions, learning from one another.</li> <li>Pupils thrive within a vibrant curriculum and extracurricular programme. They exercise curiosity, imagination and creativity in ways that contribute significantly to their academic and spiritual development. However, not all pupils clearly understand spirituality.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a clear, shared definition of spirituality, and plan further opportunities for its focused development across the curriculum. This will promote a deeper, richer appreciation of the spiritual dimension of education.</li> </ul>

## Inspection findings

The vision and values of Barton St Lawrence Church of England Primary School shape the whole culture and practice of this exceptionally caring school community. Pupils and adults are able to reach their full potential. The pupils attain high standards academically and demonstrate great care and consideration for one another. Disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils achieve well from their various starting points, as do pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. The vision, and the ways in which it is lived out joyfully, enables all to flourish, regardless of age, ability or starting point. The confidence and self-belief of all, deriving from the vision, inspires pupils and adults. They know it is within their power to play a significant part in changing their community and society for the better. Pupils and adults act on this belief confidently. Consequently, the school has brought about beneficial changes locally and nationally. This is an exemplary Church of England school and a beacon of excellence.

The dynamic and resilient leadership of the headteacher has empowered, nurtured and encouraged leaders at all levels. This has also been a source of inspiration for other schools, both within the diocese and the local school alliance. Senior leaders have played a significant role in supporting trainee teachers and affirming their vocation, in partnership with the alliance and the diocese. The faith, hope, love and resolute commitment of leaders, stemming from the vision, inspires everyone to give of their best. Consequently, the school's vision has had a fruitful, life-changing and life-lasting impact on numerous pupils and adults. Staff have benefitted from high-quality professional development and distributed leadership opportunities. The school is well-placed to press further forward, using its ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure there is continued improvement.

Leaders continually monitor and evaluate the impact of its inclusive and distinctive Christian vision very effectively. This ensures that the vibrant ethos increasingly enhances all aspects of school life. Deep Christian-vision-driven thought and discussion drives the strategic and operational direction of this collaborative and compassionate school. The vision is lived out with integrity, enriching relationships with all partners and stakeholders. Caring for one another with great love is at the heart of the culture of the school. Members of the school community are empathetic and eager to give of their best. Belief in everyone's individuality and God's empowering presence contributes to a confidence that everyone can excel in some unique way.


Staff and governors apply the school's Christian vision insightfully and sensitively. They ensure that all pupils benefit from a wealth of curricular and extracurricular activities, which meet their learning needs. A deep understanding of what it means to develop the whole child has led to a life-enhancing form of character education, reflecting the school's vision. A bold, cohesive, moral, spiritual and creative curriculum brings the best out of pupils. As a result, they are reflective, articulate, considerate and inquisitive, able to act and think wisely. Members of the school community are alert to disadvantage, deprivation and exploitation of the natural world, with a clear sense of moral purpose. Consequently, they are committed to challenging injustice, engaging in social action and being courageous advocates for change locally and nationally. The pupils' brave challenge to a construction company, to avoid damage to the habitat of wildlife, has made a difference locally and nationally. Deep concern for children undergoing chemotherapy and losing hair has led pupils to donate their hair to a wig making charity. Pupils are purchasing a ramp to help disabled people gain access to the local church. An awareness of unfairness and a strong sense of compassion has also prompted school community members to raise substantial sums of money for many worthy causes.

The practice of forgiveness and reconciliation is a normal part of the school's daily life. The vision enables all to live well together and flourish. Pupils and staff are focused on finding solutions, not dwelling on past mistakes, but using them as opportunities for learning. Very high standards of behaviour and attendance are evident throughout the school. Children, parents and staff of all faiths and of none find a real sense of belonging in the school community. It embraces and celebrates cultural differences. All this contributes significantly to good mental health and wellbeing, along with the nurturing of emotional intelligence and compassion.

As a result of the resolute focus on the values underpinning the vision, everyone is welcomed and treated with dignity and respect. Leaders are successful in ensuring that all curriculum areas encourage respect for diversity and different ways of living. Relevant policies are up to date, regularly reviewed and evaluated. The school offers age-appropriate relationships and sex education that reflects the school's Christian vision and supports pupils in forming healthy relationships. School community members value one another as unique and wonderfully made.

Informed and invigorated by the vision, collective worship is the heartbeat of the school. It is creative, engaging and thought provoking. All pupils and adults are encouraged to grow spiritually through opportunities for prayer, stillness, discussion, singing and liturgy. Biblical texts and stories, applied to everyday life, are used to inform moral and spiritual discussion and decision-making. Worship prompts thoughtful and respectful responses from pupils. Reflection areas in classrooms and outside provide much appreciated spaces for peace and contemplation. Prayer is a natural and valued part of the culture of the school. Christian festivals are celebrated in an inclusive way, involving the whole school community and the parish church. Staff and pupils plan and lead worship in the school and the church, to the benefit of both communities. Worship infuses and enriches all aspects of school life, and strengthens its partnerships.

Pupils flourish through the provision of high quality RE reflecting the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. They enjoy RE and the range of creative learning opportunities that it encompasses. Curriculum planning in RE is effective and ambitious, supporting the development of skills of enquiry, critical analysis and interpretation very well. Collaborative learning, rooted in a deep exploration of belief and practice, aids pupils' theological, philosophical and religious knowledge and understanding. Pupils make insightful connections between related theological concepts, which inform their appreciation of Christianity as a living world faith. They are also familiar with a range of major world religions and are able to speak about them knowledgeably. Pupils are religiously literate and appreciative of being able to learn from one another. Visiting places of worship and speaking directly with people from various world religions broadens their religious perspective. Teachers share their excellent practice with other schools locally and regionally, to the benefit of all concerned.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent
	<p>Teaching and learning is predominantly excellent, bringing to life the rich, creative and carefully planned RE curriculum. Pupils respond and participate enthusiastically, progressing very well, across the whole ability range. Rigorous and effective systems enable teachers to know how and what pupils are learning. They address any gaps in pupils' learning, consolidate learning and extend the most able. Challenge and support are tailored to the needs of each individual learner to help them achieve their best.</p>		
<b>Information</b>			
School	Barton St Lawrence Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	16 May 2023
URN	119562	VC/VA/Academy	VA
Diocese/District	Blackburn Diocese	Pupils on roll	192
MAT/Federation	N/A		
Headteacher	Julie Goodwin		
Chair of Governors	Charlotte White		
Inspector	Peter Cantley	No.	C.21/22