Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Green Lane Church of England Primary School

Vision

Loving to Learn: Learning to Love

'Above all, clothe yourselves with love which binds everything together in perfect harmony' Colossians 3:14

Green Lane Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- Leaders have an excellent understanding of the school's context. This results in a clearly understood Christian vision, which is lived out in the daily expériences of pupils and adults. This is enabling them to flourish.
- Inspired by the vision, caring leaders have placed inclusivity at the heart of the school. This is evident through the high levels of care and support provided to pupils, particularly those who are considered vulnerable.
- Driven by the vision and the school's context, the school has crafted an effective religious education (RE) curriculum. It builds on pupils' knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, including diversity within them.
- Strengthened by partnerships with the local church, there is a rich diet of daily collective worship which is enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually.

Development Points

- Extend opportunities across the curriculum for pupils' spiritual development. This is in order to provide a range of opportunities for pupils to flourish spiritually.
- Develop pupils' understanding of justice. This is to enable them to take action and make a difference to the lives of others.

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Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Love and kindness permeate the life of this rural school, wholly reflecting the recently revised Christian vision. Developed collaboratively with pupils, families and staff, the vision reflects the school's changing context. This provides a clear and shared sense of purpose for the whole school community. It is sustained and strengthened by committed leaders who ensure that the vision shapes the direction of the school. This is enriched by the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust. Their vision 'Every child matters and no child is ever left behind' aligns closely with the school's own vision. This partnership helps leaders sustain a highly inclusive environment where pupils and adults are able to flourish. Academy councillors and members of the local church community are highly involved in the school. Through their visible presence and support, they work alongside leaders to foster a cohesive community. The result is that pupils and staff are valued and feel that they belong. Leaders consistently model the school's vision: Loving to Learn: Learning to Love. Positive relationships and character development are intentionally nurtured at Green Lane. This enables pupils to grow in confidence, compassion and understanding of themselves and others.

Vision and Curriculum

Leaders have a deep understanding of the school's context and use this to ensure that provision reflects the needs of their community. Through nurturing relationships and carefully tailored support, pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are valued, supported and able to flourish. Guided by the vision, the school has implemented recent changes in the curriculum offer. There are now increased opportunities for discussion following the introduction of 'I wonder' questions. A growing emphasis on curiosity and reflection is enabling pupils to flourish spiritually. However, these opportunities are in the early stages of development and are not woven consistently through the life of the school. The school's vision has shaped a rich extra-curricular offer for pupils throughout the school. One example is the Go Getters club where pupils can flourish by earning awards for completing challenges. The result of this is increased levels of pupil confidence, resilience and collaboration.

Worship and Spirituality

Daily collective worship is a highly valued part of the day for pupils and staff. It provides a time for the school to come together to reflect and share their thoughts. A range of worship experiences are carefully planned to support the school's vision and provide opportunities for spiritual development. Collective worship is enriched through close partnerships with the local church. Clergy regularly lead worship in school and welcome pupils and adults to special services in the church. These meaningful experiences deepen pupils' understanding of Christian belief and practice. Pupils have a strong understanding of Bible stories. These are deepening their understanding of Jesus' teachings. The involvement of older pupils in collective worship is developing their confidence and ownership. Participation in delivering worship enables pupils to take an active role in shaping this important aspect of school life. Leaders' effective monitoring ensures that provision continues to inspire, engage and nurture spiritual flourishing. Recent improvements have included the introduction of a current affairs and discussion-based worship. This enables pupils to reflect on current issues in the world around them.

Vision and School Culture

Leaders care deeply for their pupils and staff. The school's Christian vision is evident in the warm and compassionate relationships that pupils have with adults and with each other. The result is that pupils and adults feel known, valued and cared for. Inclusivity is at the heart of this school and staff work hard to ensure that opportunities to learn and love are accessible to everyone. Adults use a restorative approach consistently to support pupils to repair relationships when things go wrong. This fosters a culture of honesty and forgiveness. Through partnerships with the diocese and trust, staff benefit from frequent and relevant training. This not only supports them in their professional development, but allows a sense of 'belonging to something bigger' in their work as a Church school. A commitment to good mental health provides effective support for the wellbeing of pupils and adults, enabling them to flourish.

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Vision, Justice and Responsibility Pupils demonstrate respectful relationships and understand the importance of treating everyone fairly. This is reinforced through the school's vision and focused work around the core Christian values. Pupils aspire to roles such as buddies and being on the Caring Council. These pupils are seen as the spiritual and moral leaders within school. They work closely with staff to improve understanding of the school's vision and values. This helps pupils to make a positive difference to the lives of others in school. The vision is guiding pupils to consider how they can contribute to their community. This is reflected in their fundraising support for cancer care and veterans. Pupils share their ideas through the Caring Council on how their sense of responsibility can benefit others. One example of this was when a pupil recognised a need for additional support within the local community during the Christmas period. This led to a whole school project with pupils making gifts to sell for small donations at the Christmas fayre. However, opportunities for pupils to initiate and lead action that challenges injustice are limited. As a result, their understanding of how they can bring about positive change in response to issues of inequality and unfairness is less developed.
Religious Education RE is a clear expression of the school's vision. The subject benefits from passionate leaders supported by effective collaboration with the diocese and trust. RE is a high priority at Green Lane and is subject to regular and rigorous monitoring. Recent changes as a result of this monitoring have led to the creation of an ambitious and relevant curriculum. Through training, staff have been supported to plan and adapt learning to make it accessible for learners. The well-sequenced curriculum encourages curiosity and discussion, enabling pupils to reflect deeply on their own views. Pupils visit places of worship and engage with visitors from different faiths and worldviews. These experiences deepen their understanding of how beliefs shape people's daily lives. Pupils talk confidently about the importance of RE and how it helps them explore faith, beliefs and different ways of understanding the world. Their enthusiasm is nurturing increasing confidence to engage with a range of ways of knowing. This is enabling a deeper understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, including diversity within them.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Green Lane, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8LG		
Date	05 October 2026	URN	149902
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	187
Diocese	Durham		
MAT	Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust		
MAT Chair	John Taylor		
Headteacher	Rob Goffee		
Chair of Academy Council	Alec Harding		
Inspector	Caroline Loring		

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