

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Newton Bluecoat Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	School Lane, Newton, Kirkham, PR4 3RT
School vision	
<p>Through our authentic Christian character, our vision at Newton Bluecoat CE Primary School is to ensure that every pupil and member of our whole school family knows that God loves them and fills them with his Holy Spirit to be able to shine and make a positive difference to themselves and to the world – ‘Shine from the inside out’.</p> <p>Jesus taught us that: “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5: 14-16</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision is clearly understood by the school and its community. Underpinned by the teachings of Jesus, it guides leaders, including governors, with their actions. This creates a culture of nurture, self-belief and high aspirations. • Inspired by the Christian vision, relationships within the school are valued. The wellbeing of everyone is important and there is an overwhelming sense of Christian love. • Leaders have ensured that the curriculum is carefully planned. With the vision as its focus, it provides a wide range of opportunities for pupils to fulfil their potential. • Collective worship is at the heart of the school. Through this, pupils and adults are able to develop their personal spirituality. It enables them to ‘shine from the inside out’. • Effective leadership in religious education (RE) has established a well-sequenced and balanced curriculum. As a result, pupils are enthusiastic learners who confidently ask questions and share their ideas across the subject. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the recent work on a shared understanding of spiritual development. This is so enriching moments can deepen the spiritual growth of adults and pupils. • Increase pupils’ opportunities to be agents of change beyond the local community. This is so they are aware that they can make a difference both locally and globally. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Newton Bluecoat school’s Christian vision plays a crucial role in enabling both pupils and adults to flourish. ‘Shine from the inside out,’ serves as the cornerstone for fostering a nurturing and inclusive community. Leaders developed this collaboratively with input from pupils, parents, governors and local clergy. Created from the words of Jesus, from Matthew 5: 14-16, the vision is rooted in the</p>	

belief that everyone is loved by God. Central to this is the development of pupils' spiritual and academic growth. Governors play a crucial role in upholding the school's vision and supporting its implementation. There are regular meetings and collaboration between governors, staff and pupils. This ensures the vision's alignment with the school's improvement plans and maintains accurate accountability. The school's Christian vision underpins policies and practices. This ensures that Christian values are lived out and celebrated across all areas of school life. A key part of this includes rewarding pupils who exemplify the values through awards and acknowledgments.

The curriculum reflects the Christian vision by emphasising key skills and fostering curiosity and open-mindedness among pupils. Leaders ensure that learning is tailored to meet the needs of each pupil. The school's commitment to spiritual development is evident throughout the curriculum. Enquiry-based learning, and ongoing reflection are integrated into each topic. Opportunities for prayer and reflection are part of the daily activities. Spaces inside the school and out on the playground are used to encourage pupils to explore their inner strengths and beliefs. However, currently there is no common language for pupils to use when discussing spirituality. This limits their ability to develop their own understanding. The school's wide variety of extra-curricular clubs further enhances the curriculum. These provide additional opportunities for pupils to be successful. Appropriate support is offered to enable all to have access to these clubs. This further promotes inclusivity and equal opportunities. Recent success at a regional dance competition reflects the school's focus on working together to achieve their key goals. Parents comment on the calm but focused approach the school has. New families to the school find it easy to create new friends and to settle into school. The school values the importance of parental support in achieving success. Actively involving them ensures a collaborative approach to instilling values of justice and responsibility in pupils. As a result, leaders have a community that works together to support pupils to 'shine from the inside out'.

Inspired by the Christian vision, collective worship plays a central role in the life of the school. Daily acts of worship provide opportunities for reflection, connection, and spiritual growth. These enable both pupils and adults to develop spiritually within the school community. Pupils volunteer to take active roles in worship, including membership in the worship team. This promotes a sense of ownership and inclusion. Leaders use an effective four-part format for worship. This framework for collective worship enables spiritual development and meaningful participation for both pupils and adults. Carefully chosen music to reflect worship themes enhances engagement and emotional connection. Regular evaluation of worship helps leaders ensure pupils are inspired. Initiatives, such as the 'teaspoon' approach to prayer and reflections across the day, offer both spontaneous and structured prayer opportunities. The incorporation of actions, including the Lord's prayer, deepen understanding and engagement. The school has good links with the local church. Regular visits from clergy enrich collective worship experiences, providing additional support and spiritual guidance. External resources focusing on world news, give pupils access to current events, promoting discussion and reflection.

The school's Christian vision fosters a culture where both pupils and adults are treated well through a commitment to equality and inclusion. Leaders ensure pupils and families have access to the necessary support from the moment they enter nursery. Through collaboration with various agencies, the school is an open-hearted environment where every pupil can 'shine from the inside out'. Staff model positive behaviours and promote inclusivity. This develops respect and acceptance across the whole school. Individual strengths are celebrated through weekly awards, fostering a sense of belonging and recognition among pupils. Social interactions across various activities and events further promote a sense of community. Staff wellbeing is prioritised by leaders with staff receiving support on a regular basis. Focused professional development also foster a nurturing environment where staff feel valued and supported in their roles.

Through the Christian vision, leaders actively promote fairness and responsibility with pupils. Specialist resources are used to inspire pupils to make a positive impact on the world around them. Recent discussions around recycling led to them advocating for better recycling practices within the school. Through studying the lives of historical individuals, pupils learn the importance of standing up for what they believe in. The charity committee, led by pupils, organises events such as, 'Wear it Pink' day and fundraisers for Christian Aid. The school council promote healthy eating. These demonstrate how pupils actively engage in improving their school community. However, pupils are not aware of how they could be an agent of change in the wider world.

Leaders have a strong commitment to RE and value the importance of the subject within the school. The curriculum is enquiry-based and covers a range of world religions including Christianity. This encourages an investigative approach, allowing pupils to explore worldviews and religions. By engaging with questions about faith, relationships, and the world, they develop a deeper understanding of themselves and others. Creative teaching enables pupils to access the RE curriculum. Leaders attend regular training provided by diocese. This enables them to stay updated on the latest developments and ensure they maintain the effectiveness of the RE curriculum. As a result, pupils look forward to their lessons.

Staff use the end of unit assessments and key questions to assess progress. They also use pupil friendly statements to review achievement levels. Individual and class books reflect the opportunities pupils have to develop their knowledge of world religions and worldviews. Leaders evaluate the impact of RE and provide feedback, validating the continuous improvement in teaching quality. As a result, RE teaching ensures that over time pupils make expected progress.

The inspection findings indicate that Newton Bluecoat Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	7 February 2024	URN	119805
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	187
Diocese	Blackburn		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Elizabeth Robinson		
Chair	Tim Walker		
Inspector	Rob Dean	No.	2129