

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Oxenhope Church of England Primary School	
Address	Cross Lane, Oxenhope, BD22 9LH
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>We provide the rich soil which allows the children to flourish and develop deep roots. We nurture growth, enabling children to thrive as our Christian values blossom in their lives. We cultivate a sense of pride in our rural community where children are loved and valued.</p> <p>'May our children flourish in their youth like well-nurtured plants.' Psalm 144:12</p> <p>'Community, Love, Growth'</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transformational Christian vision is the embodiment of all that the school does. The school's dynamic leadership ensures that it is a beacon of hope to all. Consequently, all feel safe, valued and enabled to grow to their full potential. Spirituality is exceptionally well developed. All embrace meaningful opportunities to grow due to a rich culture of deep reflection. The vision underpins a bold and empowering curriculum. This builds resilience and equips pupils to flourish and become agents of change in their community and beyond. Collective worship is highly valued and has an exceptional impact on the lives of children and adults. They are inspired and enriched by this daily experience. This brings about positive change in their own lives and those of others. Religious education (RE) is inspirational. Strong curriculum planning seamlessly incorporates the vision. Pupils are able to explore beliefs with confidence and security resulting in superb progress.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further develop the school's inspirational collective worship beyond the school. This will enhance the deep and transformational links between the school and the wider community. Extend the excellent provision of the Nest, which provides pastoral support to individuals and families. This will further promote the impact of the vision.

Inspection findings

The Christian vision weaves seamlessly through all areas at Oxenhope school. Consequently, it has a powerful impact in the daily lives of everyone. The three golden threads of love, community and growth stem from a profound understanding of the example of Jesus. Leaders confidently articulate the message to grow as individuals, to love unconditionally and to bear the burdens of others. In addition, the vision inspires courageous decisions that empower adults and children to bring about meaningful change. Governors formally review decisions made in meetings against the words of the vision. They are resolute that all outcomes should directly mirror the vision and the biblical teaching that underpins it. Thorough evaluation and challenge by leaders ensure that the school's Christian distinctiveness continually meets the needs of the community. Leaders work closely with the Diocese of Leeds to access training and support. Likewise, a strong and mutually beneficial relationship is promoted with the Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust (BDAT). This includes the RE lead providing training for other schools in Trust. In addition, staff are effusive in their appreciation of training and pastoral support that they receive from BDAT. Consequently, both staff and governors have an excellent understanding of Church school education and implement new developments in a timely manner.

The curriculum has been designed with exceptional care and is vision driven. Each curriculum area cohesively articulates how the subject enables all to flourish. Personalised learning for the vulnerable and those pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is excellent. This is evident in detailed planning to meet individual needs and outstanding communication with parents to promote learning beyond school.


Spiritual development is at the heart of a curriculum that is bold, courageous and transformative. Adults and pupils demonstrate an exemplary understanding and appreciation of its importance and value. Its definition, which includes to 'go beyond the ordinary, sparking enquiry and compassion', is evident in all areas. Occasions to visit the local hospice to sing to patients, provide opportunities to consider the impact of death in lessons. This creates powerful space to discuss personal beliefs and views of how death is interpreted by different faiths. Within a safe environment, pupils are able to reflect, to contemplate life's inherent meaning and to explore compassion. The nature area provides a quiet space where the beauty of the world can be appreciated. Likewise, art lessons enable pupils to look beyond the obvious, to explore self-expression and appreciate beauty. Consequently, the impact of spiritual growth is tangible and transformative amongst adults and pupils.

Invitational and inclusive worship is joyful and a rich blessing to the entire school community. It is the cornerstone of daily life. Leaders have created a school song to reflect their vision. This provides a powerful and constant reminder of their central purpose. Collective worship is cherished as a special time that binds the whole school community together. Pupils and adults explain the profound effect that worship has as a time of renewal, reflection and refreshment. The act of placing a bird in the nest during worship has significant meaning. It is a highly effective reminder that their community is a place where they are safe and nourished. Pupil worship leaders are passionate in the planning and evaluation of worship. They provide precious and inspirational opportunities for the whole community to be empowered. Pupils and adults describe the compulsion to take what they learn and experience in worship into daily life to promote positive change. Authentic engagement with the local Anglican, Methodist and Baptist communities expands the richness of worship and appreciation of Christian traditions. The use of images and prayers supports pupils' strong understanding of the Christian belief of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pupils confidently articulate this understanding in their own words.

Outstanding leadership in RE ensures that there is excellent provision that fully expresses the Christian vision. The expertise of the RE lead impacts beyond the school via work with BDAT and other organisations. Pupils are effusive in their appreciation of the way in which RE enables them to flourish. They thrive as a result of opportunities which challenge and inspire them. They are incredibly proud of their work and speak with authority about Christianity and world faiths. A rich engagement with biblical texts and exploration of several religions ensures that pupils have exceptional theological literacy. They appropriately and effortlessly use terms such as Pentecost, penance and salvation in their discussions. Rigorous monitoring systems and regular assessment enable teachers to have a thorough knowledge of pupil progress.

Social action projects are pupil inspired and led with great purpose and enthusiasm. Involvement in the community café and the decision to ban palm oil products being representative of their many initiatives. Resilience and character development empower adults and pupils to bring about transformative change. There is an uncompromising culture to ensure that others, both locally and nationally, thrive as they do. When considering how to help the people of Ukraine, pupils also considered ways to support Russians affected by the hostilities. Consequently, pupils have a deep understanding that God's love transcends national boundaries and envelops everyone.

A culture of exceptional care, nurture and compassion is prevalent throughout the school. All are valued, loved and respected no matter their background. Leaders recognise that promoting good mental health is central to decision making. Staff are trained as mental health first aiders. As a result, adults and pupils receive highly effective support and seek help when needed. Teachers are positively encouraged to develop areas of expertise, and professional development is given high priority. The Nest is a haven where all are supported. This pastoral provision within the school, managed by highly experienced staff, is integral to the school's vision. It ensures that practical and emotional needs are addressed so that all are able to flourish exceptionally well. Parents are effusive in their praise for the help they have received here in times of need. The 'Magic Mondays' provision is proactive in ensuring that the school week starts well and issues are addressed. Adults and pupils feel deeply cared for and valued as the unique individuals that they are. They skilfully articulate how biblical stories and the teachings of Jesus underpin their service to others. They speak of the school's relentless determination to live out its vision to create a community of love and growth. Behaviour is excellent. Where there are issues, they are dealt with highly effectively. A sense of acceptance and forgiveness alongside restorative justice enriches relationships. At its heart, Oxenhope school is an exceptionally nurturing community where all are enabled to grow as a unique and precious child of God.

	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	The meticulously planned and highly ambitious RE curriculum provides significant depth and challenge. Pupils enthusiastically and inquisitively engage with demanding questions in a highly sensitive and respectful manner. They recall prior learning with ease and demonstrate deep understanding. SEND pupils have carefully planned opportunities and excellent support to access the curriculum. The commitment to professional development and high-quality teaching, together with a robust system of monitoring is exemplary. This ensures that pupils make excellent progress.			
Information				
School	Oxenhope Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	6 July 2023	
URN	142946	VC/VA/Academy	Academy	
Diocese/District	Leeds	Pupils on roll	201	
MAT/Federation	Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust			
Headteacher	Alice Jones			
Chair of Governors	Kevin Campbell-Wright			
Inspector	Joanna Brookes	No.	2110	