

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Saxton Church of England Primary School	
Address	Dam Lane, Saxton, LS24 9QF
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	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good

School's vision
<p>Good people, doing well (Titus 3:14)</p> <p>Everyone who spends time learning and growing at Saxton, becomes a successful individual with the courage, compassion and creativity to make a difference in the future. We are respectful of God's world, working together to create a loving and caring community.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genuine care and kindness permeate the actions of all members of the school community and the Christian vision is central to the life of the school. The vision is embedded, however the impact of this is not sufficiently monitored by governors. • The passionately committed headteacher and other leaders are aspirational and determined. They ensure that the vision encourages the whole community to be 'good people, doing well'. • The school is working hard to empower pupils through the development of an increasingly rich curriculum. Opportunities for spiritual development in the wider curriculum are not yet fully developed. • Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational and is enjoyed by pupils and staff. Opportunities for pupils to plan, lead and evaluate times of worship are continually developing. • Religious education (RE) has recently been re-energised in school. It is now valued by pupils and staff and it impacts positively on relationships throughout the school, especially in Key Stage 2.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the monitoring and evaluation of the Christian vision regularly informs decisions and empowers leaders and governors to measure its impact. • Continue to develop and prioritise leadership and provision in RE and to ensure that it is consistently planned, taught and monitored across the school. • Establish a shared school understanding of spirituality so that so that there is a coherent approach that is understood by all.



Inspection findings

Saxton is a happy, nurturing school, proudly committed to its local area. The vision is lived out and understood by all and is underpinned by the well-chosen values of courage, compassion, creativity, respect and community. As a result, there is a renewed determination and desire for all adults and pupils to flourish as individuals. The shared understanding and belief in 'good people, doing well' is evident in actions and aspirations.

Positive relationships form the beating heart of the school. Staff support each other in ways which promote their wellbeing and recognise the importance of continuing professional development. Everyone, regardless of role, is valued with equal respect and kindness. Staff and parents refer to school as 'an instinctively nurturing family'. The passion and determination of the headteacher is recognised by all. They are an inspirational role model whose care inspires a culture of inclusion and compassion. Governors and trustees care deeply and are committed to working in partnership with the headteacher and staff to do the best for all pupils in the school. However, they do not consistently ensure that monitoring measures the impact of the school's vision upon the flourishing of pupils and adults. Leaders are outward facing and strong partnerships, including those with the multi-academy trust and Diocese, reflect the drive for ongoing development and improvement.

Guided by the vision and supported by leaders across the federation, the school promotes a reinvigorated sense of respect, empathy and determination in staff and pupils. This is enhanced by a shared understanding of the school's local context and recent history. Behaviour is good and both adults and pupils can clearly articulate the ways that school promotes kindness, safety and respect. The impact of the vision is clearly seen through the work of the special education needs coordinator, who provides support to all staff to ensure that everyone, regardless of their background or ability, can flourish and make progress. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about Saxton and talk openly about the ways that they are supported and warmly welcomed into school.

Leaders are committed to the development of a balanced curriculum which prepares pupils for life in an ever-changing world. Pupils talk enthusiastically about the ways in which their learning is enhanced. They can clearly articulate their knowledge about key historical figures and current events such as the war in Ukraine. Representation and the celebration of diversity in the curriculum is developing. Increasingly, subjects are planned and sequenced with the aim of ensuring that all pupils have every chance of success. Teachers are encouraged to collaborate across the federation to plan and learn from each other. Whilst there are purposefully developed reflection spaces around school, there are insufficient opportunities for spiritual development.

Pupils are passionate about their school. They enthusiastically engage in work to raise awareness of the need to care for God's world through the actions of the 'eco-warrior' group, and they have an increasing understanding of the difference their actions can make. The compassion element of the vision is encapsulated in the way that new pupils are welcomed into school by their peers and pupils talk openly of a 'unique culture of acceptance'. Key policies, such as behaviour, are guided by Christian values and as a result, everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Collective worship is highly inclusive and provides a place for all to consider their lives and others. Shared routines ensure that this a valued time for staff and pupils to stop and reflect. Pupils enjoy the opportunity to regularly plan and lead worship, which often takes place in the neighbouring church. Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship at all levels is still not fully developed. This means that opportunities to ensure that experiences are truly



inspirational are missed.

RE has been reprioritised and it now makes a positive contribution to the curriculum. The subject leader is committed to the development of RE as a core academic subject and they provide support and training to other members of staff and talk passionately about the renewed culture of expectations. Through the curriculum, pupils are given the opportunity to express their own views, have open discussions and make suggestions. Whilst work is required to enhance the experience and knowledge of younger pupils, they enjoy lessons and talk enthusiastically about their learning. They encounter a wide range of different world religions and can talk with confidence about key theological concepts.

Saxton is a rapidly improving school where every pupil is known and cherished. The school vision of is at the heart of decisions made by school leaders and guides all aspects of school life.

Information			
School	Saxton Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	21 November 2022
URN	145846	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	York	Pupils on roll	58
MAT/Federation	The STAR Multi Academy Trust		
Executive Headteacher	Rick Weights		
Chair of Governors	Tracy Pickles		
Inspector	Lee Talbot	No.	2123