

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Eggescliffe Church of England Primary School

Address	15 Butts Lane, Stockton on Tees, TS16 9BT		
Date of inspection	7 March 2019	Status of school	Voluntary controlled within the Durham Diocesan Multi Academy Trust
Diocese	Durham	URN	144936

Overall Judgement	Grade	Excellent
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?		
Additional Judgement		
The impact of collective worship	Grade	Excellent

School context

Eggescliffe is a primary school with 174 pupils on roll. The majority are of white British heritage with a wide diversity of other ethnic groups. Very few speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below national averages. In November 2017, the school converted to be part of the newly formed Durham Diocesan Multi Academy Trust.

The school's Christian vision

'Let your light shine' based on Matthew 5:16.

We are a happy, caring, inclusive school, built on deeply Christian values, where children and adults are nurtured and flourish. We serve a diverse community of different beliefs and backgrounds. We are driven by hope and aspiration for all to succeed.

Key findings

- The school vision, drawn clearly from theological understanding, is ideally suited to the context of the school. It is enthusiastically articulated by all. It has extremely positive impact on attitudes and achievements in the school community.
- Pupils show immense pride in their school and their achievements. Older pupils are the catalyst for this due to their inspirational leadership qualities.
- Strong bonds formed with the church have substantial mutual benefit. A range of services and clubs shape pupils' positive attitudes to church and encourage many to grow in their personal spirituality.
- Many opportunities exist for pupils to think, explore, question and reflect. This creates pupils who have a strong moral direction and are keen to act for the good of others.
- Leaders at all levels clearly understand the purpose and impact of their Church school. Each and every decision is underpinned by a firm Christian belief that all can flourish in this positive environment.

Areas for development

- Extend pupils' knowledge of diversity within Christianity so that they can fully appreciate the world-wide multi-cultural nature of the Christian faith.
- Offer further support and training to staff to embed the new religious education (RE) curriculum.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

Eggescliffe's biblical vision to 'Let your light shine' perfectly suits a context where talents are celebrated and difference embraced. Managers describe a Christian vision which 'is universally valued and understandable to all ages, whatever their religion'. Leaders strive to bring varied experiences and are determined to develop each individual's God given talents. The deeply embedded 'SPARKLE' statement makes explicit, the universally articulated attributes of 'smart, polite and positive, approachable, responsible, kind, listening and learning, eager, enthusiastic and exciting', that allow all to shine. Pupils of all ages are immensely proud to show positive actions, in the light of biblical teaching and examples. Older pupils described vision and values which 'boost our self-confidence. We don't show off – we try to do our best'.

Knowledgeable and hardworking academy councillors, supported by the Durham Diocesan Multi-academy trust (MAT), effectively allow all to flourish. Current Church of England school guidance shapes the vision, which permeates all school development. The experienced and deeply Christian headteacher astutely uses the leadership skills of pupils to shape their experiences and future aspirations. Pupil leadership is all-encompassing and has dramatic benefits to the relationships and life choices of all children. The vision supports staff and pupils, who yearn for excellence, to develop intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and socially.

A wide and varied curriculum is shaped to allow pupils to shine. As a result, attainment and recent progress is significantly above national average. Leaders manage staff and resources effectively to ensure continued improvement, allowing staff to develop as educators and leaders. Well-planned and creatively led worship promotes values, linked to current affairs and the daily life of the school. The regular and impressive opportunities for pupils to design and lead worship are yet another way in which pupils, who model and articulate Christian values, can shine. Pupils see the impact of worship in their positive relationships. Exceptionally caring staff work hard to ensure each pupil is nurtured and supported to achieve.

Around school, creative art promotes the vision and values. This creates a vibrant but peaceful environment, giving pupils continued points of reference to be the best they can be. Pupils enthusiastically share their enjoyment of the range of skills they are supported to develop. They are challenged by mastery style learning and strive to meet high expectations. Disadvantaged pupils achieve in line with and often better than other pupil groups. Pupils are clearly living life in all its fullness. They readily acknowledge the talents of others and celebrate their differences. Opportunities support spiritual growth; pupils are enthused by the chance to think and reflect. Frequently changing prayer stations, reflection areas and daily thought zones, sensitively led by Y6 ethos leaders, encourage pupils to celebrate, share, think and grow. Younger pupils benefit from strong relationships with the oldest pupils.

Children are inspired to make a difference and on-going charitable action is impressive. Work with the Archbishop's Trust and the 'Is plastic fantastic?' project allows pupils to be creative and courageous to deliver change. Every age of child is able to tackle global issues in their own, effective way. They know their individual actions impact positively on others and that their small local actions support wider world stewardship of the planet.

Impressive links with the local Church are a part of the fabric of the school. The positivity that pupils and parents share for the many services, clubs and prayer spaces is resounding. The committed work of the vicar and the school based 'Youth for Christ' worker develop bonds with staff, pupils and families, which draw the church and school community closer together. Pupils participate keenly in an exciting range of activities across the church calendar. They 'feel comfortable in the church; it's their church!'. High proportions choose to participate in further church-based opportunities outside of school time. This has significant impact on their attitudes to Christianity.

Behaviour in school is excellent. Pupils treat each other with respect; even younger pupils use the language of forgiveness and friendship. Older pupils see supporting pupils to resolve conflict as vital to the harmony of the school environment. A group of year six leaders explained that, 'We help them to talk about what went wrong. It's important that they say sorry and can forgive each other'. High standards and positive role models mean that pupils aspire to behave well. The school works closely with families who are in crisis. Action has been taken to support mental health, bereavement and attendance in ways that reflect the school vision. Pupils receiving

counselling are nurtured to make effective progress, both academically and socially. Innovative procedures to start the school day have supported improvement in attendance and particularly lateness.

In a community with a mixture of different faiths and ethnicity, pupils are very clear that they are all one family. 'Treat others as you would like to be treated' is prominent in school and pupils regularly acknowledge the importance of this message. RE plays a significant role in ensuring that all people are treated as equal. Work with the Red Cross to support the refugee crisis has also brought action and understanding to topics of diversity and difference.

Effectively planned worship is focused on the Bible and the life and teachings of Jesus. Inspirational pupil leadership opportunities support worship which is lively and engaging. It inspires pupils to show positive attitudes in and out of school. Parents are clear that messages from the Bible influence their children's positive attitudes. They enjoy Friday worship and church services, attending in large numbers. 'SPARKLE' awards motivate the community to 'shine', referencing the many positive values. Much work on God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and access to regular Eucharist, allow pupils to speak with a maturity beyond their age about these complex Christian beliefs.

RE is given significant importance in school. Recent, diocese-supported review of the curriculum allows context specific learning. Adapted from several schemes, it ensures that pupils gain strong knowledge of the main world faiths, understanding the beliefs of others. The curriculum also contains strong biblical content, using the 'Understanding Christianity' resource to support high-level challenge. Creative opportunities are planned for, particularly through art and drama. RE is celebrated, via the 'Spirited Art' project, which has a strong impact on the presentation and joyous atmosphere of the school. Leaders, including councillors, know and understand the importance of the subject. Regular scrutiny and learning walks ensure awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the subject. Staff are supported by a range of internal and diocesan training. In all that they do, each individual at Eggescliffe has the utmost opportunity to 'SPARKLE and shine'.

Headteacher	Mary Cook
Inspector's name and number	Alan Baker 903