



## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Stanhope Barrington Church of England Primary School	
Address	Westcroft, Stanhope, Bishop Auckland, DL13 2NU
School vision	
A place where our children, adults and community can grow and thrive rooted in Kindness, Fellowship and Confidence.	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspiring leadership by staff and academy councillors ensures that the Christian vision is breathed and lived by the Stanhope Barrington community. Pupils flourish because of the support of the conscientious and warm-hearted staff team.</li> <li>• Pupils are at the centre of the distinctive Christian vision. Stanhope Barrington is an inclusive environment where all pupils are unique and valued. This is because adults exceed expectations to meet the varying needs of pupils. The curriculum is meaningful and challenging. As a consequence, pupils grow and flourish in harmony with the Christian vision.</li> <li>• The school's Christian vision creates a culture where all members of the school community live together in unity and are treated well. Staff model the vision and maintain high aspirations. This causes positive behaviour and excellent manners between pupils.</li> <li>• Collective worship is the beating heart of the school and is a cherished time to reflect on the vision. Worship is inspiring and creates memorable experiences. Pupils remember biblical stories as they are interactive.</li> <li>• Religious education (RE) is very well led and the subject follows a sequenced and planned curriculum. Pupils appreciate the freedom to express their own views within lessons. The RE curriculum is rich and pupils understand the importance of RE.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection across the curriculum allowing all pupils and adults to grow spiritually.</li> <li>• Create first hand experiences for pupils to encounter people from a range of religions and worldviews beyond Christianity within RE. This is so that pupils develop a deeper understanding of a range of different religions.</li> <li>• Develop opportunities for pupils to plan, lead and evaluate collective worship in order to have a greater impact on the spiritual development of pupils.</li> </ul>	

## Inspection findings

The school's Christian vision is grounded in the example of Jesus. It encourages the community to follow the standard of Jesus. Biblical verses encompass the values of kindness, fellowship and confidence. This is firmly ingrained within policies and planning. This means that all staff work collaboratively as a team with a communal direction. The school's Christian vision coincides with that of the multi-academy trust (MAT). The MAT ensures that the individuality and uniqueness of the school has been maintained. As a consequence, the school has the freedom to mould the vision and cater for the needs of the school community. The strong partnership with the MAT provides challenge and offers personal care to the school. Staff benefit from professional development through networking with other schools.

The strong leadership team, including academy councillors, and colleagues from the MAT closely monitors and evaluates the impact of the vision. This has developed a robust and rigorous self-evaluation which drives improvements. Staff provide a nurturing environment. This has created kind and caring pupils who flourish.

Staff are committed towards all pupils and are eager for them to shine. Former pupils visit a weekly after school club in order to reconnect to the school. This means that children can still maintain a relationship with the school and trusted adults. This is until similar relationships are formed within secondary school. This illustrates the distinctiveness of Stanhope Barrington as the vision continues beyond the premises.

Guided by the vision, pupils are allocated to specific learning zones. This ensures that pupils receive a personalised curriculum. Leaders strive for creativity and the school uses the beautiful rural local area to enhance the curriculum. This has created an exhilarating learning environment full of meaningful experiences. The vision empowers staff to be innovative within planning. This has allowed teachers to provide purposeful lessons which enable pupils to grow and develop. Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) prosper as steered by the vision. Provision for pupils is fully inclusive in all aspects of school life including residential visits. School support plans and personalised learning sustain pupils with SEND. This has ensured that all pupils are flourishing and making progress academically and holistically due to the community of relationships.

The vision has enhanced experiences outside of the classroom as extra-curricular provision is in abundance. As a result, pupils can experience a variety of interests and develop their confidence. Parents value extra-curricular activities. This is due to the emotional flourishing and happiness demonstrated. Spirituality training launched within the school has increased staff understanding of spiritual development. As a consequence, a spirituality book has been created to record special moments. Pupils are given opportunities to think about themselves, others and to consider the world beyond using the 'in, out and up' model. However, curriculum plans do not currently identify opportunities for spiritual development.

Collective worship is a central aspect of school life. It is rooted in the Christian vision. Worship is a treasured time for staff and pupils to join as a community to explore the vision. Pupils enjoy 'Open the Book' as it helps them to learn and remember biblical stories. They talk about the exploration of values and how worship helps them to understand the relevance of these values within their own lives. The school maintains a strong connection with the local clergy who support collective worship. As a result, relevant stories are chosen in worship to complement the vision. Worship inspires pupils as they are engaged, participate thoughtfully and reflect on the vision. Adults, including parents speak about worship impacting on the pupils.

Inspired by the Christian vision, worship creates meaningful experiences and children speak about worship at home. Pupils talk about the use of the school hens that were used in worship to express the importance of care. The RE and collective worship team (CREW) are already participating in worship by

reading and acting. They seek further opportunities to play a wider role. Staff plan, lead and monitor the impact of collective worship. However, systems are not currently in place for pupils to participate in this aspect.

The culture within Stanhope Barrington is remarkable. All pupils are valued as unique children of God. The vision has helped pupils to treat one another with respect and resolve issues with restorative justice. The Barrington Buddies and Happiness Heroes provide peer support and wellbeing amongst the pupils. This has ensured that pupils with worries have a point of contact. Mental health is a key strength of the school as Thrive Practitioners and Wellbeing Ambassadors play an active role. This has allowed the school community, including adults, to feel safe and emotionally supported. Pupils treat one another with kindness as expressed in the vision. Pupils talk about different ways to show kindness. Writing their responses on leaves on the 'tree of kindness' helps them to reflect more deeply.

Character development lessons enable pupils to speak out against injustice in line with the vision. Pupils understand the importance of standing up for those experiencing unfair treatment in the world. The value of kindness has inspired various community projects such as the charity Feeding Families, the West End Refugee Service and the local nursing home. The Community Champions pupil group appreciates the importance of different fund raising events such as the lambing auction, coffee mornings and the messages of hope that were sent to the people of Ukraine. However, adults take the lead in choosing charities to support. Pupils do not currently independently make ethical choices and act for justice with global partnerships.

The RE curriculum expresses the Christian vision of the school. The well-sequenced curriculum within Christianity is based on the 'Understanding Christianity' resource. Teachers of RE have accessed the diocesan training. The training has enhanced professional development and subject knowledge. This means that the curriculum is effective as staff knowledge and skills are current. Pupils are challenged within RE and study digging deeper units in addition to core learning. They interpret the meaning of biblical texts to understand the significance of the texts and their impact. Pupils talk about their enjoyment of discussion and state that RE helps them to respect others in the community. Pupils learn about major faiths and worldviews alongside Christianity. Occasions for visits to places of worship and guest speakers from a range of faiths are less frequent.

Stanhope Barrington is a school where every pupil has a place. The holistic development of individual pupils is at the core of the Christian vision. The shared Christian vision means that children leave the school as kind individuals, are community minded and have the confidence to thrive in the wider world.

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

Information			
Inspection date	28 September 2023	URN	147814
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	141
Diocese	Durham		
MAT/Federation	Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust		
Headteacher	Deb Cross		
Chair	Sarah Haynes		
Inspector	Lindsay Henderson	No.	2229