

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Melsonby Methodist Primary School	
Address	West Road, Melsonby, DL10 5ND
School vision	
'Live life in all its Fullness'	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strong Christian vision permeates all aspects of school life. It is the driving force of the school and unites everyone in a common purpose. As a result, pupils and staff are living life in all its fullness. • Relationships rooted in the love of Christ are at the heart of this school. Strong, mutually beneficial partnerships are enabling pupils and adults to live well together. • Leaders, inspired by the school's Christian vision, have created an ambitious curriculum that challenges, engages and excites pupils. • Collective worship is a special and joyful occasion that brings the school community together. The carefully planned acts of worship ensure pupils feel welcome and included. • Strategic and compassionate leadership ensures that each individual's well-being needs can be met. Consequently, an extremely caring culture has been created where pupils and adults are able to thrive. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower adults in their recognition of, and response to, opportunities for spiritual development within the curriculum. This is so pupils are enabled in their spirituality. • Encourage pupils in their understanding of how to be independent agents of change beyond their immediate school community. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>This small village school has a strong Christian vision. It is enabling the pupils and adults to live life in all its fullness. The carefully considered vision is a golden thread that runs through all aspects of school life. Leaders ensure that the words from John Wesley help their reflections on how this vision is lived out in school. For example, they do all the good they can, in all the ways they can, as they learn and grow together. A powerful outworking of the school vision is seen within the mutually beneficial partnerships that have been developed by leaders. The federation with North and South Cowton is a shining beacon of the Methodist principle of watching over one another with love. Strategic decisions by leaders allow staff to access rich and varied opportunities for professional development. As a result, staff are equipped to meet the aims of the school vision. The weekly 'federation day' provides opportunities for pupils from both schools to work, play and grow together. This was captured beautifully on opposing sides of the football pitch. Pupils challenged and encouraged each other with love and compassion. During an act of collective worship they lifted their voices together in praise as they sang 'Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with</p>	

you'. The federation's vision 'Aspire, Inspire, Enquire' sits gently alongside the school's Christian vision. Both working seamlessly with one another to enable life in all its fullness. This inspiring collaboration is testament to the commitment and dedication of leaders as they strive to fulfil the school vision.

Leaders have carefully constructed a rich and exciting curriculum that reflects the benefits and challenges of learning in a rural setting. Pupils are excited by the learning opportunities school provides and take pride in their work. For example, during a music lesson pupils sang with unbridled joy and enthusiasm as they learned a traditional song from Ghana. Meaningful links between subjects enhance pupils' learning journey and enable them to deepen their learning experience. Consequently, these strategic decisions are enabling pupils to live life in all its fullness. A clear understanding of the learning needs of each individual pupil is evident from all staff. As a result, pupils with a special educational needs or disability (SEND) are thriving within the school. Further opportunities for spiritual growth through the curriculum offer have been identified as a priority by school leaders. Steps to address this have already been taken as evidenced through a spirituality day led by the school chaplain and foundation governors. The curriculum consists of a rich tapestry of opportunity through the bold curriculum choices that leaders are making. As a result, pupils are flourishing.

A loving family culture permeates the relationships that are established and developed throughout the school community. Parents speak of the 'joyous' handover time at the end of the school day. A moment to discover the successes and challenges their children experience each day. Pupils take the responsibility of living out the school's 12 Christian values very seriously. They care deeply about one another and help each other to reflect on how they can live life in all its fullness. Reflective spaces around the school provide opportunities for pupils to share their worries and to have moments of stillness. A culture of inclusiveness and acceptance empowers pupils to be honest about the challenges they are facing. Pupils are respectful and courteous as they work alongside both new and familiar faces. Leaders have made intentional and strategic decisions to ensure that the wellbeing of staff is a priority for the school. Provision has been made within the structure of the school staffing to enable adults to grow and flourish. For example, staff are provided with regular opportunities to work with colleagues in local schools. Leaders ensure that pupils learn about communities and cultures around the world. They are taught about the rights of individuals and the principles of justice. Pupils use this knowledge and often want to make sure people further afield are treated well. This leads to actions such as toilet twinning projects abroad. However, they are not fully confident in challenging inequality and injustice without adult support.

Inspirational collective worship is at the heart of the school day. It is valued by the school community for its inclusiveness and transformational impact. Worship is planned, delivered, monitored and evaluated with an effective balance of pupil and adult involvement. The school's core Christian values underpin the themes for worship and links are made to local and world events. For example, how people responded to floods in the local area helped pupils better understand the concept of courage and trust in Jesus, linked with the Bible story of Jesus calming the storm. Worship, prayer and reflection play a key role in pupils' lives. This is clearly evidenced in the meaningful thoughts and feelings that are recorded across the school. Pupils talk about their own faith and beliefs with insightful reflection. Leaders have clear review and monitoring systems in place to evaluate the impact of worship. Pupils value times of collective worship and understand why this time is beneficial for people of all faiths and none. Regular visits from the school chaplain and local clergy support the spiritual growth of both pupils and staff.

Pupils learning experience during religious education (RE) expresses the school vision by ensuring pupils respect diversity of faith, belief and viewpoints. RE lessons provide opportunities for pupils to put forward their ideas and everyone's views are respected. Pupils say RE gives them confidence and



helps when they visit new places and meet people from different cultures and backgrounds. Leaders ensure that RE is a valued subject and that the curriculum responds to the context of the school. Careful consideration is taken to ensure each pupil has access to RE lessons that build upon previous knowledge. RE books continue with the pupils during each phase of school and enables pupils to reflect on their learning journey. Depth and challenge opportunities are provided so pupils find learning motivating. Leaders, including governors, regularly monitor and review the provision of RE in the school.

The inspection findings indicate that Melsonby Methodist Primary School is living up to its foundation as a church school.

Information			
Inspection date	30 January 2024	URN	121543
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	30
Diocese	Methodist		
MAT/Federation	The Federation North & South Cowton Community & Melsonby Methodist Primary Schools		
Executive Headteacher	Helen Robinson		
Chair	Gail Smith		
Inspector	David Akers	No.	2135