

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Beaconside Church of England VA Primary School	
Address	Beaconside C of E Primary School Hutton Hill ., Penrith, CA11 8EN
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)	Good

School's vision
<p>Learning to Live...Learning to Shine (Matthew 5:16)</p> <p>Our Christian vision is for all our children and people to flourish and use this to enable others to do the same, always using our own character and qualities to support and guide others and never using these to knowingly cause harm.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's vision is deeply rooted in theology. It shapes and guides the work of the school. The exceptional culture of supporting everyone to flourish and shine is evident at all levels. Beaconside is a very special place where you can feel God's work. • Leaders and staff walk the walk of the Christian vision on a day-to-day basis. This permeates across the school community, and beyond, bringing hope, aspiration and joy to all. They 'see' every child and every adult as children of God, and they create an environment where those of all faiths and none are cherished and loved. • The beacon curriculum provides an innovative, bold and well-rounded learning experience for all pupils. A deep understanding of Christian education has inspired leaders in their work. The curriculum sparks imagination and provides memorable learning experiences, so that pupils 'learn to live and learn to shine'. • Collective worship offers rich opportunities for pupils and adults to grow both spiritually and personally. It is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. There is a rich culture of deep reflection, however the planned curriculum does not yet offer sufficient opportunities to deepen spiritual development. Everyone recognises and values worship as the heartbeat of the school. • The provision for religious education (RE) is good. Leaders are clear that the RE curriculum is on a journey to excellence. However, staff do not yet possess deep subject knowledge.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the professional development for RE so that all teachers have more extensive subject knowledge so that the teaching of RE can be consistently excellent. • Extend the use of the excellent work on spiritual development in order to further enhance the innovative beacon curriculum to enable pupils to explore and articulate their spirituality in depth.



Inspection findings

Beaconside is an Excellent church school. The school's distinctively Christian vision is known and understood by all. It is woven throughout the transformational work of leaders so that everyone is empowered to learn, shine and live life in all its fullness. Leaders confidently articulate the biblical rooting of the vision within the context of the Sermon on the Mount, linking it to the school's community where everyone is welcome and included. Parents and carers talk about the compassion and love all staff show for their children and see it as 'the light on the hill'. There is a very strong sense of community, built on trust, compassion and respectful relationships.

The passion and commitment of leaders is extraordinary. The inspiring head of school and executive headteacher ensure the school's vision totally infuses and shapes the direction of the school. They make bold decisions with pupils at the heart of all that they do. This can be seen in the development of the bespoke beacon curriculum, which is child-centred, challenging, inclusive and inspirational. Leaders prioritise well-being for all. They develop and nurture staff, to be the best they can be. This empowers all members of the school community to work together 'as one', to provide an excellent education for the children they serve. Pupils, their families and staff, feel looked after and valued. Leaders have a true sense of service to the local community and beyond. The partnership between the church and school is a real strength. Governors have developed the school as a Church school through active engagement with the diocese. They have an excellent grasp of the impact of the school's work. They have supported the executive headteacher to work across two additional schools sharing their Christian vision, hopes and aspirations to support leadership.

The core Christian values guide pupils and staff to live out the school's vision. The day-to-day care and nurture shown to all members of the school community is part of everyday life. The transformational work of the pastoral team, which is lived out by all staff, ensure barriers to learning are identified and support is put in place to support pupils to grow and flourish holistically. They 'go above and beyond' to support families. This was particularly valued by parents and carers during the pandemic. Staff worked tirelessly to stay connected, through virtual lessons, phone calls, and the sharing of food parcels. The school organises activities that bring the community together, for example the baby and tots groups, and the hugely successful community carnival which brought joy and enjoyment to the wider Penrith community. The school's vision ensures Beaconside is a welcoming and inclusive school which meets the needs of the children it serves. It very clearly shapes the work of the busy bees provision which provides a safe and loving learning environment for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

The school's beacon curriculum is shaped by the school's vision and values. It is driven by leaders' recognition of the need to develop in pupils, a deep understanding of their own gifts and talents, and the contribution they can make in their own community and in the wider world. Pupils talk about the curriculum being exciting and stimulating. They value the use of inspirational visits and experiences that enrich and bring relevance to their learning. A trip to a local business provided an opportunity for pupils to use their skills and knowledge to develop their own products. This was a real inspiration for them. Pupils love learning outdoors, and staff monopolise opportunities to deepen spiritual development through the wonder of God's world. Lying under a tree looking up at the sky or sitting by a lake offer 'magical moments' for pupils and staff alike. Rich opportunities for spirituality happen informally. However, these are not yet planned for across the curriculum to deepen pupil's thinking further. Leaders value RE as a core subject. It is led by a passionate and knowledgeable subject leader. They have worked closely with the lead for character



development to plan the curriculum. Teaching has moved from one specialist RE teacher, to class teachers all teaching their own class. As a result, staff expertise and confidence in teaching RE is not yet excellent.

The school's vision recognises that when pupils flourish, they can 'use their own character and qualities to support and guide others'. Courageous advocacy is taught explicitly. Pupils confidently explore and challenge injustice and inequality. All Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to serve as change champions. They see themselves as 'working for the moral good', recognising that they have the power to be agents of change. They have raised awareness of the impact of the war through a worship during World Refugee Week. Heart-warming relationships have been developed with residents in a local care home by becoming penpals with pupils, sending letters and spending time visiting. Pupils at Beaconside are making a real difference to others.

Pupils are a credit to the school. They are thoughtful, kind and supportive of each of others showing real friendship. Behaviour and attitudes to learning across school are exemplary. The use of restorative justice, supported by pupils in the 'ABC team', ensures pupils quickly resolve any conflict. They treat each other with dignity and respect. Pupils say 'we try and find the best in everyone and be the best version of ourselves'. Staff relationships, including with leaders, are exceptional. Their behaviours, words and actions reflect the vision, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works" (Matthew 5:16). Parents greatly appreciate that all children are accepted, and individuality is celebrated. Pupils know they are loved.

Collective worship is highly inclusive, offering everyone the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to engage and explore their own beliefs and spirituality. Worship is a joyful experience. Creativity and variety in worship allows for breath-taking singing and praise, and still moments where pupils say they feel 'calm and happy'. Staff comment on it being 'time in a busy day that they feel as one'. Deep reflection is an everyday occurrence. Pupils talk enthusiastically about the use of the windows, mirrors and doors approach giving them an opening to look out on the world, time to reflect on how they are feeling, and how they can do something different. The school's use of 'wows and ows' allow pupils to celebrate and equips them with resilience when times are difficult. Well used reflection areas give pupils and adults a space to be quiet and pray. Worship impacts on pupil's and adults' lives and is central to the life of the school.

Beaconside is a deeply loving school family, where all 'live to learn...and learn to shine'.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Good
	<p>RE provision is in line with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. Pupils make progress in their learning through a curriculum which is well-sequenced and well-balanced. The curriculum motivates, engages, and is accessible to all pupils. Pupils enjoy RE. They are able to share key knowledge about Christianity as a diverse and living faith. They demonstrate a respectful understanding of a range of religions.</p>		
Information			
School	Beaconside Church of England VA Primary School	Inspection date	29 November 2022
URN	112423	VC/VA/ Academy	Voluntary aided
Diocese/District	Carlisle	Pupils on roll	472
Head of School	Darren Glynn		
Chair of Governors	Judith Markey		
Inspector	Joanne Warner	No.	950