



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

### St Peter's Elwick Church of England VA Primary School

Address North Lane, Elwick Village, Hartlepool, TS27 3EG

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)**

**Excellent**

#### School's vision

We want all our children and staff at St Peter's Elwick Church of England Primary School to be happy, to feel secure, to feel valued and to have courage. We strive to give all the opportunity to be who God created them to be and to thrive in an inclusive, vibrant, welcoming environment which contributes positively to their life as whole.

'To give all the opportunity to be who God created them to be and have fullness of life' Rooted in theology:

Genesis 1(verses 26- 27), John 10:10, Psalm 139, Jeremiah 1:5

#### Key findings

- Humble Christian leadership deeply rooted in the example of Jesus as a servant leader is meticulously and authentically modelled by school leaders. As a direct result of this, all feel valued, all are valued and all flourish.
- All leaders, including governors, demonstrate a profound understanding of the theological roots of the distinctly Christian vision. The implementation of the vision is so deeply integrated into everyday language that it transforms lives.
- Leaders ensure that all adults and pupils have a voice. Those who feel small are elevated into giants through the impassioned drive that every single person should have fullness of life.
- Collective worship, including that which is pupil led, provides deeply profound opportunities for spiritual growth. A rich, research based and readily expressed understanding of spirituality cohesively enhances the entire curriculum and personal relationships.
- Religious education (RE) is expertly led. An exceptionally mature religious literacy powerfully enhances relationships ensuring a deeply respectful acceptance of all.

#### Areas for development

- Further enhance well-established practices to deepen opportunities for personal spiritual growth following the relaxation of COVID restrictions.
- Extend opportunities within the curriculum for all to have a bold voice as a courageous citizen within a diverse global community.

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

Lives are changed at St Peter's Elwick through bold decisions made by leaders and governors directly linked to the distinctive Christian vision. The language of the vision is expertly articulated into the everyday language of staff, governors and pupils and drives every decision. The vision is so embedded that the impact of what is described by the school as ordinary is in fact transformative and extra ordinary. As a direct result, all adults and pupils, including those deemed to be vulnerable, are deeply cherished and fully flourish. Adults and pupils articulate the preciousness of being uniquely made in God's image. All thrive in a school which ensures everyone has the opportunity to live life in all its fullness. The humility of the headteacher is inspired and modelled by Jesus' servant leadership as he washed the disciples' feet. Her humility and loving care perfectly echo the vision and inspire a deeply rooted, richly inclusive, culture of compassion for all.

Pupils, staff and governors spontaneously articulate the theological underpinning of the vision using coherently understood language. The impact of the vision is transformative creating a culture which unites all to be unapologetically aspirational. The Christian vision is the driving force that ensures all have a powerful voice. The insightful decision by governors to directly fund speech therapy during COVID lockdown is just one example. This was transformative in supporting pupils with additional speech needs to develop their voice. This powerful action enabled these pupils to be agents of change, impacting on the lives of others. Leaders articulate that, 'if you don't have a voice, how can you be a courageous advocate?' Governors and school leaders expertly link this to their distinctly Christian vision. Bold leaders are impatient for change in their support of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). They are uncompromising in ambition that their vision must change lives through the opportunities they provide. Governors formally review decisions made in governor meetings against the words of their vision. They are firmly resolute that all outcomes directly mirror the vision and encapsulate the biblical teaching which underpins it. Systems to monitor and evaluate worship, RE and the impact of the vision drive positive change. Empowering leadership ensures all have the opportunity to be who God created them to be and have fullness of life.

Invitational and inspiring worship is joyful and a rich blessing to the entire school community. With the recent lifting of COVID restrictions and resumption of whole school worship, pupils, parents and staff relish the opportunity to worship together. One pupil articulated that coming back to whole school worship feels like Christmas as it is so special. The Believers in God Faith in Serving Him (BIG FISH) pupil led worship team excel in planning, leading and evaluating worship. This is authentically pupil led, deeply spiritual and provides joy filled moments for adults and pupils to worship. It is cherished by all as a precious time to reflect on the very mysteries of life and binds the whole school together. Opportunities for spiritual reflection and stillness are plenty in number and rich in content. Pupils profoundly articulate the invitational way in which they feel part of the Eucharistic service. Implementation of high quality professional development ensures worship is both life-affirming and readily expressed.

Outstanding links with the local parish and clergy are mutually beneficial and significantly enhance spiritual growth and understanding of Anglican traditions. Parents, staff and pupils coherently illustrate the positive impact this relationship has had on them including during times of personal tragedy. Clergy led worship combined with stillness and meditative reading of scripture significantly enhances opportunities for spiritual growth. The cohesive impact of worship is powerfully and intentionally woven into all areas of school life and leads to a sense of wholeness.

Spirituality is holistically embedded throughout the whole curriculum. A display in art is a stunning example of this. Pupils powerfully articulate their sense of the holiness of God through their artwork and provide accurate biblical reference to this. They exhibit a spiritual maturity reflecting that, 'I know that no matter how small I am, I am loved by God.' The innovative curriculum is driven by the vision. Each curriculum area cohesively articulates how their subject enables all to flourish. Each subject is valued as an opportunity for pupils with particular gifts to thrive. Personalised

learning across the curriculum ensures the impact of this on all pupils, including those deemed to be disadvantaged, is exceptional. The school is a science hub for local schools and significantly strengthens science learning in the local area. The ambitiousness of leaders enhances the wider community. The expertise of specialist leaders of education in supporting other schools is just one example of this. Highly personalised coaching and professional development equips and empowers future Church school leaders. Active membership of the Northern Lights Learning Trust and the relationship with Newcastle and Durham Joint Education Team significantly enhance opportunities for all to flourish.

The achievement of the Gold RE Quality Mark is testimony to how the excellent provision for RE fully expresses the Christian vision. Pupils thrive through high quality RE which challenges and inspires them. Engagement with biblical text and deep theological reflection are exceptionally advanced. Outstanding leadership in RE impacts beyond the school. Professional support of RE teaching in other schools ensures that the vision for flourishing extends widely.

Loving relationships, prevalent throughout the school, naturally emerge through the school's exceptionally nurturing ethos. Adults and pupils feel deeply cared for and valued as the unique individual they are. Exemplary behaviour, a sense of acceptance for all which transcends tolerance, and free flowing forgiveness enrich all relationships. As courageous advocates for change, pupils are passionate that their love should shine beyond their school. They actively engage in social action projects enhancing the wider community. Their decision to support a local hospice came after the loss of one of their friends. They demonstrate a compassionate understanding of the school's value of service and its integral link to the vision. Pupils dynamically strive to ensure that others, locally and globally, flourish as they do. Adults and pupils skilfully articulate how biblical stories and the teachings of Jesus underpin their service to others and ethical actions stemming directly from the vision. Achieving the Gold Carnegie award for wellbeing is testimony to the embedded culture of care for mental health which enables all to thrive. Resilience and character development equips and empowers pupils and adults to overcome seemingly impenetrable barriers. The school's vision is truly transformational in the authentically Christian way it boldly, and yet so humbly, enriches lives at St Peter's Elwick.



**The effectiveness of RE is Excellent**

Rigorous challenge underpins the highly aspirational RE curriculum which is valued by all. Pupils fully embrace opportunities to engage inquisitively and sensitively with challenging questions. Detailed engagement with biblical text significantly enhances theological understanding. Pupils enthusiastically delve deeply into an understanding of world faiths including Christianity ensuring an exceptional religious literacy. The exceptionally ambitious curriculum and quality of teaching is celebrated through the RE Quality Mark Gold Award.

**Contextual information about the school**

Date of inspection	18 March 2022	URN	145814
Date of previous inspection	29 April 2015		
School status	Voluntary aided academy converter primary school	NOR	102
Name of MAT/Federation	Northern Lights Learning Trust		
Diocese	Durham & Newcastle		
Headteacher	Katy Hill		
Pupil profile	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.		

Additional significant information (if needed)	The school joined Northern Lights Learning Trust in 2018. The headteacher at St Peter's Elwick is also headteacher at Hart primary school.		
Inspector's name	Paul Rusby	No.	938