



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

Archbishop of York's Church of England Junior School	
Address	Copmanthorpe Lane, Bishopthorpe, York, YO23 2QT
School vision	
<p>Through AYJS PRIDE, we nurture each individual to flourish, achieve and live out Christian values. Positive Respectful Inclusive Determined Engaged. Colossians 3 v23 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.'</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The well-established Christian vision is clearly articulated and understood by the whole school community. Lived out through its PRIDE values, it allows pupils and adults to flourish.</li> <li>• Nurture is at the heart of relationships throughout the school. All are known and valued as unique. This enhances the mental health and wellbeing of all.</li> <li>• Everyone takes the words of St Paul to 'work with your whole heart' seriously. There is a relentless determination for each individual, including those who may be considered vulnerable, to achieve together.</li> <li>• Supported by rich partnerships, the school is a reflective and inclusive worshipping community. Varied collective worship makes connections with the school's vision, wider life and learning. This contributes to the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults alike.</li> <li>• Through varied enrichment and opportunities to take on responsibility within school, pupils are ambitious for themselves and their community. They know their views are valued and that their actions make a positive difference.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure rigorous monitoring and evaluation of the school as a Church school. This is to enable all leaders and governors to measure the impact of the vision over time.</li> <li>• Develop a school wide understanding of spiritual development. This is so that opportunities to utilise pupil's natural curiosity and questioning across the curriculum are maximised.</li> <li>• Ensure religious education (RE) is carefully sequenced and progressive, so that it challenges all pupils. This is to deepen pupils' knowledge about a range of religions and worldviews, including the diversity within them.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>This welcoming school community, united by their Christian vision, values everyone. The PRIDE values of being positive, respectful, inclusive, determined and engaged are treasured by all. They serve as a daily source of inspiration. Consequently, both pupils and adults feel included and empowered to flourish within this nurturing school family.</p>	

Leaders live out the words of Saint Paul, that ‘whatever you do, work at it with all your heart’. A guiding light during recent changes, these words inspire leaders’ to provide the best for the whole Bishopthorpe community. Governors are highly invested in ensuring that adults and pupils are cared for. Motivated by love, they have taken bold, strategic decisions for the good of all. For example, through coming together under shared leadership with the local infant school. However, robust systems of monitoring and evaluating the impact of the vision over time are underdeveloped.

Positive relationships shape daily interactions, fostering a welcoming and respectful atmosphere for everyone. Recognising the uniqueness of each individual, staff proactively tailor loving support. They instinctively serve as role models and work together with humour and goodwill. Diligent monitoring of mental health enables swift responses, further nurturing the mutual care in the school community. This is evident in the smooth transitions of pupils into the school and onto the next steps of their journey. As a result, those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or those who may be vulnerable, flourish alongside their peers.

Equality of opportunity extends to the wider life of the school. All pupils have access to extra-curricular activities, which includes JAM (Jesus and Me), playing a musical instrument, drama, choir or a range of sports. Inspired by the image of the butterfly, these expand pupils’ horizons. They wonderfully echo the words of a pupil that, ‘the journey through school lets us spread our wings’. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school. They value times of celebration and pupils’ opportunities to develop independence and responsibility. There is an unwavering attention to the education of the whole child. This enables a shared aspiration for every pupil to be ‘able to blossom’. Staff feel valued, loved and listened to. Leaders routinely provide high quality professional development to ensure that, however experienced already, learning is lifelong. Collaboration within the local school partnership and wider South York Multi-Academy Trust enables the sharing of resources. This supports staff and enhances their wellbeing. Pupils carry out a range of responsibilities diligently. They know that ‘if you speak out you can make a difference’ and are inspired to do so. Pupils have an age-appropriate understanding of justice and responsibility and confidently challenge when something seems unfair. Whether as house captains, school councillors, worship leaders or more, pupils make a positive difference. Through fundraising, local projects or sharing the work of the school, the local area is enhanced as a result. ‘What’s in the news’ sessions further support pupils’ opportunities to engage with a range of current issues. Consequently pupils know they are part of a global as well as local community.

The Christian vision of nurturing each individual to flourish inspires the curriculum. It is tailored to the community and generously embraces new approaches. As a result pupils love coming to school and attendance is high. Within this proactive culture of learning and encouragement, pupils thrive. Pupils are creative, articulate and inquisitive, so enthusiastically respond to big questions. Whilst this supports spiritual development, a whole-school, shared understanding of spirituality is at its early stages. This means that experiences are not planned across the curriculum and some opportunities are missed.

Worship is a daily oasis of calm. The decision to move this to the start of the day enables everyone to ‘come together as a family and launch the day with God with us’. Pupils are proud that worship includes everyone, whether they believe in God or not. This is a lived reality. Time together shines a joyful light on the vision and values. The teachings of Jesus and the lives of the saints are explored in interesting ways. For example, acting out the life of St Francis of Assisi. This enabled pupils to reflect on God wanting us to be loving and generous to everyone. Prayer and reflection are led by members of the pupil worship team. A candle, cross and Bible provide a focal point for this cherished time. Everyone is invited to sing, pray or just ‘sit and dream’. PRIDE certificates and house points capture and celebrate the outworking of school values, adding to the spiritual flourishing of the whole

school. The schools' spiritual life is lovingly enhanced by a range of positive partnerships. These include York Schools and Youth Trust (YoYo), the diocese and the local parish community. The local clergy are a cherished and supportive presence. Together they support pupils understanding of significant Christian festivals and their relevance to faith in today's world. Staff are adamant that 'collective worship doesn't stop when you walk out of the hall in the morning'. Quality reflection spaces both inside and out are spontaneously used by pupils as an additional time to think, reflect and be still. Pupils talk about how this helps them to be calm and think deeply about the world, themselves and others. Their spiritual flourishing is further enhanced by these relationships.

RE is valued in school. Lessons are supported by theme days, visits and visitors, meeting national requirements. Proactive sharing of appropriate training and resources from the diocese and trust are building staff confidence in delivering quality RE. Pupils speak positively about RE lessons and enjoy learning about religious beliefs and practice. This helps them to explore the beliefs of others and how some people of faith live their lives day to day. The refining of key knowledge in RE and how this builds over time, is at an early stage. This limits some pupils' recall of learning and their opportunities to explore Christianity and other beliefs as diverse world faiths.

Through the day to day living out of PRIDE values, lives are enhanced at Archbishop of York's Junior School. Keeping God at the heart of all they do, everyone contributes their unique gifts to this aspirational Church school.

The inspection findings indicate that the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	20 November 2023	URN	146483
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	214
Diocese	York		
MAT/Federation	South York Multi Academy Trust		
Executive Headteacher	Kerry Davies		
Chair	Fiona Phillips		
Inspector	Simone Bennett	No.	949