



Keeping On Track

School	St Mark's Scarisbrick CE Primary School
Adviser	Jane Griffiths
Date of Visit	15.03.23
School's theologically rooted Christian Vision	<p>St Mark's CE Primary School believes that everyone is uniquely created by God. We provide opportunities to recognise our gifts that He has freely given us. Our caring, nurturing community fosters the growth of Christian values through following Jesus' Golden Rule.</p> <p>"So in everything, do to others as you would have them do to you"</p> <p>[Matthew 7:12]</p>
How was the vision developed and how does it respond to the CONTEXT of the school? <i>Who are we?</i> <i>What are we doing here?</i>	<p>Following the attendance by senior leaders at a diocesan visioning course, a group representing the school's main stakeholders created the Christian vision. Leaders have since strived to ensure that it is at the heart of all policies and practices.</p> <p>St Mark's is a small school with around 46 pupils on roll. Despite the small numbers, a wide range of characteristics are represented among the pupil population, including socio-economic variations, SEND and those with Pupil Premium funding. In addition, the local community has a high level of transience which impacts regularly on the pupil population. With these often challenging circumstances in mind, the school aims through its theologically rooted Christian vision to provide a stable, caring and nurturing Christian environment in which all are individually supported and encouraged to reach their full potential.</p>
How does the school environment and digital presence celebrate its theologically rooted Christian vision?	<p>The front page of the school's website boldly celebrates the adopted biblical passage of "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you", which is one of the theological rooters of the school's Christian vision. The opening text speaks of the vision and chosen Christian values being at the centre of school life and it also mentions the strong links with St Mark's Church. A tab directs the reader to information on other areas of school life. School leaders intend to make further improvements to the website.</p> <p>The school environment celebrates its Christian distinctiveness with faith-inspired displays and reflection areas in a number of areas. These provide a learning environment of celebration, aspiration and spiritual support. Pupils' work is displayed attractively.</p>
To what extent have the area/s for improvement from the previous SIAMS inspection been addressed and with what impact?	<p><i>"Extend and embed the contacts with different faith groups to deepen the pupils' understanding of diverse religious beliefs and their impact on people's lives."</i></p> <p>The restrictions imposed by the pandemic over the past two years and budget considerations have resulted in the school not being able to advance as quickly as they would have liked in this area, particularly where visits to places of worship are concerned. However, major world faiths are studied now in more detail within RE and text books and artefacts have been purchased to support and enrich the curriculum.</p> <p><i>"Make full use of the planned 'Lighthouse' annexe in church to showcase the school's Christian witness and so build even stronger links with the whole community."</i></p> <p>The planned annexe met with financial difficulties and was not fully supported by the local community. However, there is an exciting vision to foster stronger links between the two local Church of England and Methodist churches and develop together a much needed community hub, which will be beneficial for the residents of the area and support the wellbeing of the school's families.</p>

<p>How is the school's theologically rooted Christian vision enabling pupils to flourish?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deep, caring relationships between all members of this small and tightly knit church school family are a special feature of St Mark's. The firmly embedded Christian vision underpins all that the school does for its pupils and enables them to flourish. ▪ Pupils are valued and nurtured in a stable Christian environment, enabling them to grow academically, spiritually and socially. This gives them the confidence to move on to embrace the much larger environment of a secondary school. Each pupil is well known and individual needs and gaps in learning are quickly identified and addressed. ▪ The pupils benefit from the school's close and valued association with St Mark's Church and, in particular, the significant contribution of, and the relationship with the incumbent, Rev Eileen Heaney. ▪ Worship is at the heart of school life and the pupil-friendly liturgy, lively singing and age-appropriate materials ensure that worship is both invitational and inspiring. Pupils enjoy leading class worship and their evaluations and suggestions are acted upon. Spontaneous worship is a strong feature of daily life – this is a school community that enjoys praying together. ▪ The Christian vision encourages the school community to seek out each pupil's God-given talent and skill, to raise their aspirations and to focus on the wellbeing of the individual child and their family.
<p>How is the theologically rooted Christian vision enabling the adults to flourish [staff, governors and parents]?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The school's vision to "enable us to flourish and support one another in reaching our individual potential" impacts on staff as well as pupils. They have access to comprehensive and quality CPD, share good practice and new ideas with each other and benefit from a local "small schools" cluster network. There is a strong sense of mutual support and team spiritedness, inspired by the school's vision and associated values, and a shared determination to provide the best opportunities and experiences possible for their pupils. ▪ The wellbeing of the small community of staff is important to school leaders and the governing body. The regular pastoral sessions and spiritual support for individuals provided by the incumbent are valued by staff. ▪ Parents are encouraged to be partners within the school family and the school, governors and church work together to sustain and uphold them. They are invited to regular school services held at St Mark's Church, along with members of the congregation. School leaders and the incumbent are working to create an ecumenical partnership with the local Methodist Church.
<p>Agreed current strengths:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The dedicated and passionate Headteacher has created a Christian environment in which all members of this small but richly diverse community feel valued, cherished and safe. She is well supported by the staff, well-skilled governors and Rev Heaney, and their commitment to the shared vision ensures that they are effective role models and help to provide an environment in which all have the opportunity to flourish. ▪ The theologically rooted Christian vision is understood and embraced by the community and it drives all the school's actions, processes and policies. Its impact is clearly manifested in the love and respect pupils have for each other and in their social and spiritual maturity. ▪ There is a clear understanding amongst the pupils of the need to "do to others what you would have them do to you". The school's chosen Christian values of Love, Peace, Equality, Responsibility, Trust, Forgiveness and Generosity enable the pupils to respond well to the needs and inequalities they witness amongst not only their fellow pupils, but also in their local, national and global communities. ▪ Worship, both planned and spontaneous, takes place daily throughout the week and is varied and well organised. There are regular opportunities for

	<p>prayer and the spirituality of both pupils and adults is being nurtured. Pupil led worship within class groups is encouraged and plans are in place to develop further pupil involvement in whole school worship.</p>
Agreed areas for development:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To extend pupils' understanding of diverse religious and cultural beliefs and their impact on people's lives. ▪ To provide spiritual and curricula opportunities for pupils to ask and consider the "big questions" of life. ▪ To ensure that the website continues to celebrate the school's Christian distinctiveness and purpose.
Signed Headteacher	<i>Marilyn Freeman</i>
Signed Adviser	