

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Martin's Church of England Primary School

Vision

'Serve one another in love.'

Galatians 5 verse 13

St Martin's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- Highly effective leaders, alongside knowledgeable and supportive governors create a vibrant and unique learning environment with the Christian vision at the heart. Members of the school community know and live by the vision, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.
- At St Martin's there is an exceptional culture of care and compassion in which barriers to learning are overcome. This enables pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or who are deemed vulnerable to succeed.
- The school is a family that treats all its members well. They take the responsibility of 'serving one another in love' seriously, both in school and the wider community. Relationships are effective and pupils behave exceptionally well.
- Centred round Christian values, collective worship is inspiring, relevant and joyful. Pupils engage actively. They respond to the message with individual reflections and prayers which supports them spiritually.
- Strong leadership drives high quality religious education (RE). Teachers craft questions carefully to stimulate philosophical debate which encourages pupils to ask questions about the world. As a result, they have a good understanding of a range of religions and worldviews and how these impact on the lives of others.

Development Points

- Develop pupils' language of spirituality. This is so they can confidently articulate the impact of the many opportunities they have, on their own spiritual development.



Inspection Findings

Inspired by their distinctly Christian vision, leaders at St Martin's strive to ensure all members of the school community flourish. A shared determination, driven by strong inspirational leadership, ensures this is a school that most certainly serves its members with love. Supportive and knowledgeable governors know their school well. This is as a result of meticulous strategies for monitoring the impact of the school's Christian distinctiveness. Consequently, the vision and the best interests of the pupils are at the heart of all decisions. Pupils live out their vision through a set of well-known values; 'St Martin's five ways to flourish'. These include service, trust, respect, community and hope. Naturally flowing through the curriculum and school policies, these ensure the school is outward looking, therefore serving its community well. Partnerships are important. Strong links with the diocese support school improvement. Leaders and staff rightly value the impact this has on the school's success as a Church school. Working not only with their parish church but with other churches, Church schools and groups in the Scarborough area enhance many areas of school life. This is evident through the impact on worship and social action.

The love which is epitomised in the Christian vision is at the core of relationships. St Martin's rightly describes itself as a family, there for the good times and the bad. The school's inclusive approach ensures the care and nurture for each unique individual is exceptional. This extends to the families, for whom there is a much-appreciated open door and listening ear at all times. Strategic decisions by leaders have led to the development of two nurture rooms to provide for the most vulnerable pupils. As a result, these pupils are well supported and given the best start to their schooling. Effective strategies such as the summer holiday teddy bears' picnic, support these pupils and their families when starting school. This support extends to monthly coffee mornings for parents. Here they can seek advice and encouragement from each other, school staff and SEND experts. As a result, pupils with SEND and those deemed vulnerable are being nurtured effectively to thrive as members of this loving school family. Pupils behave well. They use effective strategies such as 'regulate, relate and reason' when any incidents do occur. As a result, they readily forgive each other and show respect. The positive mental health and wellbeing of all is of high importance. Weekly sessions for everyone help to build personal toolkits that help pupils understand how their brain works. Consequently they demonstrate a mature understanding of self-regulation and how some find this harder than others. Pupils are taught to use 'happy breathing' as a technique to help them be calm when needed. Staff value the strategies in place to support their own wellbeing and work life balance. They benefit from high quality professional development that gives them the confidence to carry out their roles well.

Strong leadership in RE ensures staff have the confidence and skills to teach to a high standard. As a result, pupils achieve well. Effective tracking and monitoring ensures leaders are aware of the progress pupils are making. Regular discussions with staff identify pupils' strengths and areas that need further teaching. A review of the curriculum ensures an effective balance of religions and worldviews are taught. Carefully mapped out curriculum themes ensure pupils develop a deep understanding of the religions they study. Christianity is understood as a global religion and they talk confidently about the different ways Christmas is celebrated around the world. Pupils have a good recollection of Bible stories and can freely recall those they believe demonstrate their school vision. For example, the parable of the loaves and fishes, which they describe as Jesus serving the people. Their knowledge of the religions they study is deepened by the careful choice of a diverse selection of texts. As a result, pupils have a good grasp of the main features and festivals of a range of religions. RE is enjoyed and valued as a way of understanding how people live. Pupils confidently identify similarities and differences in beliefs. This is



highlighted with one saying, 'It's important we know how people around the world live and what they believe'. RE supports discussion and philosophical questions. For example, debating which of the ten commandments are the most important and which would be the most difficult to keep. Leaders are unequivocal about the importance of learning and recording RE in different ways such as drama, discussion and art. This ensures pupils are not held back by their writing skills. Consequently pupils, including those with SEND, are given the opportunity to succeed.

Educating the whole child is paramount to leaders. A review of the whole curriculum, in light of the vision, led to identifying opportunities for spiritual development in each subject. Whilst the provision of a wealth of opportunities are offered, pupils are not confident in articulating their own spirituality. School provides a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Popular residential trips in Years 4, 5 and 6 are carefully chosen to broaden pupils' horizons. The school makes the most of their coastal location with the introduction of 'beach school'. As a result, they use their local beach environment to inspire curiosity, creativity and a connection with nature. These opportunities support pupils' flourishing.

'Serving others in love' motivates how the school serves others. Pupils have a good understanding of justice which is supported through both the curriculum and worship. They are quick to take action when they feel an injustice has taken place. For example, pupils have immediately taken action on hearing their link school in Burundi had their furniture stolen. They are working on ways to raise money to help replace it. A passion for making a difference in the community in which they live prompts pupils to carry out random acts of kindness. For example, making Christmas cards to distribute to members of the public. Their dedication to service is also evident in helping keep the beach clear of litter. Pupils have many opportunities to act positively as leaders and have a good understanding of the difference they can make to the lives of others. They are encouraged to independently support charities they learn about. Consequently, pupils act very positively as agents of change.

Worship is the beating heart of St Martin's and is a valued way of coming together as a school family. Pupils talk openly about it being a time that they can be closer to God. Exploring school values and thinking about how these can impact their own lives, is valued. Celebration worship at the end of every week is appreciated by pupils and parents alike as a way of celebrating pupils demonstrating 'values in practice' (VIPs). School is well supported by local clergy, both in school and in church, in developing the worship experience for all. An enthusiastic worship crew of pupils from Reception to Year 6, enjoy the opportunities they get to plan and lead worship for the rest of the school. The way this enhances the spiritual flourishing of all is evident in their worship about perseverance, linked to the parable of the Lost Sheep. Furthermore pupils choose uplifting music and pose thought provoking questions. Invitational prayer is very important to this school community and is enhanced with reflection/prayer spaces in each classroom. Pupils also have the opportunity to add prayers and reflections to the 'prayer circle' in the hall. One pupil likened prayer to writing a letter to God. 'When I say Amen, it's like sending it off to Him'. Exultant and meaningful singing enhances the spiritual experience of worship. The school song is a glorious reflection of this joyous school. This is illustrated in words from the song 'St Martin's is a place to be the real me, with God by my side'.

Information

Address	Holbeck Hill, Scarborough YO11 3BW		
Date	6 February 2025	URN	121615
Type of school	Primary VA	No. of pupils	279
Diocese/District	York		
MAT/Federation	n/a		
Headteacher	Claire Barber		
Chair of Governors	Julia Jones		
Inspector	Sue Thackray		