

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Culgaith Church of England Primary School

Vision

At Culgaith C of E School we believe that we are all uniquely created individual parts of one body.

Our school is a place where we value the character of every child and strive for all to be ambitious for themselves and their world.

Our school vision encompasses our ambitions as a school. We strive to celebrate the unique qualities of all of our students and promote ambition for all. Our vision is inspired by Psalm 139:14: “You are fearfully and wonderfully made” and by 1 Corinthians 12:12 – “Many parts but one body.”

Culgaith Church of England 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

- The school’s Christian vision has a strong biblical underpinning. The associated Christian values are understood and lived out by pupils and adults. This enables them to feel ‘wonderfully made’ and part of ‘one body’.
- Leaders use the Christian vision to shape the curriculum. The well-planned range of experiences within it and the extra-curricular offer, enables pupils, including the vulnerable, to flourish.
- Collective worship expresses the vision and deeply impacts on the school community. It is expertly planned and organised. Pupils and adults value the time to come together as ‘one body’.
- Relationships within the school are strong. With the vision at its heart, the school recognises and values the unique talents of pupils and adults. Wellbeing is a high priority and there is an overwhelming sense of Christian unity.
- Leaders ensure that pupils have opportunities to be responsible for each other and their community. By thinking globally and acting locally, staff empower them to be agents of change through engagement in local and global issues.
- The leadership has skilfully designed a well-balanced, engaging religious education (RE) curriculum, which builds on prior knowledge. Pupils demonstrate a deep understanding of worldviews and religions, including Christianity.

Development Points

- Embed the shared language of spirituality within worship. This is to enable pupils to confidently express their thoughts and reflections as they grow spiritually.
- Develop planned opportunities for spiritual moments across the curriculum. This is to enhance the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults.



Inspection Findings

The School's Christian vision 'wonderfully made' drives the flourishing of pupils and adults. Staff bring it alive, ensuring inclusivity and ambition for all. The vision recognises the context of the locality it serves. It enables pupils and staff in this small village school to ambitiously think globally. It also becomes a reality through the school's seven core Christian values. These exemplify the vision in action. Leaders, including governors, model all this in policy, and daily school life, ensuring that inclusion remains central to decision making.

Collective worship is at the heart of this small school. It provides a dedicated time for the community to pause, reflect, and explore their spirituality. Leaders have focused on developing a shared understanding of spirituality. The language of 'ow, wow, and now' is beginning to be used. This is not yet consistent but there is an emerging awareness of this in the life of the school. Pupils take an active role in shaping worship, developing courageous advocacy by leading reflections and contributing to the school's worship, and prayer books. This strengthens their confidence and deepens their understanding of their place in the world. The reflection books provide an avenue for pupils to engage critically with the school's vision and values. This enables them to develop a sense of personal and collective responsibility. Worship is enriched by a focus on global themes, enabling pupils to connect their faith to issues in society. Through these experiences, pupils learn that they are 'wonderfully made in the image of God,' reinforcing their self-worth, and respect for others. Worship extends beyond the school, with regular visits to Culgaith Church, fostering a sense of belonging and continuity within the wider community.

The curriculum reflects the Christian vision. It embodies the school's commitment to courageous advocacy and global awareness. Pupils critically engage with complex issues such as Windrush, climate change, and refugee experiences. This reinforces the biblical message of 'many parts, one body.' Participation in national projects enables pupils to learn how to 'think global and act local.' Pupils explore goals, before identifying what this means for their community. This is often followed by independent action by pupils. This includes clearing mountain pathways of litter and running a food distribution point from school. High staff expectations and personalised learning ensure that pupils receive tailored support to reach their full potential. A variety of enrichment opportunities enhances this further. Specialists support subjects such as French and music. By taking pupils to local and national theatre productions, the school broadens their perspectives and encourages their ambitions. However, planned opportunities to explore spiritual flourishing are less well developed. Residential trips as well as nurture programmes and enrichment days for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are a high priority for leaders. Regardless of their starting points, this enables pupils the opportunity to experience learning beyond the classroom fostering inclusion and equity.

Through the Christian vision and its seven core Christian values, the school fosters a community where kindness and understanding are embedded in daily interactions. Staff and pupils consistently demonstrate these values, shaping a culture of mutual respect and high expectations. This stems from a commitment from leaders for ambitious learning opportunities, wellbeing support, and inclusion. The school provides a broad range of enrichment activities, from sports teams to music programs, enabling pupils to thrive. Staff actively encourage participation in events, ensuring that no one is excluded from opportunities to enhance their flourishing. This strong focus on wellbeing further reinforces the school's culture of care. Leaders drive a comprehensive support strategy that includes nurture times and Lego therapy. Partnerships with external organisations reinforce this. These targeted interventions ensure vulnerable pupils receive the support they need to overcome challenges and fully access their learning. Adults within school also benefit from a culture of care. School policies consider the



needs of both pupils and staff, creating an environment where wellbeing is prioritised. The school's strong, trusted relationships with parents is a key element. Leaders engage openly with families, addressing challenges with honesty. Where necessary they seek external support. The result is a school where individuals are valued, supported, and empowered to grow together.

Through the school's Christian vision, leaders cultivate a culture of justice and responsibility. This enables pupils to become advocates for change in their school, and the wider community. The school's core Christian values serve as a foundation for fostering fairness, and global awareness. Through these values, pupils develop a strong moral compass and a commitment to social justice. Pupil voice is at the heart of this. The democratically elected school council drives action on local and global issues, such as climate change. It ensures that pupils have a platform to be heard from. They design and award their own values-based recognition, reinforcing the school's ethos of responsibility. Ambitious links with Ankoma in Ghana demonstrate the commitment to justice and global citizenship. This long-standing partnership reinforces the school's vision of inclusion and cultural appreciation. Visits to and from Ankoma, give pupils a direct and meaningful connection to global issues. This is part of an impressive range of opportunities that build pupils' awareness.

RE is greatly valued within the whole school community. Leaders have developed a well-organised curriculum, giving careful thought to the sequencing of topics to support progress in learning. This enables pupils to develop respect, knowledge and a deep understanding of worldviews and religions, including Christianity. The curriculum is thoughtfully designed to reflect the school's vision. Leaders achieve this by integrating Christian values such as love and kindness into the scheme. Following this, pupils are encouraged to use this learning in their daily lives. This approach is enhanced by the provision of high-quality resources and training. Leaders and staff regularly attend professional development and conferences, including those led by the diocese. This ensures that teaching remains current and reflects best practice. Teachers also benefit from the assistance they access from knowledgeable leaders.

Pupils benefit from confident and creative teaching of RE. They are encouraged to question, express thoughts and opinions, in a safe and supportive environment. As a result, older pupils approach their learning with good understanding and a clear sense of their own beliefs. Assessment in RE is robust and effective and includes individual commentary and examples of progress. The school's commitment to inclusion enables pupils to make good progress. This leads to pupils being respectful individuals who understand their own faith while appreciating the beliefs of others.

Information

Address	Culgaith, Penrith, CA10 1QL		
Date	30 January 2025	URN	112302
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	52
Diocese/District	Carlisle		
Headteacher	Lynn Dobinson		
Chair of Governors	Claire Thomson		
Inspector	Rob Dean		