

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hartington Church of England Primary School

Vision

Caring and sharing as part of God's family

'Loving our neighbour as we love ourselves.' Luke 10:27

Our six core values: service, friendship, trust, respect, generosity and compassion underpin everything we do.

We pride ourselves by providing a school community where we strive to achieve our full potential in a safe, nurturing environment with Christian Values at our heart.

Hartington 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.

Notable Strengths

- The Christian vision aligns with the needs of the school community. It serves as the driving force behind the school's work, ensuring pupils and adults flourish personally and collectively.
- This is a nurturing community built on a vision of togetherness and love. It extends to those beyond school, resulting in partnerships that positively impact the lives of others.
- Through the development of a curriculum tailored to the needs of its community, the school develops the whole child. Pupils have opportunities to experience life in all its fullness, developing emotionally, academically and spiritually.
- Collective worship fosters a sense of unity and is deeply valued by pupils and adults. Sensitive encouraged by staff, pupils engage in thoughtful discussions about biblical themes, connecting their meaning to their daily lives. This supports both adults and pupils to flourish spiritually.
- Religious education (RE) is well led and is taught in a creative way. Leaders have adapted the RE curriculum to meet pupils' needs. Interactive lessons meaningfully engage pupils and challenge their thinking.

Development Points

- Foster a collective understanding of spiritual language. This is so that adults and pupils have a consistent language with which to capture and express their spiritual experiences and growth.
- Enhance pupils' understanding of how to challenge injustice. This is in order to foster a sense of personal responsibility in actively supporting others.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The Christian vision of 'loving our neighbour as we love ourselves,' provides a clear and consistent foundation for aspects of school life at Hartington. It drives decisions about learning and the wellbeing of pupils and adults. Leaders, including governors, articulate a clear understanding of this vision and ensure it remains relevant to the context of a small rural school. It shapes the school's priorities, sustains its inclusive culture and underpins its commitment to enabling each individual to flourish. Leadership is characterised by humility, service and moral purpose. Leaders foster trust, respect and collaboration through prioritising strong relationships. Together, leaders create an environment where the Christian narrative of love is visible in relationships, policies and outcomes. Strong partnerships with the local church, the diocese and the wider community enrich the life of the school. They foster opportunities for collaboration and create a sense of belonging. The school's presence within the village demonstrates how Christian education can serve its community practically. It brings together families, church members and residents through shared initiatives. This active expression of the vision has deepened community cohesion and strengthened the school's identity as a place of belonging and hope. This is seen through the consistently high attendance of community members at school events.

Vision and Curriculum

The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the whole child, striving to unlock pupils' full potential. Learning is thoughtfully adapted to the needs of the pupils with opportunities to grow. They develop academically, emotionally and spiritually through experiences that broaden their understanding of themselves and others. Provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), is highly effective. This has resulted in measurable improvements in confidence and independence. Spiritual development is planned through a 'windows, mirrors and doors' approach. Consequently, discussions with pupils indicate that they are increasingly confident in expressing thoughts about values and moral choices. However, while pupils respond sensitively to spiritual moments, they do not have the language with which to articulate their experiences. Curriculum enrichment, including community projects and outdoor learning, expands pupils' horizons. This helps them make a positive difference to their wider community. The impact of this provision is evident in pupils' curiosity, engagement and capacity for reflection.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is central to school life and an expression of the Christian vision in action. Worship themes are planned to connect biblical teaching with lived experience and moral purpose. Daily worship is accessible and inclusive. Pupils participate actively, leading prayers and short presentations that demonstrate understanding of Christian values. Adults provide sensitive guidance, enabling all pupils to contribute meaningfully regardless of faith background. The impact of worship is evident in the ways pupils apply its messages. They demonstrate empathy, respect and consideration in daily interactions. Reflection areas around the school, both indoors and outdoors, extend worship beyond the hall and promote ongoing spiritual engagement. Worship in the local church and partnership events with other schools and community groups further enrich the experience. These opportunities extend pupils' understanding of the Christian faith as a living tradition and deepen their sense of belonging to a wider community.

Vision and School Culture

The school's Christian vision is evident in its strong, nurturing culture. Relationships are characterised by mutual respect and care. Behaviour is calm and purposeful, supported by restorative approaches that reflect the values of forgiveness and reconciliation. Pupils understand the importance of kindness and responsibility, and this



contributes to a positive atmosphere in which all feel safe and valued. The wellbeing of pupils and staff is a clear priority. Provision for supporting pupils' wellbeing is embedded, with consistent use of strategies that help pupils to manage emotions and communicate effectively. This has a measurable impact on pupils' resilience and readiness to learn. Staff feel supported and valued, contributing to high morale and stability within the team. Community engagement is a notable strength. Through its partnerships, the school broadens learning and brings people of all ages together. Regular community events strengthen links between home, school and church. This reflects the school's commitment to living out its vision by loving your neighbour. The inclusive ethos ensures that diversity is respected and celebrated. Pupils learn to appreciate difference and demonstrate empathy towards others. The impact is a culture of belonging that enables members of the community to flourish personally and collectively.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The Christian vision inspires pupils and adults to act with compassion, fairness and courage. Service and responsibility are embedded within the life of the school. Pupils are encouraged to consider moral choices, reflect on the impact of their actions and take initiative in supporting others. Engagement in social action is purposeful and linked to the school's values. Pupils participate in charitable work and community projects that address local and global needs. They are learning that small actions contribute to wider change and that their faith and values call them to serve others. Through curriculum and worship, pupils explore examples of injustice and discuss responses rooted in compassion and fairness. This encourages moral reasoning and deepens their understanding of human dignity. Leaders recognise the potential to extend this work further. Pupils respond with empathy to issues of fairness and inequality; however, there is scope to develop their understanding of how to challenge injustice more explicitly so that this learning inspires them to use their sense of personal responsibility to make a positive difference in the wider world.

Religious Education

RE is well led and central to the school's Christian vision. A balanced curriculum deepens pupils' understanding of Christianity as a global faith and encourages respect for the diversity of religions and worldviews. The leadership of RE is strengthened by highly effective partnership work with an external RE adviser. Regular support, training and monitoring from the adviser has significantly improved staff confidence, subject knowledge and the consistency of teaching. This professional collaboration ensures that RE remains responsive to the needs of a small school while maintaining high expectations. The impact is evident in the quality of dialogue, pupils' depth of understanding and the subject's growing contribution to the spiritual and moral life of the school.

Information

Address	The Dale, Hartington, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 0AS		
Date	7 October 2025	URN	112823
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	21
Diocese	Derby		
Headteacher	Tracy Blackwell		
Chair of Governors	Alison Irwins		
Inspector	Frazer Smith		