

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Cleadon Church of England Academy

Vision

Flourishing together as One. At Cleadon Church of England Academy, we work together in partnership as one family to enable each person to flourish in their own unique way. Each person is valued and listened to with the common goal to achieve and succeed through a lifelong love of learning. We nurture and nourish to develop well-rounded, compassionate global citizens who are resilient to the challenges that they will face in life and reflective of their experiences.

Cleadon Church of England Academy 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

- Strong and passionate leaders have created a welcoming, warm and caring community. Pupils and staff flourish because they are valued as unique and precious.
- Support for good mental health is exceptional. Close knit committed staff provide remarkable care and nurturing to the school community. This creates a culture of belonging and safety.
- The school provides an exciting and rich curriculum. Pupils blossom through the range of vibrant experiences delivered within curriculum subjects and through the extracurricular activities and trips offered.
- Pupils are given regular opportunities to explore questions about justice and responsibility. This enables them to comprehend injustice and to make changes within their local community.
- Religious education (RE) is well-planned, relevant and diverse. As a consequence, pupils demonstrate a secure understanding of Christianity, other faiths and worldviews.

Development Points

- Embed the academy's shared understanding of spirituality across the curriculum. This is in order to build on the variety of opportunities for spiritual development already in place.



Inspection Findings

Cleadon Church of England Academy shines as a beacon within the community. Strong leaders understand their community well. They have created a Christian vision that allows pupils and adults to grow. Pupils comprehend the value of the Christian vision. One pupil said, 'If we are all separate, we will flourish but if we are together, we will succeed.' The vision of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust (DNDLT) directly reflects the Christian vision of the school where 'Every child matters and no child is left behind.' This common vision means that everyone is working towards the same goals which creates a close partnership. Training and support provided by the trust and networking opportunities between schools enhance school improvements. Therefore, the school thrives within the trust family. Professional development is a priority that staff eagerly embrace. This has allowed staff to deepen their expertise and strengthen their skills. Monitoring of the vision has strengthened the development of the school, as leaders and governors use insights gained to drive strategic actions.

At Cleadon, every pupil is regarded as special, equal and a child of God. Consequently, balanced learning experiences are offered within the curriculum regardless of individual skills or talents. In partnership with the Christian vision, the school provides an inclusive, nurturing learning environment. Therefore, this ensures that pupils, including pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are provided with the same learning opportunities. Pupils who have SEND take on the role of 'buddies' to support younger children who may be feeling unhappy or stressed. Subsequently, this has led to an increase in pupil confidence. Leaders are committed to enriching the curriculum. The school provides guest speakers and educational visits such as trips to places of worship and residential experiences. This means that pupil understanding is deepened as a result of real-world encounters. The school leverages its picturesque setting to enrich the curriculum through the establishment of the forest school. Activities such as den building and tree climbing enable pupils to foster creativity and connect with the natural world. Shaped by the vision, the school offer plentiful extracurricular experiences. Pupils enjoy the range of experiences offered from attending the reading club, to learning a musical instrument or participating in football.

Leaders have implemented an effective spirituality model, brought to life by using the imagery of windows, mirrors and doors to indicate different kinds of experiences. Pupils reflect on the world, their own beliefs and experiences and contemplate future actions. Curriculum subjects have incorporated elements of spirituality within lessons, either through planned activities or spontaneous occurrences.

Worship is deeply respected and cherished within the school community. Pupils value the time and space to pause from the school day, to reflect on their own lives and draw meaningful lessons from Bible stories. Parents acknowledge the value of worship, as it supports their children's confidence and personal growth through active participation. Staff and pupils engage with the fortnightly theme by exploring and responding to thought-provoking big questions, which are displayed for the entire school community. This means that pupils are actively processing and applying the theme to their own lives. The partnership with All Saints Church Cleadon is thriving. As a consequence, the school has been recognised with a prestigious Growing Faith Award. Pupils and staff attend church regularly. The services help them to develop spiritually by offering structured occasions for worship, reflection and a connection with Christian beliefs.

The Christian vision cultivates an inclusive and welcoming environment. Staff nurture and show genuine care for the children. As a result, pupils feel valued, heard and supported. Mental health provision is robust. The school provide a range of support, including workshops, counselling, individual and group sessions, and a strong network



of dedicated staff. This means that pupil wellbeing is effectively prioritised. Selected pupils appreciate their new roles as Wellbeing Wizards and seize the role to support others in managing their emotions, helping to create a nurturing and compassionate school environment. Pupils appreciate the sensory room, a specially designed space that provides a calming area where they can regulate their emotions when feeling overwhelmed. A diverse selection of lunchtime activities are provided including monkey bars, games, swing ball, scooters, a Bible study group, and time in the spiritual garden. As a result, they embrace joyful and purposeful play.

Inspired by the Christian vision, themes of justice are interwoven through the curriculum. This empowers pupils to understand the importance of challenging unfairness. The Junior Leadership Team (JLT) pupils take on leadership roles to contribute to fundraising and help ensure all pupils feel heard within the school. They demonstrate eagerness to lead by example and drive school improvements. The JLT appreciate the chance to visit London to witness democracy in action and to see it as a place where meaningful change is actively shaped and realised. The Eco Team recognise challenges that hinder flourishing within the community. Through recycling campaigns, watering plants and litter picking, pupils actively contribute to improving the environment. Pupils understand the importance of equality. The current chosen annual book, *Oliver Twist*, provides pupils with a deeper understanding of poverty-related issues. This inspired the JLT to organize a food and clothing donation drive for those in need.

The RE curriculum is balanced and well-sequenced. Pupils learn about Christianity and other faiths and world views. They enjoy learning about different religions and belief systems as it helps them understand the many meaningful ways people choose to live their lives. Guest speakers and trips to places of worship such as the mosque and synagogue enrich the curriculum. Pupils value the trips as they reinforce lesson content and make learning more engaging and memorable. They treasure the importance of learning about a variety of beliefs, as it fosters respect for others within a diverse world. Pupils demonstrate enthusiasm about their RE lessons when engaging in activities such as drama, discussion, drawing, and research. Discussions enable pupils to consider diverse perspectives whilst developing their oracy and active listening skills. The curriculum provides challenge. Pupils interpret the meaning of Bible texts to understand the impact and investigate open ended questions. This process helps them develop critical thinking and analytical skills. Pupils flourish when presented with challenging tasks as they encourage deeper thinking and enhance subject knowledge. Staff engage in and derive significant benefit from training, which enhances their expertise and provides them with a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

The teaching of RE at Cleadon is strong. The subject lead assesses quality teaching through pupil work analysis and interactive discussions with pupils. This valuable feedback highlights the strengths of teaching and identifies areas for development, driving continuous improvements. Pupil progress is consistently assessed through various methods, such as quizzes, discussions, and open-ended questions. Therefore, staff utilize the ongoing feedback to enhance learning and address any misconceptions. Following each unit of study, assessment in RE informs teachers' planning for subsequent units. This guarantees that future planning builds upon pupils' prior knowledge and targets areas for improvement.

Cleadon Academy is a valuable jewel in the community. It fosters a strong sense of belonging and shared values among pupils, staff and families.

Information

Address	Boldon Lane, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, SR6 7RP		
Date	07 May 2025	URN	140924
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	473
Diocese	Durham		
MAT	Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust		
Headteacher	Gary Scott		
Chair of Governors	Anna Harrison		
Inspector	Lindsay Henderson		