

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Hartlepool St Hild's Church of England Secondary School	
Address	King Oswy Drive, Hartlepool, TS24 9PB
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Good
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Excellent

School's vision
<p>At St. Hild's Church of England School we aim to provide all of our pupils with a world class education in a Christian context. We expect to find God at work in our school.</p> <p>Life in all its fullness – Striving for Excellence</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply embedded, well understood, biblically based vision permeates all aspects of school life and is effectively supported by core values. The positive relationships in place at all levels are key in enabling everyone to flourish. • Collective worship has a profound and transformational impact on pupils and adults, with pupil leadership of worship particularly compelling. Pupils and staff treasure opportunities for reflection that are part of school life and are ready to share these in their wider community. • Consistently high-quality religious education (RE) with an empowering and inspirational curriculum, crafted to community context ensures passionately engaged learners. A rich culture of profound reflection, deliberate curiosity and all-encompassing acceptance is foundational to RE at St Hild's. • Pupils are passionate about preventing injustice and the concept of equity is woven across the taught and wider curriculum. Currently there is no shared approach to maximising opportunities for pupils to express and enact their passion for change. • All are given space to develop spiritually through, collective worship, the planned curriculum and spontaneous school life. However, pupils are less able to articulate their own experiences of spirituality.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deepen spiritual development across the school by growing a shared language to describe and exemplify spirituality. • To formalise opportunities for social action so that all pupils are empowered to implement change for good in their community and beyond. • To extend opportunities for parents and members of the local community to join in the worshipping life of the school.

Inspection findings

St Hild's Christian vision provides hope, aspiration, challenge and support for its community. Leaders and pupils understand and gain strength from the biblical underpinning of the vision. They reference John 10:10 and the Good Shepherd when explaining the vision and how it positively impacts them. The vision directs policy and practice, staff correctly describe it as 'the way we live and breathe'. Staff and pupils recognise the positive impact of the vision and values on their own lives. Leaders know that they cannot provide a world class education on their own. They have maximised opportunities for partnerships. These include; NEAT Academy Trust, the diocese, local schools, colleges and employers. These partnerships help equip pupils to live life to the full. Pupils understand the vision is not just about good times and explain how it resources them to flourish. The impact of the vision is evaluated by leaders and the vision has slowly and carefully evolved into its present format. The vision has become more explicitly Christian as it has developed. NEAT explain that the partnership of schools within the trust would be impoverished by the absence of church schools such as St Hild's. Consequently, the school is flourishing within the NEAT family.

The curriculum is highly ambitious and planned to prepare pupils for life in all its fullness. The support for careers education means that all pupils move on to meaningful educational activities post 16. St Hild's provides ongoing support for pupils once they have left so ex-pupils remain part of the family. The widely varied range of extra-curricular activities is extremely popular with students. Staff check carefully to ensure that no student is missing out. This is best demonstrated in the library, which is overflowing with pupils, reading, studying, and playing board games at lunchtime. The support provided for vulnerable pupils or those with special educational needs and disability (SEND) is highly effective. St Hild's systematically removes barriers to learning and also poor attendance. Inclusion is a strength of the school. The school is supporting an increasing number of refugee pupils who are excelling in this nurturing environment. A recent head boy, who was a refugee, said, 'I remember the first time I came to this school, a day that made me feel like I had value'.

Many opportunities for spiritual development occur within the taught curriculum, spontaneously and at social times. Members of the school community can identify spirituality in action. However, they do not yet have a shared vocabulary to articulate and deepen their understanding and experience of spirituality.

Deep biblical understanding of the Christian vision means that character development is one of the guiding principles that directs school life. St Hild's celebrate this via their FOSCA's, the Fruits of the Spirit Character Awards. These awards recognise resilience, aspiration and hope. Families talk proudly of students who have received a FOSCA and how they earned it. Leadership opportunities for pupils are numerous and examples include the junior leadership team, prefects, librarians, sports leaders and anti-bullying ambassadors. Pupils aspire to fill these roles, and all want to contribute to their school community.

The curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to look beyond themselves, to ask big questions and value difference and diversity. Examples of service to others include a Remembrance Day worship which inspired an ongoing project about local war graves and their upkeep. The school council are leading plans for the 'Big Help Out' to celebrate the Coronation. Pupils are enabled to become agents of change including volunteering at the lifeboat station or acting as a hospital translator. They feel passionately about matters of equality, diversity, and justice. However, currently not all pupils are engaging in social action

The principles of forgiveness and reconciliation are embedded in the schools' policies and



practice. The behaviour policy is built on restorative justice principles. Pupils recognise that this means they are safe to learn and enables them to reflect, put right and act differently in future. Strategies to improve attendance are directly linked to the vision and are beginning to see significant results. There is good mental health support for pupils and adults. All feel there is someone they can go to. Emotional literacy support assistants mean that pupils know they have individual and expert support available when needed.


Collective worship is foundational to St Hild's, pupils and staff find it inspires them in their daily lives. The school community experience an incredibly broad range of different formats and styles of worship. Pupils play a leading role in almost all aspects of worship. Worship leaders are thoughtfully trained and unobtrusively supported in their roles. They are interviewed for their posts and have a job description in place to support their high-profile role. The chapel, expertly facilitated by the chaplaincy team provides a safe space for all to reflect. This is through pupil devised prayer spaces, the lunchtime Alpha course and simply providing a space to stop and reflect. This expertise in developing a culture of reflection and prayer is not yet shared beyond the immediate school community.

Worship is regularly evaluated, and pupils know that they are listened to and that their feedback is valued and rapidly implemented. Staff and school worship, followed by celebration breakfast is described as a 'high point of my week' by local clergy. Pupils describe worship as 'setting you up for the day' and ex-pupils recognise how much they miss worship in their post 16 environments. Worship themes effectively explore the vision and values, Anglican traditions and festivals. Long term worship planning allows space to respond to events in school and beyond.

The RE curriculum is meticulously planned to meet the needs of the community and extend pupil's horizons. Carefully balancing life in multi-cultural Britain, deep understanding of the world wide Christian church and inspiration from the lives of northern saints. As with the whole school curriculum it is highly ambitious and firmly established on the Christian vision. Teaching is inspiring, exceptionally adaptive to pupil needs and enriched with appropriate curriculum visits. Assessment within RE is highly effective, pupils understand it well and improve their work precisely. Pupils are flourishing in RE. They relish opportunities to express their views safely and respectfully. Pupils demonstrate maturity, sensitivity and depth in their understanding of a wide range of religions and world views. Staff are outward facing and work closely with other professionals to share and fine tune their expertise. Passionate, knowledgeable, and humble leadership ensures that RE is always of the highest quality and continuing to improve.

St Hild's Christian vision ensures that all members of the school community are flourishing and are effectively equipped for life in all its fullness.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Excellent	
	<p>All pupils are making consistently very strong and rapid progress in RE, especially those with special education needs or who are vulnerable. This is underpinned by an exceptionally rich and engaging curriculum, crafted to the school context with routinely inspiring teaching. Rigorous scrutiny of RE results in transformational learning for pupils.</p>			
Information				
School	Hartlepool St Hild's Church of England Secondary School	Inspection date	16 February 2023 - 17 February 2023	
URN	148532	VC/VA/Academy	Academy	
Diocese/District	Durham;Newcastle	Pupils on roll	686	
MAT/Federation	NEAT Academy Trust			
Headteacher	Tracey Gibson			
Chair of Trust Board	David Akers			
Inspector	Ruth Houston	No.	947	