

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bollington Cross Church of England Primary School

Vision

We aspire to be a kind, open-hearted community, rooted in relationship and the Christian faith. We look to one another and when our feet slip, we overcome challenges together, enabling flourishing for all.

'I lift up my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip; he who watches over you will not slumber.' Psalm 121:1-3
'They shall flourish as a garden and blossom like the vine.' Hosea 14 v 7

Bollington Cross 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 is at the very heart of school life. Crafted and understood by the pupils and adults, it drives decision making and actions. As a result, this is a school where pupils and adults are given the skills, opportunities and support to thrive.
- In line with the Christian vision, learning opportunities facilitate the exploration of thoughts and ideas and so develop spiritual understanding. The thoughtful design of the curriculum ensures time is given for pupils to ponder questions about life and the world around them. As a result, pupils are confident in articulating their own beliefs as well as being respectful and appreciative of others.
- Leaders, including the 'light up group', ensure collective worship is welcoming. Enriched by the strong partnership with the church, worship challenges and inspires and so enables spiritual curiosity to blossom.
- Relationships are rooted in the school's Christian values of peace, love, hope and faithfulness. Staff model these through their interactions, thus illustrating how these positively impact daily life. This leads to exemplary pupil behaviour within an atmosphere of love and acceptance.
- Driven by the vision and values, a strong culture of taking responsibility resonates throughout the school. Therefore, pupils are highly motivated and competent in looking after one another, their school environment and the wider community.

Development Points

- Develop physical spiritual spaces where members of the school community can experience moments of self-directed stillness and reflection. This is to enrich opportunities for spiritual understanding



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The Christian vision and its associated values are embedded throughout life at Bollington Cross. They shape the decisions and actions of leaders who develop opportunities that inspire and challenge their community to thrive. Regular monitoring enables leaders and governors to evaluate the impact of the Christian vision throughout school life. This means that it remains relevant and instrumental in leading the school forward. The vision encourages kindness, trust and honesty, creating a community that cares and supports each other. As a result, pupils and adults are keen to try new things and to be bold in their ambitions. Therefore, enabling them to thrive academically, socially and spiritually. The Christian values of hope, love, peace and faithfulness are constantly referred to and integrated into the daily life of the school. They form the bedrock of school relationships and help to create an oasis of calm and purposeful learning. Pupils feel accepted and celebrated for who they are. They rightly describe Bollington Cross as a school that is helping to make their hopes and dreams come true.

Vision and Curriculum

The Christian vision inspires a curriculum that challenges pupils to be curious, thoughtful and ambitious. It inspires them to see the world not just from their own perspective but also through the eyes of others. Pupils explore moral and ethical issues such as conflict, environmental issues and poverty. They are challenged to consider solutions and how they may act on these. Staff ensure that vulnerable pupils and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported to access learning. The extra-curricular activities such as clubs, visits and residential, enrich learning, helping pupils to develop their talents and interests. Staff ensure that there are varied opportunities for spiritual development within directed learning time. Pupils learn different ways to explore their own beliefs and to consider their place in the world. For example, the analogy of a mirror helps them to reflect on their own personal experiences and beliefs. However, physical spaces that encourage self-directed and spontaneous reflection are limited, which inhibits the possibilities of spiritual growth.

Religious Education

The RE curriculum enables pupils to develop a secure knowledge of a range of worldviews and religions. Pupils enjoy the opportunity to explore their beliefs and views about the world around them. They engage in lively yet respectful debates, recognising that others may have a different opinion to themselves. Pupils' knowledge of Christianity is enriched by the school's partnership with the local church, members of which help to lead learning activities. These have included Easter workshops, Bible story explorations and interviewing the local vicar about her work. Pupils can describe the key features of the religions and worldviews studied. They appreciate the importance of scripture and the impact it can have on the lives of those who follow a faith. They can explain the global nature of different faiths and know that having a faith is not always an easy path to follow.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is at the heart of the school and welcomes pupils and adults to 'come as they are'. Those who need additional support to access worship are given the help they need and so feel included. Enriched by the strong support of the local church, worship is valued by the community as a time to reflect, celebrate and to be together. The 'Experience Easter' workshop, exemplifies how the local church helps pupils to deepen their understanding of a Christian festival. Worship is carefully planned to ensure the vision and values are explored in many different contexts. Each week, a theme based on the values is explored in detail. This may include the study of different Bible stories, times of reflection, application to world scenarios, prayer and music. For example, when exploring the theme of peace, pupils considered and practiced ways that they may become peacemakers. This holistic approach enriches pupils' understanding of how the vision and values positively



impact daily life. Creative times of reflection, such as the advent spiral and 'light up' sessions, enhance pupils' awareness of their own spirituality. Therefore, collective worship is inspirational in its messages and instrumental in developing spiritual perception.

Vision and School Culture

Relationships, inspired by the Christian vision and values, are built upon peace, love, hope and faithfulness. Pupils recognise that these help them to be better people. The modelling of these values by teachers instils an atmosphere of kindness which is mirrored by pupils. The weekly celebration of those whose actions exemplify the values, further instils their importance. The wellbeing curriculum, designed by the school, helps pupils to discuss their feelings, aiding pupils' understanding of themselves and others. Therefore, pupils treat each other with utmost respect and thoughtfulness, leading to exemplary behaviour. The Christian vision creates a culture of mutual support and care. There is a strong belief that when someone struggles, others have a responsibility to help them to overcome their difficulties. Consequently, staff feel supported and parents appreciate the help the school offers in times of need. As a result, members of the school community feel loved and cared for.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

There is a strong culture of taking on responsibility woven throughout the life of the school. Pupils gain a strong moral compass through the daily application of the Christian vision and values. The vision inspires them to create an open-hearted, kind and caring community. Therefore, they are keen to look after each other, their neighbourhood and the environment. The curriculum offers opportunities to learn about issues such as poverty and threats to the environment. Pupils consider the effect of these problems and how they may help to alleviate them. Because they are given a strong voice in school, they feel empowered to use it for their community too. For example, when learning about the proposal for a new development, pupils wrote letters to the government explaining their concerns. Younger pupils learn to be 'everyday superheroes', discovering that even the smallest action can have a big impact. This inspires them to take care of their school environment and to ensure friends are treated fairly when playing. As a result, pupils feel that their views are important and that they can bring about positive change in the world.

Information

Address	Bollington Road, Bollington, Macclesfield, SK10 5EG		
Date	8 May 2026	URN	111252
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	166
Diocese	Chester		
Headteacher	Yenson Donbavand		
Chair of Governors	Fraser Penny		
Inspector	Lesley Montgomery		