



# Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

## Bishop Lonsdale Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School and Nursery

Address 186 St Alban's Road, Derby, DE22 3HH

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** **Good**

**The effectiveness of religious education (RE)** **Good**

### School's vision

'I am the way, the truth and the life'.  
Our school believes in enabling everyone to reach their full potential, developing a love for learning and a desire to achieve, encouraging everyone to become independent and confident, with a belief in themselves embracing Christian values and respecting diversity.  
Becoming Independent Successful Honest Open-minded People.

### Key findings

- The school's vision and values are known by all and practised by all in school. Pupils follow their guidance which ensures a purposeful and happy family atmosphere.
- The school leaders promote the school's core values in every action. Pupils and adults flourish because of this example of servant leadership.
- Governors are unstinting in their support of the school, so that its Christian distinctiveness is apparent in all aspects of its life.
- Pupils share the leadership of learning as ambassadors for worship, sport and as representatives on school council. This enables them to express their views on issues such as slavery, so that they can contrast their school's values with those experienced elsewhere in the world.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum is well led, rich in content and engaging, so all pupils flourish. Pupils understand how Jesus' life and death are central to Christian beliefs, but need help to understand how his teachings relate to values such as justice or resilience.

### Areas for development

- Strengthen the biblical basis of the vision and values, so that the school's Christian vision for education is known and understood by all, making a tangible difference to their lives.
- Establish further opportunities for parents and the local community to worship together, so that parents and friends share in the vision the school has for its community.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

### Inspection findings

The school's Christian vision and values are firmly established in the minds of pupils. They readily recall the words of Jesus, 'I am the way, the truth and the life', and know the mnemonic based on "BISHOP". The Christian values show the vision in action, giving pupils and adults a sense of infinite worth. Pupils explain how following Jesus' teachings can transform their lives through loving, caring and serving. They describe how the school's vision means they live different lives, with respect for others and striving to be your best. Pupils understand that Jesus was loving, respectful and that he served others. As a result, they are able to make links between the life of Jesus and some of the values that express the school's Christian vision. However, not all values are understood as stemming from Jesus' teachings. The school leaders live out the vision of Christ-like service to others, with the result that pupils feel valued and cherished. Consequently, each pupil feels important, a part of God's family, within the school.

The school leaders are adamant that no pupil should lose out on learning. Through regular phone calls from class teachers during the Covid disruption, pupils have effectively kept learning. Leaders see this as putting the vision of 'enabling everyone' into practice, whether through providing technology, the donation of food parcels, or opening school for vulnerable children and those of critical workers. Parents and the community have reciprocated with a generous response to the school's appeal for help with Food4Thought Alliance, especially in donating Easter eggs and food parcels. The school actively supports the Derby County Community Trust, (DCCT), the football club's outreach programmes. As a result pupils recognise the value of physical activity to personal wellbeing. Both boys and girls identify Christian values of perseverance, hope and aspiration as relevant to football, netball and dance. This portrays the diversity and inclusivity valued by the school.

Governors know the school well and successfully support the executive head and head of school in maintaining a distinctively Christian presence in the community, so that the school vision and values are nurturing the next generation. Governors systematically monitor the school's development, with a SIAMS committee overseeing collective worship and RE. Hence governors affirm the leaders and ensure pupils flourish. Governors have been particularly assiduous in ensuring that new staff are able to understand the nature of a church school, so all staff adopt the vision and values. Governors make a clear link between the vision and its aspiration to produce independent, successful individuals. They care passionately for the staff and excel at listening. Staff feel known to governors as individuals of inestimable worth in the eyes of God.

The school curriculum is ambitious, demanding of each pupil wholehearted cooperation, so that they use God-given talents to the full. The atmosphere in school during lessons is purposeful, with clear guidance for pupils as to how they may learn independently and flourish. Clear targets enable all to flourish, including the most vulnerable. Academic learning is integrated with physical and spiritual development, so that all learning is valued. Behaviour is impeccable, demonstrating how much the vision for a love of learning has promoted good conduct. Pupils cooperate enthusiastically at work and play, valuing forgiveness and the fresh start offered by both adults and pupils when things go awry. The school council affirm there is no bullying and explain how peer mediation through Bishop buddies allows pupils chances to promote good behaviour. The buddies are particularly noticeable during play sessions, when the Christian vision ensures respect and reconciliation promotes peaceful play. This is a happy school, so pupils attend well and cherish the care they receive. Pupils look beyond themselves through the link that Bishop Lonsdale maintains with the Union Chapel school in Kolkata. This link ensures pupils understand global issues, recognising that Christianity is a global faith. It also develops staff, through visits and receiving exchange teachers. Pupils are particularly knowledgeable about the impact of rapid economic development on the families of their Indian school friends. Pupils are compelling advocates for social justice and particularly engaged in addressing the scourge of modern slavery. Pupils' attitudes to slavery are transformed by contrasting the school's vision, for a society based on respect, with examples of exploitation. School anti-slavery ambassadors ensure pupils themselves take the lead.

All class teachers teach RE thoughtfully, using well prepared schemes of work that reinforce the school's vision of independent and confident learners. RE contributes strongly to the spiritual development of all pupils. Pupils fulfil the vision to become independent and confident learners, as their response to deep questions reveals. Workbooks evidence a firm grasp of Islam and Judaism, as well as Christian beliefs. Pupils talk confidently about the diverse topics they cover, including Bible stories and learning how faith impacts on society and culture. Pupils readily discuss customs and festivals, demonstrating an understanding of a range of worldviews, faiths and current issues. Older pupils discuss racism and prejudice with confidence, knowing we are all equal in God's eyes. They realise the importance to Christians of prayer and a prayer area in each class is well used. Pupils are delighted that the school teaches the value of prayer. Focus days each half term address topics such as prayer, anti- racism and modern slavery. These days provide pupils with occasions to ask and answer deep questions.

Collective worship is given high prominence by being timetabled at the start of each day, so that each new day starts with worship that recalls the school's vision and values. Since worship is distinctively Christian, yet inclusive of a range of views, this respects the diversity of the school's vision. Worship is truly inspirational, with anecdotes and music taken from a range of sources. It is also invitational, since pupils are invited to contribute prayers and reflections. All staff lead collective worship with enthusiasm, developing pupil-led worship activities. Pupils are given autonomy over worship through the worship team, who deliver, evaluate and assist planning for worship. They also provide formal feedback on all acts of worship, so they share ownership for developing worship. As a result of the inclusive and invitational approach to worship, pupils are able to give examples of its transformational effect on how they live. Links with two Anglican churches are strong, with members assisting worship activities. The school is working hard to involve parents and the community more extensively in school services in St Luke's church, so that families may enjoy worshipping together. The leaders and governors invite parents into school to work with the school family, while linking this with an act of worship. Thus the Christian distinctiveness of this school is being shared with its community.



**The effectiveness of RE is Good**

RE teaching and learning throughout the school is highly effective in all years, because the rich and engaging curriculum enables all pupils to flourish. Pupils talk enthusiastically about their RE, including those with special educational needs and the most able. RE makes a vital contribution to the way this school fulfils its vision.

### Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	6 April 2022	URN	140842
Date of previous inspection	23 April 2015		
School status	Voluntary aided primary academy converter	NOR	223
Name of MAT	Derby Diocese Academy Trust		
Diocese	Derby		
Headteacher	Malcolm Hetherington, Executive Head and Sarah Brownhall, Head of School		
Pupil profile	The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is above national averages.		
	The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is above national averages.		
Inspector's name	David Shannon	No.	617