

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Burscough Bridge Methodist Primary School

Vision

‘For with God nothing is impossible’ (Luke1:37)

As a truly distinctive Methodist school our vision is to be a Welcoming, Worshipping, Witnessing presence in the village and the community. At Burscough Bridge children thrive, emotionally, spiritually and academically to be the person God intended them to be; a school that the Methodist Church and the local community can take great pride through.

‘Let Your Light Shine’ (John Wesley)

Burscough Bridge Methodist 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.

Strengths

- The school’s Christian vision clearly echoes the school’s Methodist roots. It underpins actions and decisions, providing effective support for the community it serves.
- The curriculum is thoughtfully designed to accommodate the specific needs of pupils in the context of this small village school. As a result, it is successful in enabling them to flourish as they ‘let their light shine’.
- Collective worship is an uplifting experience for adults and pupils. It provides poignant moments for spiritual growth and embraces Methodist traditions such as ‘singing the faith’.
- Christian love is lived out through positive relationships that extend beyond the school gates. Built on trust and respect, adults and pupils are nurtured and cherished.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum has a clear structure. The content ensures that pupils’ knowledge and understanding grows through a balance of topics and themes that are well-sequenced.

Development Points

- Embed planned occasions for spirituality within the curriculum. This is in order to enrich pupils’ spiritual development across the breadth of the curriculum.
- Enhance pupils’ understanding of justice, empowering them to make a tangible difference. This is so that they have an impact that goes beyond charitable giving.



Inspection Findings

Burscough Bridge Methodist Primary School lives out its Christian vision on a daily basis. The Bible verse underpinning the vision is aspirational for the school community, bringing hope and possibility. Likewise, leaders purposely included the motto from the local church's vision, thus embedding the school's Methodist foundation. The vision is widely shared and understood. Consequently, key words, the Bible verse and the John Wesley quote are frequently referenced by adults and pupils. Therefore, pupils and adults flourish as they strive to 'let their light shine'. The vision is experienced through its application in Christian values. Trust, respect and forgiveness are some of the values used on a daily basis by staff and pupils. The vision permeates all aspects of school life and informs key decisions, mirroring John Wesley's challenge to 'do all the good you can'. Hence, adults and pupils thrive through governors and leaders regularly making bold decisions for the greater good. Examples of this are shared, which feeds into the monitoring of the vision. Leaders routinely evaluate its impact. They recognise how it is proficient in shaping both policy and practice and in enabling the school community to flourish.

The well-crafted curriculum is adept in meeting specific needs and reflects the school's context. Propelled by the vision, leaders ensure that learning experiences enable pupils 'to become the person God intended them to be'. This is particularly visible in the tailored provision offered to pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Likewise, leaders are committed in enriching pupils' learning. For example, pupils are regularly immersed in woodland experiences. This also offers occasions for spiritual growth. Staff encourage pupils to pause and reflect at different times. However, these moments are not routinely planned across the curriculum. This results in missed opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually. Extra-curricular activities are accessible to all, with any potential barriers removed by leaders. They are well-attended and grow pupils' individual gifts and talents. The vision secures a nurturing approach, where adults and pupils feel valued and cherished. Staff value the support they receive in accessing training to develop their professional skills and knowledge. Thorough monitoring of the curriculum by leaders and governors promotes caring approaches and focused strategies that enable pupils to succeed.

Collective worship encapsulates the vision's aim to be 'a welcoming, worshipping, witnessing presence'. It is a much-valued time where the school community are invited to come together as one. Worship is both a joyous occasion and a time for personal prayer and reflection. As such, it supports spiritual growth of pupils and adults alike. Staff make thoughtful, discreet arrangements, enabling all to be included. Pupils engage enthusiastically as demonstrated in their discussions and inspiring singing. Worship is enriched by strong links with the local Methodist church. Key worships take place in the church for Christian festivals. Clergy and church members lead school worship regularly. This partnership strengthens the school's Methodist foundation. Staff are spiritually nourished by this time. Pupils make pertinent connections to the school's Christian values and consider how themes relate to their own lives. Worship extends beyond the daily coming together. Concluding thoughts and questions facilitate continued reflection.

The RE curriculum is skilfully devised to meet the needs of a child growing up in this small village community. Therefore, the range of themes chosen deepens pupils' understanding of diversity and respect for difference. The significant role that RE plays is recognised and greatly valued within in the wider curriculum. Parents value how the subject prepares their children for life. They recognise how it gives a broader insight of the world and a range of different faiths. The curriculum content aptly reflects the school's Christian foundation. The school benefits from additional input from the church community as well as local Methodist initiatives for young people. For example,



visits to the church and focused activities on John Wesley Day, extend pupils' knowledge and understanding of Methodism. RE is well-ordered, enabling pupils to recall previous topics and consolidate their learning in the subject. Planned activities, such as debates and big questions, challenge pupils to think deeply and reflect on their own responses. Staff are kept abreast of developments in RE through online training from the Methodist schools' team. Likewise, leaders invest in national RE teaching resources to guarantee the quality of provision in the subject.

The vision underpins the school's work in preparing pupils for life beyond Burscough Bridge. Hence, this outward-looking approach fosters an understanding of justice in pupils. Age-appropriate news resources enable them to consider world events and challenges. As a result, pupils demonstrate their Christian values in responding with empathy. Similarly, they also make considered choices. For example, they requested that money from a recycling scheme was given to a cancer charity rather than benefit school funds. However, there are limited opportunities for pupils to make a difference beyond charitable acts. The vision is the foundation of this thoughtful community where adults and pupils share the responsibility for one another. This is evident in how staff and pupils are keen to model the ways in which they support one another. Christian values, forgiveness and reconciliation are well-utilised on the rare occasions when there is a disagreement between pupils. The 'Big Friend, Little Friend' initiative provides younger pupils with role models, with older pupils willingly embracing nurturing responsibilities. Working together is also reflected in the fruitful partnerships the school has cultivated. Local schools, church links and the nearby country park invigorate the school through respectful collaborations. As a result, pupils' lives are enriched through meeting visitors and engaging in experiences that cultivate new thoughts and ideas.

Christian love shines through this caring school. Here, an individual's wellbeing and good mental health is paramount and championed by leaders and governors. Numerous examples, from different members of the school community, clearly illustrated the school's compassionate approach and the practical support given. This fosters positive relationships based on trust and mutual respect. Policy is driven by the vision but lived out in actions. Families know that help is at hand, without judgement, for those difficult times. This is replicated in the thoughtful, targeted support pupils receive, including those deemed to be vulnerable. Staff are grateful for the kindness and consideration they are shown, which supports them both professionally and personally. This creates a culture where both pupils and adults live out the Methodist tradition of 'watching over one another in love'.

Information

Address	Orrell Lane, Burscough, Lancashire. L40 0SG		
Date	4 February 2025	URN	119402
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	45
District	North West		
Headteacher	Louise Tyrer		
Chair of Governors	Michael Tindsley		
Inspector	Jo Williams		