

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

<b>Lindale Church of England Primary School, Grange-over-Sands</b>	
Address	School Hill, Lindale, LA11 6LE
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	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent

School's vision
<p>'Let Your Light Shine' Matthew 5:16</p> <p>We believe everyone should be encouraged and nurtured in order to flourish and achieve their full potential. We want everybody to develop skills and enthusiasm for learning, and positively understand the worth of themselves and others. We seek to broaden our understanding of the world, become advocates for good and 'walk as children of light'.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A deep awareness of spirituality beyond collective worship runs through everything. Adults take time to help pupils reflect well. This impacts positively on wellbeing both for pupils and adults.</li> <li>• High-quality, pupil-led worship is a strength. Pupils' sensitive, joyful leading inspires others to reflect more deeply and engage enthusiastically.</li> <li>• Pupils respond with compassion and generosity to local, national and international needs. Adults trust them to take on significant responsibilities. However, they do not often initiate their own social action projects.</li> <li>• Inspired by the vision, leaders have developed a culture and an approach to managing behaviour where pupils naturally experience trust and forgiveness. Pupils in turn extend trust and forgiveness to others. In this way, they inspire and support one another to 'let their light shine'.</li> <li>• In religious education (RE), teachers make skilful use of stories to explore world religions. As a result pupils approach a range of faiths with well-informed curiosity and empathy. The school has recently adopted a new RE scheme.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen pupil leadership still further by supporting them to initiate their own social action projects.</li> <li>• Fully embed the new RE scheme and so ensure pupils' knowledge of all religions studied is deep and secure.</li> </ul>



## Inspection findings

At Lindale School, pupils and adults work closely together to discover, nurture and celebrate one another's gifts. Mutually trusting relationships between pupils and adults ensure that everyone can 'let their light shine'. A pupil explained that teachers seem like parents to them, and pupils like brothers and sisters. Pupils explain that the light which shines is the light of Jesus shining through them. They show this by being kind or helpful, working hard, by being a good friend and by making people laugh. Adults constantly look for opportunities to support pupils in letting their 'light' shine. They celebrate pupils' achievements from beyond school and encourage pupils to bring in their special interests and skills – and even their pet sheep. Pupils' high-quality artwork proclaims the vision throughout the school. A striking batik frieze of the 'big story' of the Bible reminds pupils of the biblical roots of the vision. Values of kindness, trust, peace and perseverance, linked with the vision and grounded in the Bible narrative, are important to the school community.

There is a deep awareness of spirituality which enables pupils to flourish. Leaders have developed a rich culture of reflection. 'Wondering' is a noticeable feature of the school and takes place across the curriculum. For example, one pupil wondered what happened to prayers placed in the western wall in Jerusalem. Good links with a school in Jerusalem enabled Lindale pupils to find the answer. By encouraging pupils and adults to share their 'wonderings', leaders have developed a deeply reflective community. This has also resulted in a culture of continuous evaluation and improvement. Leaders create the time and space to reflect well. Because of this, adults and pupils thrive.

Pupil-led collective worship is remarkable. Those leading say they gain a deeper understanding of the Bible, 'especially when the stories are a bit complicated'. They help younger pupils understand 'in a fun way'. Other pupils say they feel grateful and proud when pupils lead worship. A strength of the school is its development of others. Pupils' understanding of the school as a Church school is enriched through the training they receive in leading worship. A number of staff have undertaken Church of England leadership courses. The school participates fully in diocesan training. All pupils in Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to lead collective worship. This inspires even the youngest pupils to want to try for themselves. These older pupils have developed the ability to lead the school in reflection and prayer as well as in lively singing. They listen sensitively to pupils' comments and respond with praise and affirmation. Pupils feel safe to speak honestly in worship because they 'feel really close to one another'.

Collective worship at Lindale makes a difference. As a result of worship themes on perseverance and truthfulness, pupils notice 'a lot of people not giving up' and 'people owning up to things'. One pupil, inspired by the theme of kindness, insisted on donating her own money to the foodbank. Pupils frequently respond generously and compassionately to local, national and international needs. They do not, though, often take the lead in initiating fundraising or social action projects. This deeply reflective school community recognises opportunities for spiritual growth. One pupil said, 'Sometimes when I sing it gets all the worries off my chest.' Another added that they feel closest to God in collective worship.

Other pupils whose 'lights' shine brightly are the ethos team. This team takes seriously its role of monitoring and inspecting the reflective areas throughout the school. As a result, pupils enjoy using these well-resourced and appealing spiritual spaces. Each one links clearly to the Christian vision and to kindness, trust, peace and perseverance. The ethos pupils delight in secretly adding new Bible verses to each area. They believe that Bible verses can be helpful, for instance, 'if someone is having a dark day'. The chosen Bible verses link

with the core values, 'for example, if you're angry, you can read something about peace.'

Pupils inspire and support one another to 'let their light shine'. This is because staff have developed a culture where the vision and linked values are embedded. For example, the school's behaviour management policy is shaped by trust, forgiveness and a desire to see the 'light' in every pupil. Adults describe the transformational impact when an individual pupil experienced forgiveness and understanding from other pupils. The many leadership opportunities build character and aspiration. The school's radically inclusive approach means that many pupils flourish through learning to become leaders.

The school community was saddened by the closure in 2019 of the village church. However, described by a governor as 'resilient', Lindale School has worked hard to establish a new relationship with St Peter's Church. Pupils are benefitting particularly from this new partnership by visiting the church for RE lessons. The church community contributes to the flourishing of pupils and staff through a number of initiatives. These include sharing an olive wood crib, a 'Lifting the Lid' Easter box and involving pupils in the Remembrance Service. Teachers describe one very special, spiritually rich Christingle service. Prevented by snow from travelling to the church, the school and church communities gathered together in school for what became a moving and memorable service.

Inspired by the vision, the school reaches out into its community through activities such as an inter-generational friendship club. Highly effective governors help the school 'shine its light' as a Church school. Visiting regularly and often leading worship, they are well-known to pupils and staff. They monitor the vision with understanding and insight. Their questioning leads to further improvement.

Teachers' creative use of a range of texts in RE enables pupils to empathise well with others. Skilful teaching helps pupils to develop solid understanding of Christianity. With the introduction of a new RE syllabus, pupils are developing a more secure knowledge of a range of religions. Their confidence and excitement demonstrate keen enjoyment of the subject. RE provides a very safe space for pupils to reflect on, and talk about, their own beliefs and opinions. As a consequence, pupils' respect for diversity and difference is enriched.

Information			
School	Lindale Church of England Primary School, Grange-over-Sands	Inspection date	12 June 2023
URN	112286	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Carlisle	Pupils on roll	46
Headteacher	Kim Curwen		
Chair of Governors	Sara McClure		
Inspector	Penny Burnside	No.	772