

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

### Ingleton Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.' Matthew 5:16

Through our Christian values, we ensure that every child shines in their own unique way. As a family, we welcome all into our safe, learning environment where we respect and celebrate each other's achievements. We want all our children to be confident, independent, resilient learners, with a sense of belonging, a feeling of being loved and ready to make their mark on the world.

Ingleton 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.

#### Strengths

- The Christian vision is exemplified by leaders, including staff, who demonstrate commitment to the school and its community. Pupils and adults flourish, feeling valued and treated with respect and care.
- Relationships are strong and central within the school. Adults and pupils know each other well. Their lives are enriched as they share warmth and compassion, whilst generously watching over each other with care and acceptance.
- Insightful staff promote a culture of love and nurture for all those who have special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND). The work of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) enables pupils and adults to thrive. This happens through bespoke support for the pupils, school and staff.
- Inspirational collective worship is highly valued as a shared experience by pupils and adults. This leads to rich opportunities for the spiritual development of the whole school community.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum provides thought provoking and challenging learning. This extends pupils' understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews.

#### Development Points

- Establish a more systematic approach to the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship by leaders, including governors. This is to enable governors and leaders to more accurately judge the impact of worship.
- Ensure that pupils develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of diversity within faiths and world views. This is to further prepare them for life in modern Britain.
- Enhance the pupils' understanding of how they can, as individuals, take opportunities to challenge injustice. This is to develop their understanding about how they have the power to make a difference.



## Inspection Findings

The school's vision is a clear inspiration for the work of Ingleton School. It drives the direction and decisions of governors and senior leaders. It is regularly reviewed, monitored and considered. It harmonises with the vision of the MAT that 'Every child matters and no child is ever left behind'. The impact of the monitoring steers their purpose for knowing and meeting the needs of the community they serve. Framed around the statement from St Matthew's Gospel, 'Let your light shine before others', pupils and adults are encouraged to be curious and reflective. Pupils reference this when interacting with their peers. This has a noticeable effect on the way that they interrelate reflecting the values of love, kindness, honesty and respect. The vision is understood by members of the school community and creates an outward-facing culture where individuals take responsibility for each other. Governors and trustees know the school well and provide support and appropriate challenge for school leaders.

Robust leadership ensures that the Christian vision and values guide curriculum planning to meet the pupils' needs. Self-reflection, recent training and support from the diocese have ensured that spiritual principles and practices are carefully considered across the curriculum. The overall educational experience for the pupils is significantly enriched as these are integrated throughout. Through working with the MAT, the curriculum is reviewed and customised to be adaptive and relevant within the school context. Effective revisions of the curriculum ensure that learning has remained systematic and progressive throughout the restructuring of the classes. As a result, vulnerable pupils have dedicated support. A range of activities are offered to pupils including outdoor learning experiences, visits and visitors to enrich their spiritual journey. Engaging in these opportunities cultivates a sense of independence, enhances communication skills, and boosts self-esteem. This helps the pupils become more aware of themselves and better understand the world around them. It supports their personal spiritual growth. Lessons and extra-curricular activities intentionally reference the school's Christian vision.

Daily collective worship is important at Ingleton. It celebrates the vision through the exploration of how it can be applied to real life. Pupils and staff alike value the opportunity to gather together as a whole school. It provides opportunities for the school community to regularly reflect on how Bible stories are relevant in today's world. Carefully planned times welcome all. Participants are warmly invited thus enabling those of religious faith or none to be inspired by worship in a variety of ways. Pupils are encouraged to interact and respond during worship. For example, spiritual opportunities invite participants to reflect more deeply in thinking about themselves and others. Enthusiastic singing is inspirational and uplifting. It provides opportunities for pupils to engage and flourish. Regular training and challenge from the MAT enable staff development ensuring that those leading worship can confidently carry out this role. A close and important partnership with the local church impacts positively on these gathered times. Worship regularly takes place at the church to mark festivals and special occasions. These events strengthen the understanding of Anglican foundation and practice and are appreciated by the whole community. Pupils enthusiastically lead worship and are encouraged to do so. Worship clearly promotes spiritual growth and flourishing. However, the monitoring and evaluation of worship is not systematic. This means that leaders do not gain clear information on which to base their decisions about the ways to develop worship over time.

Ingleton is a community that lives well together. It is founded on mutual respect with loving and kindly interactions consistently modelled by staff towards pupils and between each other. This is echoed through the vision of the Trust. Parents rightly value the school culture as one which they want for their children. Staff are well supported,



both professionally and personally, and work successfully as a team. The mental health of staff and pupils is valued. The school has demonstrated this through prioritising the provision of a counsellor during times of challenge for individuals. This creates a safe community that identifies the worth of individuals. Forgiveness and kindness are used to manage any behaviour issues. Through the curriculum pupils gain compassion and understanding of difference. As one of the younger pupils commented, 'it's about loving other people, even if you don't know who they are.' They show an ability to talk about individuality, the need to be tolerant and to disagree well. This ensures that the vision is a living reality and creates a consistently harmonious and loving school environment.

RE is effectively led and has a high priority within the curriculum. Leadership at all levels have prioritised professional development enabling teachers to confidently deliver the subject. A clear teaching approach, outlined in the curriculum, assists pupils' understanding of a range of religions. Pupils enjoy RE and work in books indicates high levels of engagement and expectation. They talk knowledgeably and confidently about the things they have learned. Regular checking of pupils' knowledge ensures RE provision is well sequenced and balanced. This, in turn, informs future planning. It is well-sequenced, showing progression that fosters deeper thinking, inspiring and enthusing pupils to question and challenge. It demonstrates an appropriate mix of world faiths and views including Christianity. Pupils have a strong knowledge of some of the chosen faiths, although they have a limited knowledge of the diversity within faiths. This limits pupils' understanding of the complex society in which we live.

The school vision is actively used to promote a culture of justice and responsibility. The vision of 'letting your light shine' encourages all in the school community to do their best. As a result, respect and kindness pervade interactions within and outside school. Pupils demonstrate responsibility in the school by actively taking on a variety of leadership roles. These include playground 'buddies' who show care and compassion, enabling new members of the school community to quickly feel settled. Pupils are mature and thoughtful in helping all to be included. Leaders and staff provide some opportunities for pupils to understand wider issues of injustice such as through shared discussions around current global issues. Work within the trust on equality, diversity, inclusion and injustice has resulted in leadership training and support for practical applications. Some pupils are proactive in identifying charities to support, such as St Theresa's Hospice, the Salvation Army, and The Angel Trust. However, they do not fully understand the impact they can have on the charities they choose.

## Information

Address	Manor Road, Ingleton, Darlington, DL2 3JE		
Date	12 February 2025	URN	147815
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	45
Diocese/District	Durham		
MAT/Federation	Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust		
Headteacher	Karen Whitaker (executive headteacher)		
Chair of Governors	Bill Deakin		
Chair of Trust	John Taylor		
Inspector	Joanna Dobbs		