

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

South Darley Church of England Primary School	
Address	Cross Green, Darley Bridge, Matlock, DE4 2JT
School vision	
<p>At South Darley CE Primary School we strive to be: living as children of light (Ephesians 5:8) for if we walk in the light, as Jesus is in the light, we will have fellowship together. (1 John:17)</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driven by the vision, strong leadership ensures the words of the distinctively Christian vision are understood by adults and pupils. This ensures they are a living reality throughout the school, consequently, all flourish. • Everyone at South Darley is nurtured and known as an individual, which creates a clear sense of belonging. Pupils live out the school vision and its associated values through their care for each other. • Collective worship is open and accessible to everyone. This provides valued time for the school family to connect together, enriching individual's spiritual growth and relationships. • Collaboration and support are a strong feature of the school's inclusive and caring nature. Consequently, the wellbeing of pupils and adults is enhanced and all are treated with respect. • Religious education (RE) is well-planned and balanced. As a result of this, pupils have a good knowledge and understanding of a range of world religions. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and embed South Darley's vision within the wider community. This is to ensure there is an increased clarity about how the vision impacts beyond the school. • Ensure spiritual development is woven through the curriculum by identifying planned opportunities, and a shared understanding of spirituality. This is to enhance opportunities for spiritual flourishing. • Strengthen the way that pupils have opportunities to make ethical choices, challenging injustice beyond their immediate locality. This is to enhance the way the vision enables them to impact positively as global citizens. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>There is a real sense of Christian love and fellowship as you enter South Darley Church of England Primary School. It is intrinsic and in every aspect of the life of the school. This is an inclusive and caring community where all are valued and treated with respect and kindness. The recently established Christian vision of 'living as children of light' is lived out daily by all. Pupils flourish because they are known as unique individuals and cared for by all staff. As a result, this rural Church school has the feel of a loving family where there is a strong and positive sense of belonging. The nurturing aspect of the vision is reinforced each morning as staff welcome everyone with warmth. Pupils articulate passionately that caring for younger children is important and everyone gets along,</p>	

this creates a caring environment allowing all to thrive. Leaders, governors and staff speak with confidence about how the vision and values of the school support their high expectations for pupils.

Many parents choose to send their children to the school because of the sense of family, fellowship and community. The vision of 'living as children of light' means that there is a strong culture of staff actively looking out for one another. Relationships are enriched with a sense of fellowship and care. This is enhanced by staff often sharing a meal together. They appreciate that the school is well-led and leaders are mindful of their workload, this ensures staff flourish. Staffing at the school is therefore stable and wellbeing is high. Governors are deeply mindful of the importance of good wellbeing for staff and pupils and actively work to achieve this. The school has a clear understanding of the biblical roots of their vision. This enhances the way it is lived out by leaders, staff and pupils. However, the link between the vision of the school and its biblical roots is not shared as widely with parents and beyond the school. This means that the potential for this distinctively Christian vision to impact on the wider community is less developed.

Pastoral support for pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those considered vulnerable is a priority of the school. Staff live out the school's vision of growth through their consistent and loving approaches to all pupils. Parents are clear that South Darley is a place where their child's needs are prioritised allowing all to succeed. Relationships are warm, nurturing and rooted in the school vision and its associated values. Pupils are given time each week to reflect and consider these values. Their individual reflections are captured in books highlighting personal growth and some spiritual development. However, pupils and adults do not have a shared understanding of spirituality and spiritual opportunities are not embedded in the curriculum. Consequently, the impact of opportunities for spiritual flourishing are underdeveloped.

Collective worship is carefully planned and central to the school day. At its heart is an understanding that everyone is unique and different. This carefully enhances the way worship provides all with the opportunity to grow in God's love and gather in fellowship. Staff echo this and recognise how worship at South Darley strongly reflects the school vision. Songs about light are enjoyed by pupils and staff alike, allowing them to reflect and engage with the vision at a deeper level. Worship is grounded in Christian traditions. This means that growing ideas such as friendship and gratitude are built upon. Time is given for personal reflection. Invitational language is used throughout. As a result of this inclusive approach pupils speak positively of how worship makes them feel welcomed and safe. Worship is enriched with partnerships and visits from the local church. Pupils are enthusiastic to lead opening and closing prayers as well as leading acts of worship in both school and church. This involvement enhances the way worship provides some opportunities for spiritual development. The impact of this is limited as there is no shared understanding of spirituality. The school values team meets regularly. Their leadership of worship allows them to reflect on how they can live out the vision and encourage others to do the same.

Pupils at South Darley have a strong sense of belonging to a Church school family. They have opportunities to lead and develop personally. For example, attendance on RE days that are led by the diocese inspire pupils to lead similar special days across the school. The impact of this is that pupils get on well together and behaviour is good. Older children enjoy helping and supporting the younger members of the school community. Leaders and staff are keen to strengthen the school's links with the Indian city of Kolkata. This extends opportunities for pupils to consider areas such as how to impact positively on lives beyond their immediate locality. Shaped by the words of the vision, pupils are keen to raise money for local causes. An example of this is supporting the local food bank at the Harvest Festival service. Inspired to take action for causes close to their hearts, individual pupils actively campaign for breast cancer and cancer research. This also extends to pupils supporting Children in Need and the poppy appeal as an expression of their 'light' in the local community. However, much of the work has been focused on the immediate locality meaning that

pupils have yet to see themselves as advocates for global change.

RE is enhanced through the confident and effective way in which it is led. Lessons are well-planned, and pupils are encouraged to ask questions and think deeply. Leaders ensure the subject is well-resourced with the result that lessons are engaging. RE training from the diocese is valued, strengthening the depth of staff knowledge which enhances the richness of the curriculum. Pupils speak with enthusiasm about the importance of RE. Pupils engage with a range of worldviews and faiths, including Christianity. This enhances their understanding of difference points of view, extending the way all are knowledgeable and respectful of others. All enjoy answering 'big questions' which provide valued opportunities for deep thinking. As part of the relevant and inspiring curriculum, the whole school visits places of worship. Pupils openly share the significant impact this has on their understanding of the importance of faith and belief for themselves and others.

Living as 'children of light and in fellowship together' is profound here because it is strikingly normal for this school. The care and compassion for all is rooted in the Christian vision which enables all to flourish in living a full life at South Darley.

These inspection findings indicate that South Darley Church of England Primary school is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	5 December 2023	URN	112842
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	58
Diocese	Derby		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Paul Wilde		
Chair	Eleanor Wood		
Inspector	Rebecca Dolby-Molson	No.	2221