

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Oswald's Church of England Primary School

Vision

God has a plan

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' (Jeremiah 29:11)

St Oswald's 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.

Notable Strengths

- The shared Christian vision affirms that God has a plan for all and underpins school life. It empowers pupils and adults to flourish through the ethos of 'Aspire, Believe, Connect' within a nurturing environment.
- The school's aspirational and inclusive vision shapes a curriculum that builds pupils' confidence, purpose and sense of belonging. Effective support for those pupils deemed to be vulnerable ensures that they are included and able to flourish.
- Spiritual development is nurtured through the curriculum and daily collective worship. Regular opportunities for reflection enable pupils to explore beliefs and experience awe and wonder.
- Pupils confidently challenge unfairness. Staff demonstrate their commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion by ensuring that pupils are valued and supported.
- The dedicated and forward-looking leadership of religious education (RE) enhances pupils' enjoyment of the subject. They engage positively and recognise its importance.

Development Point

- Strengthen the RE curriculum to deepen pupils' understanding of religions and worldviews. This is to support an appreciation of diverse lived experiences and complex human beliefs.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Inspired by a biblical verse that God has a plan, the school's Christian vision nurtures a caring, inclusive community rooted in hope. Thus, staff cultivate an environment where pupils are known and valued. This creates a culture where pupils and adults are encouraged, supported and able to flourish through their daily interactions. The school's core Christian values of growth, wisdom, strength, trust, peace and friendship anchor relationships and guide leadership decisions and actions. These are woven into everyday life, shaping attitudes, behaviour and expectations across the school. The vision brings together pupils, staff and families, fostering a sense of belonging. Close partnerships with parents further develop relationships, increasing greater family participation in school life. For example, through community outreach events, families share in activities and workshops. Governors are visible within the school, offering guidance, constructive challenge and positive engagement with pupils and staff. This partnership assists leaders to uphold the vision with conviction, ensuring it shapes teaching and the wider culture. Both pupils and adults speak confidently about the vision, expressing pride in being part of the school community.

Vision and Curriculum

Driven by a clear and inclusive Christian vision, the curriculum enables pupils to flourish. Therefore, they grow as valued members of the school community. Communication skills are deliberately embedded across the curriculum. This helps pupils to articulate their ideas, listen respectfully and gain a deeper understanding. This leads to confident discussion of big questions, linked thoughtfully to lived experiences. Meeting individual needs is central to the school's identity. Pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, are fully welcomed and enabled to succeed. The curriculum affirms dignity, celebrates diversity and recognises difference as a strength, ensuring learning is relevant and accessible. From educational visits and residential to activities such as forest school, reflective moments are intentionally embraced. Pupils value enrichment experiences, including developing their leadership skills through the 'Chicken and Duck Club'. Planned opportunities for spiritual reflection are woven throughout the curriculum, both in and beyond the classroom. As a result, they enable thoughtful moments, awe and wonder, supporting pupils to grow academically, socially and spiritually.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship shapes daily life at St Oswald's and establishes a calm pattern for the school day. It is thoughtfully planned and rooted in the Christian vision. It offers a rich blend of stillness, joy and opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth. Training with the diocese grows staff confidence in exploring Scripture within worship. Likewise, reciprocal relationships with the local church deepen unity across the school community. Thus, the weekly whole school worship in St Oswald's Church provides time for contemplation and shared celebration. Worship allows adults and pupils to participate fully in the school's spiritual life. They engage deeply with biblical themes, confidently relating them to personal experience. This helps pupils draw closer to God and recognise how challenges build resilience and strengthen relationships. Pupils play an active role in enriching worship through the Christian council. Alongside other pupil leaders, they shape prayers, reflections and responses that deepen the worship experience for the whole school. Together, the breadth of worship experiences nurture empathy, confidence and a spiritual understanding of the Christian faith among pupils and adults alike.

Vision and School Culture

Caring and positive relationships lie at the centre of St Oswald's. Guided by the school's ethos, compassionate and practical support help pupils and adults to flourish. Staff consistently model kindness and respect, which is recognised and valued across the school. Behaviour reflects the school's Christian character, underpinned by a restorative approach that pupils understand and apply confidently. This helps them grow into considerate,



responsible individuals. Leaders champion wellbeing and promote a healthy work-life balance, contributing to a loyal and settled staff team. Pupils take pride in being 'Wellbeing Warriors', supporting and nurturing others to flourish. Strong partnerships with families are built through creative and inclusive opportunities that encourage genuine involvement. Regular coffee mornings and a family art club bring parents, pupils and staff together to celebrate the school's diverse community. A warm, non-judgemental culture ensures a welcome and appreciation for who they are. As a result, adults and pupils experience a sense of belonging and connection, grounded in faith that God's plan unfolds in different ways.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Staff and pupils show care for others and serve their community with enthusiasm. The belief and understanding that God has a plan guides their choices and inspires purposeful action. Pupils join projects that strengthen local relationships and address real community needs. They work with trusted partners to help the parish church, local charities, food banks and litter picks. These opportunities help pupils express the school's vision in practical and meaningful ways. Roles on the Christian and school council allow them to influence decisions and shape the spiritual life in school. Through worship and learning, they explore justice, fairness and responsible citizenship. A variety of community events inspire generosity and encourage shared action. For example, the school's 'Ozzie Outreach' project supports parent wellbeing and provides a welcoming space for sanctuary and connection. These experiences deepen empathy and increase parents and pupils' sense of responsibility. With the guidance of adults, pupils grow into thoughtful leaders.

Religious Education

Leadership in RE ensures the subject maintains a key presence as a core subject. The curriculum is organised and balanced, reflecting its importance within pupils' wider learning. However, the broader complexities of religions and worldviews remain underdeveloped. This limits pupils' perspective of faith and personal belief. Staff hone their skills further through diocesan training, which promotes consistency and supports the ongoing development of RE. Visitors and visits to places of worship provide lived experiences that deepen pupils' understanding.

Assessment is used by staff to identify gaps and strengths in teaching and learning, informing next steps. Monitoring includes pupil voice and reviews of practice to maintain progress. Stimulating teaching and well-chosen resources help pupils enjoy lessons and their work demonstrates clear pride and engagement. Creative methods, including art and drama, enrich teaching and make learning memorable. Younger pupils respond well to storytelling and hands-on exploration. Older pupils approach religious ideas and ethical questions with knowledge, sensitivity and thoughtful reflection. Lessons, therefore, encourage open discussion about belief and the challenges of life within a diverse society.

Information

Address	St Oswald's Road, Hebburn, NE31 1HT		
Date	30 March 2026	URN	108711
Type of school	Voluntary aided	No. of pupils	179
Diocese	Durham		
Headteacher	Helen Smith		
Chair of Governors	Christina Hardy		
Inspector	Steve Whelerton		