

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Filey Church of England Nursery and Infants Academy	
Address	Padbury Avenue, Filey, YO14 0BA

School vision

Our school is a Church of England School rooted in 'Community, Compassion and Friendship.' Our curriculum encourages each child to do their best, to love learning and to appreciate each other. We endeavour to uphold Christian teaching to:
'Shine as lights in the world and love as Jesus loves us.' (Philippians 2:15, John 13:34)

School strengths

- The school's deeply embedded Christian vision drives every aspect of provision. Leaders' commitment to development and training ensures staff and pupils flourish.
- Inspired by the vision the school provides rich experiences for pupils and adults within their community. These enable them to thrive academically and spiritually.
- Collective worship is at the heart of the school. Shaped by the school vision and values it provides calm, reflective opportunities for spiritual growth. Pupils and adults value this time together.
- Strong relationships are deeply rooted in Christian love. A relentless commitment to nurturing those in their school community means that wellbeing and good mental health are prioritised. This enables adults and pupils to flourish.
- Effective leadership in religious education (RE) has established a high-quality curriculum. This helps pupils to develop a sound knowledge and understanding of world religions.

Areas for development

- Deepen awareness of non-religious worldviews. This is to further enrich pupils' ability to form their own opinions and beliefs.
- Establish and embed well-defined understanding of spirituality amongst adults. This is to enable staff to plan for explicit opportunities where spirituality can be developed in an age-appropriate way.

Inspection findings

Filey Church of England Nursery and Infant Academy's vision and values drive and enrich its actions and attitudes. The words of the Bible inspire them to 'shine as lights' and to 'love as Jesus loves.' This fosters a culture of love, respect for all and celebration, where all are valued. The Christian values of community, compassion and friendship form a natural part of the language used and daily experience of adults and pupils. The calm, nurturing and purposeful environment this creates is palpable. This enables the school community to continually strive to do their best and appreciate each other, in accordance with the vision.

Staff are enthusiastic about living out the school vision. They speak with great affection about the



pupils they serve. Generous with their time and commitment, their cohesive collaborations exemplify the vision. Governors know the school well through their monitoring and evaluation. The decisions they make, including those around staffing and finance, enable pupils to thrive. Filey is part of the EBOR Academy Trust. This significantly enhances provision as a result of sharing resources and available support. Trust leaders have a collaborative approach to everything that they do. They ensure that the school maintains its ability to cater for its own community and context. Consequently, pupils and adults feel part of a trust family, where everyone can flourish academically and spiritually.

School leaders have carefully crafted a creative programme of learning that is broad and includes a wide range of opportunities. This demonstrates the school's vision for pupils to do their best, develop a love of learning and appreciate each other. The needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), or who are vulnerable are carefully considered. Investment in support staff and additional workspaces ensures that pupils who face barriers to learning receive support and can access the curriculum. Adults pride themselves in knowing each pupil individually and ensuring that their needs are met. Leaders are determined that a rich learning experience is enjoyed by everyone. An extensive offer of extra-curricular clubs, visits and visitors and wraparound care enhances learning. Pupils are, therefore, able to flourish. Teachers and support staff teach lessons that encourage pupils to develop spiritually. There are not however, enough opportunities in planned learning for pupils to fully do this.

Collective worship is an integral part of school life at Filey. It is well-planned by school leaders and supported by a local vicar. Worship is invitational, where everyone's participation is welcome and encouraged. It is contemporary, thought-provoking and interactive enabling pupils and adults to be fully engaged and challenged. Pupils contribute calmly, in a reflective and respectful atmosphere. Local clergy and volunteers visit regularly, bringing Bible stories to life and making them relevant to today's world. They describe their time in school as 'a highlight of their ministry.' This further enhances the worship and spiritual life of the school. Pupils remember stories they hear and willingly explain how they relate to the school's vision, values and their everyday lives. Staff and pupil feedback is used carefully to evaluate the impact of worship and to implement highly effective developments. Pupils are given a variety of opportunities to actively participate in worship. Spiritual spaces in classrooms are well used, with pupil prayers often incorporated into acts of worship. Worship is a special occasion and is taken very seriously. The pupils in nursery worship through play, using the worship boxes and artefacts, but do so with reverence and respect. Recently the school has developed links with a local care home where residents have been invited to worship with them. Residents now use the school prayer and they have welcomed the pupils whenever they come to 'minister to them.' As a result, adults and pupils are able to flourish.

This is a nurturing school, where the words of the vision and the values are lived out daily. Pupils and adults are respected, valued and treated well. As a result, a loving, welcoming atmosphere pervades the whole school. Personal and professional support for families is a priority for the school. The provision that adults receive through family learning, is exceptional. Many parents and family members access the range of activities, with some going on to further study and employment. Lives have been transformed through opportunities utilised by the school. The social, emotional and mental wellbeing of the whole school community is seen as a basis of flourishing for all. Therefore, it is a priority. Parents view the school as the heart of the community. One parent stated that the school 'is not just for Filey infants but for Filey as a whole.' The range of provision for families is vast. This includes harvest hampers, budgeting classes, free food Friday and ideas to support their children in the holidays. The support offered by the school to the wider community is remarkable.

Leaders carefully provide opportunities for pupils to learn about justice and to speak out against injustice. Service within the local community and beyond is promoted in worship and lesson time.

The values of community, compassion and friendship are skilfully demonstrated in their outreach work with the local community and care homes. Each class embarks on an enterprise project each year. This is cleverly linked to learning, but the focus is on raising money to support a cause chosen by the pupils. Consequently, they are empowered to identify injustice and suggest solutions to improve the lives of others and the world around them.

RE has a very high status within the school. It is well sequenced, fully embedded and highly effective. The RE curriculum has been developed after careful consideration of the school's context and needs of the local community. Lessons are well planned, engaging, and challenging. Staff are well supported through professional development in RE. This ensures that they effectively draw on resources that increase their confidence in the classroom. This in turn means that pupils enjoy their learning in RE. They are proud of their work and talk about what they have learnt with confidence. Pupils respond well to sacred texts and have an impressive religious literacy. However, there are limited opportunities to learn about non-religious worldviews. Teachers have created a safe space for pupils to explore and share their opinions to questions raised in RE. They say that RE helps them to understand each other and show respect. Therefore, pupils, including the most vulnerable and those with SEND, flourish in RE.

The inspection findings indicate that Filey Church of England Nursery and Infants Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	9 July 2024	URN	144274
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	220
Diocese	York		
MAT/Federation	Ebor Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Angela Clark		
Chair	Christine Wilson		
Inspector	Natalie Dodd	No.	2201