

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Scargill Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Beech Lane, West Hallam, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE7 6GU

Current SIAMS inspection grade

Outstanding

Diocese

Derby

Previous SIAMS inspection grade

Outstanding

Local authority

Derbyshire

Date of inspection

13 June 2017

Date of last inspection

November 2011

Type of school and unique reference number

VA Primary 112859

Headteacher

Andrew Poole

Inspector's name and number

Lizzie McWhirter 244

School context

Currently there are 398 pupils on roll in this large primary school. The proportion of pupils who are in receipt of pupil premium funding or who have special educational needs is above average. The headteacher has been in post since April 2013. The rector is new in post since the last inspection. The collective worship leader and religious education [RE] subject leader work closely together, sharing the same class.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Scargill as a Church of England school are outstanding

- This is a welcoming and nurturing Christian community grounded in a strong Christian ethos. Pupils are proud to be Scargill citizens and display Scargill's values, such as generosity, respect and forgiveness in daily life, linking them to biblical teaching.
- The partnership with St Wilfrid's Church enriches the worshipping life of this church school. Consequently, pupils show good knowledge of the church year and its key festivals.
- Strong leadership at all levels, good governance and dedicated staff ensure excellent team work within a supportive Christian environment. As a result, pupils grow in confidence and achieve well.

Areas to improve

- Embed the monitoring of RE by governors as an important part of Christian distinctiveness. This enables them to gather evidence of the impact of new resources deepening pupils' knowledge and understanding and nurturing their spiritual journeys.
- Extend the programme of visits and visitors to enable pupils to meet people of all faiths more frequently and deepen their knowledge of Christianity as a worldwide faith, enriching their spiritual and cultural development.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners

Scargill's Christian foundation is rooted in its core vision and values of love of learning, community, people, God and life itself. It has a longstanding Christian presence in the community, with the same core values endorsed by its founder and former rector, John Scargill. Everyone lives out such values as forgiveness and compassion, which are built upon the teachings of Jesus, and are proud to be Scargill citizens. Relationships and behaviour are excellent. Consequently, there is excellent pastoral care for all members of the Scargill family. Attendance is good and exclusions are rare within this supportive environment. Positive play and nurture groups support the emotional and social needs of some pupils, with teachers also extending the more able pupils. As a result, all groups of pupils make good progress, given their starting points. All achievement is valued and celebrated, with pupils excelling in musical and sporting activities. Scargill pupils are respectful and accepting of different religions and communities different to their own. The school is developing links with schools who have more diverse cultures than Scargill pupils currently experience. For example, the school is exploring a link with a school in Derby. There is a link with India, and in particular, a school in Kolkata, through the diocese. For example, pupils are raising money for this school, stemming from the Christian values of generosity and service as well as building on their founder's legacy. An excellent example is the hospitality week, when food from around the world was shared and enjoyed by all. It was so successful, it is to become an annual event. However, the school has correctly identified the need to extend the programme of visits and visitors to enable pupils to meet people of all faiths more frequently and deepen their knowledge of Christianity as a worldwide faith. This nurtures pupils' spiritual journeys. Pupils are excited and challenged by RE, which makes a very good contribution to the school's Christian character and to pupils' spiritual development. The school has celebrated its 350th anniversary as a church school, and proudly displays bunting creatively made by each member of the school community. This values everyone who belongs to the Scargill family.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Pupils plan, lead and evaluate worship throughout the year, with the worship council having a key role. Worship takes the form of gathering, engaging, responding and sending. Worship is linked with community events and celebrations. The Christian calendar is celebrated in school or in St Wilfrid's Church for key times such as Harvest, Easter and Christingle. These church services are well attended by parents who value such experiences. The rector is a welcome and regular visitor, leading worship in church and school. Consequently, pupils' knowledge of the church year is very good, which has had a strong focus this year. This is celebrated with a vibrant cross in the school hall, which is ever changing to reflect the seasons and is totally designed by pupils, reflecting their ideas and the festivals commemorated each term. Festivals and holy times belonging to other faiths are also recognised, such as Ramadan. Pupils can link each of the school's values. For example, they cite determination as seen in the story of David and Goliath and kindness as shown by The Good Samaritan. Prayer is an important part of daily life, with pupils writing and saying their own prayers twice daily in class. Pupils comment, prayer plays a role in school life as we do it every day'. Pupils say the most important part of worship is 'getting to know God a bit better'. Pupils are creative in prayer. For example, some pupils pray the jelly bean prayer to remind them of the symbolism of the Christian life, such as red for Jesus' blood and white for his grace, speaking of his sacrifice on the cross. Pupils enjoy worship outdoors on their school field. The school has already identified that creating an outdoor space for reflection is an area for development. Year 6 pupils were inspired by the stained glass windows in St Wilfrid's Church to design their own for the school hall as part of their legacy. The school has invested in a three wick candle to symbolise the Trinity in worship. Pupils are growing in their Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and say that the candle 'represents each part of God and helps us to think more about it'. They explain, 'God is the father of everyone. When God came down to earth as Jesus, he lived the life of a normal man and son.' They admit it is hard to imagine the Holy Spirit as fire.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Pupils at Scargill are thoughtful and creative, using enquiry skills and think at a deeper level. This is especially true since the 'Understanding Christianity' resource has been introduced. RE has come a long way and has a high profile. The school also uses the 'What If' learning approach to see things differently. Consequently, pupils can explain the Christian narrative very well. Regular book scrutinies help moderate standards in RE. Assessment is in line with other core subjects and progress in RE is good. This is because pupils know how to improve in their work and are encouraged by their teachers to 'keep up the good work'. Pupils see RE as important as, or more important than other subjects. Pupils show depth of knowledge in lessons and teaching and learning is good. RE is well led, managed and resourced by an enthusiastic RE subject leader. The Derby Open Centre is used for visits every year to help support pupils' spiritual and cultural development.

However, the school has already identified the need to embed the excellent teaching and learning already achieved through the use of 'Understanding Christianity'. In particular, the school intends to gather evidence of the on-going impact of this resource to support pupils' spiritual development.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding

Christian values are at the forefront of the school's vision, aims and strategic planning. As a result, pupils grow in confidence and achieve well. The same values the school's founder, John Scargill, introduced 350 years ago are upheld and lived out. Governors are very reflective in their practice. Links with St Wilfrid's Church are very good, with café church taking place in school. Links with the diocese are very supportive and the school has taken part with other schools in the Christian Character project. Parents say their children come home and ask, 'Can we read a story about Jesus tonight?' The headteacher and the RE and worship leaders attend regular meetings to discuss their work with other schools.

Strong leadership and governance is a hallmark at Scargill, with a team of hardworking staff who are praised by parents as 'exceptional'. They speak of the approachability of all staff. Indeed, staff 'demonstrate the values which are asked of the children and are great role models'.

Governors have addressed all areas from the last inspection and identified future priorities for action. They are committed to the wellbeing of the whole community and ensure training and support for all staff, not just those in leadership roles. This includes embedding the monitoring of RE by governors as an important aspect of Christian distinctiveness and supports the RE subject leader. RE and worship meet statutory requirements.

Community links are very strong, with the school taking part in the annual well dressing in West Hallam.

The essence of the Scargill family is such that the 'ethos of the school is very strong and the children come first in all decisions'. Everyone treats each other with respect and kindness. Pupils are 'keen to help their friends whether they are sad or struggling with their work and listen to each other when they think differently'. In all these ways, Scargill really is a family. Everyone works well together as a team to 'support the pupils' individual strengths and needs to prepare them well for the future as Scargill citizens'.

SIAMS report June 2017 Scargill CE VA Primary School, West Hallam, Derbyshire DE7 6GU