

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Pennington Church of England Primary School

Vision

‘God has given each of us different gifts. Together we can do great things.’

We share our Christian values and God’s love through our teaching and learning. We nurture and educate every unique Pennington child to grow and flourish, valuing each one and rejoicing in their diversity of gender, race, culture or background. We celebrate individuality and appreciate everybody’s different gifts. Children grow into happy, confident people who proudly reach their potential whilst developing their own talents and interests. We enjoy learning within our Pennington family, our community and God’s wider world.

Pennington 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 Christian vision is understood and embraced across the school. It informs daily decisions and actions and enables adults and pupils to flourish.
- The vision shapes a thoughtfully crafted curriculum. It reflects the needs of the community that the school serves. Wide-ranging opportunities, both in the classroom and beyond, enrich pupils’ learning.
- Driven by the vision, positive relationships are rooted in Christian love. This embodies a culture where adults and pupils are highly valued for both their uniqueness and their gifts.
- The school is unrelenting in its support for the individual. Effective strategies address the needs and interests of those pupils deemed to be vulnerable or who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Inspired by the vision, leaders have sought and sustained a number of fruitful partnerships. This collaborative approach enhances the wider life of the school, bringing additional openings for both staff and pupils.

Development Points

- Expand planned opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum. This is to deepen pupils’ experiences of spirituality.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The Christian vision is rooted in Scripture and lived out daily across the school. There is frequent reference to the vision's 'motto' that is an ingenious fusion of words from St Paul and Mother Teresa. Hence, it is clearly understood and relevant for both adults and pupils. The vision guides leaders and embodies a collective responsibility to nurture one another as part of the 'Pennington family'. This enables the school community to flourish and their individual God-given gifts to be cherished and celebrated. Carefully selected Christian values add to the vision's reach. Pupils and adults make good use of the values, such as patience and trust, to help them navigate their day. Parents speak of seeing values in action at home and staff note that pupils turn to them for guidance. Governors know the school well and are regular visitors. Their routine monitoring ensures that leaders are well supported in sustaining the vision. This reflects the school's foundation as a Church school and allows adults and pupils to thrive in a Christian environment.

Vision and Curriculum

Leaders make certain that the vision is central to curriculum decisions. It is carefully planned to provide a wide scope of experiences that grow individual gifts. Therefore, it encompasses a broad perspective that goes beyond the purely academic, reflecting the needs of a Pennington pupil. Outdoor learning, extra-curricular activities and educational visits enhance pupils' knowledge and understanding. Sensitive adaptations ensure that the curriculum is accessible. This guarantees that pupils who have SEND or are deemed to be vulnerable enjoy participating fully in opportunities alongside their classmates. Consequently, they flourish as a result of skilled and compassionate support. The phrase 'take a breath, take a moment' is used widely throughout school in different contexts. It provides moments for personal reflection. However, this is not routinely planned across the curriculum, resulting in missed opportunities for spiritual development. Leaders encourage a reassuring culture that aids both staff and pupils. They value this caring approach, confident in the knowledge that this is 'a safe place to make a mistake'.

Worship and Spirituality

The daily collective worship is a cherished moment in the school day. Coming together as one community, adults and pupils welcome the opportunity to share in this special time. Worship brings a deeper understanding of the vision through a regular focus on Christian values. Routines, such as Bible stories, singing and prayer bring a structure to worship. Different approaches and themes each day add interest and variety. Local clergy regularly lead worship, which reinforces Anglican traditions. Likewise, key events bring the community together for services in the local church. This enhances pupils' spiritual experiences by marking significant dates in the Christian calendar, such as Remembrance and Easter. The phrase 'take a breath, take a moment' is adept in providing times of quiet reflection in worship. The impact of these occasions extends beyond worship. Parents see their children wanting to pray or asking smart speakers to help them sing favourite worship songs at home.

Vision and School Culture

The vision is at the heart of the Christian love that permeates the school. It starts with a warm welcome, where people are valued for who they are. Pupils feel cherished from the moment they begin school as they are allocated a Year 6 buddy and a 'family group'. Working together in mixed-age family groups forges friendships and grows confidence. Leaders are rigorous in championing good mental health and wellbeing. Staff provide numerous examples that demonstrate both practical help and the care they receive. Likewise, key strategies and thoughtful interventions provide effective support for pupils. Parents speak with gratitude of the compassionate assistance offered to them personally in difficult times. Staff regularly go to great lengths in providing bespoke care for families. Positive playtimes both strengthen relationships and provide enrichment. They are well planned so that pupils can explore their interests and talents. Staff are adept in promoting forgiveness and



reconciliation for those rare disagreements. Christian values are visible in how they engender dignity and respect, as one pupil commented 'there is strength in difference.'

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The vision drives a culture that promotes mutual respect. Therefore, a sense of equality and an individual's worth permeates the school community. Pupils gain an understanding of fairness and responsibility. The use of weekly children's news resources gives them an insight into issues affecting the world. Focused discussions support a deeper comprehension and time is given to considering potential actions. There is a desire to make a difference. One pupil explains this by simply stating, 'if you leave it, it will just get worse.' Likewise, pupils are empowered by the success of their 'challenge action group'. Visits from dignitaries, letter writing and practical actions result in positive changes locally. This encourages pupils to bring ideas into school and make suggestions as to what needs to happen next. The vision encourages leaders to seek inspiring encounters that enrich school life. This is ably demonstrated in a variety of productive partnerships. These include frequent interactions with the local church community and diocese. Likewise, the established collaboration with a group of local schools garners multiple opportunities for pupils and adults.

Religious Education

Religious education (RE) is a much-valued element of the wider curriculum. A recent review of the subject resulted in the introduction of new approaches and materials approved by the diocese. This allows pupils to explore a wider range of topics in greater depth. Staff's supportive methods provide pupils with a safe space in which to study different aspects of faith and worldviews. As a result, pupils are confident in tackling big questions and know that their ideas are respected. Lessons include frequent use of practical ideas, enriching pupils' experience of the topic. For example, a serene lantern-lit tent in a classroom enabled Year 2 pupils to explore the concept of a tabernacle. Visits to places of worship and visitors provide additional depth to learning in RE. Pupils speak with interest about the insights they gained from recent workshops led by a Muslim guest in school. Reflecting the vision, this increases their knowledge and understanding of the diverse nature of belief and world perspectives. The established partnership with the local diocese facilitates ongoing training. This assists staff in remaining abreast of current developments in the subject and allows them to hone future practice.

Information

Address	Pennington, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 0RR		
Date	27 April 2026	URN	112284
Type of school	Voluntary controlled	No. of pupils	210
Diocese	Carlisle		
Headteacher	Helen Storey		
Chair of Governors	Elisabeth Fenwick		
Inspector	Jo Williams		