

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Padiham St Leonard's Church of England Primary School

Vision

Our vision at St Leonard's is to provide a nurturing, Christian environment where pupils develop a passion for learning about the world around them in order for them to become vibrant learners who use their abilities, knowledge and values to grow into faithful stewards of God's Creation.

We want our children to develop a depth of understanding which is deep rooted and as such provide a 'good soil' so pupils go on to produce a bountiful crop.

Padiham St Leonard's CE VA 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

- Guided by the Christian vision, leaders and governors are passionate about prioritising inclusion. Consequently, staff actively meet the varied needs of pupils and families and uphold high expectations through inclusive practice.
- The distinctively Christian vision results in a strong culture wrapped in love and kindness. Leaders and staff model how to treat others well.
- Religious education is passionately led and has a high profile at St Leonard's. This makes a distinctive contribution to the school's Christian vision enabling pupils to make good progress in knowledge, understanding and critical thinking.
- The school's vision underpins a rich curriculum and extracurricular offer. Carefully crafted learning experiences enrich pupils' lives and ensure that school life is shaped by these guiding principles.
- Daily collective worship is central to school life. Its inclusive and invitational approach offers opportunities for spiritual growth for adults and pupils.

Development Points

- Further enhance and enrich the school community's understanding of spirituality. This is so that pupils can recognize and express their own spiritual development and flourishing.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

A welcoming and vibrant learning environment has been created with a deeply embedded Christian vision at its heart. Reinforcing the vision are strong, biblically-inspired values that have a well-used acronym, 'FRUITS'. They are clearly referenced by pupils and adults underpinning relationships, guiding behaviour, and shaping the daily life of the school. Staff care deeply at St Leonard's. The vision drives strategic decision making, ensuring that policies, curriculum development and staff training align with the school's Christian foundation. Staff turnover is very low because there is a real sense of belonging. Governors know the school and its life and work well and are highly committed to its success. Regular visits and active involvement deepen their understanding of daily practice. School leaders and governors carefully monitor and evaluate the school vision. This ensures that it is effectively implemented and continues to make a positive, measurable difference for pupils. Staff take action to support families and consequently champion the best possible provision for learners.

Vision and Curriculum

Inspired by the school's Christian vision, staff consistently go the extra mile for pupils. Leaders take bold decisions to develop an inclusive curriculum that reflects the vision and offers opportunities for them to flourish. Pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, are fully included in all aspects of school life. Staff carefully tailor programmes to meet individual needs, with flexible access to onsite specialist provision. This strong support helps pupils grow in self-confidence, enabling them to face daily challenges with increasing independence. The Christian vision clearly shapes a rich and creative curriculum that enables pupils to experience life in all its fullness. It inspires staff to design learning that is broad, ambitious, and rooted in opportunities to explore the wider world. Opportunities, such as taking part in the end-of-year production, encourages them to go outside their comfort zone. Extracurricular provision is extensive and reflects the commitment to nurturing pupils' curiosity and cultural awareness. They speak enthusiastically about the diverse range of experiences available to them. These include visits to China Town, London, York and the theatre. In addition, activities such as fishing, and singing at a county event. These experiences deepen pupils' understanding of different communities and broaden their horizons. They contribute significantly to their personal development and help them to appreciate the richness and diversity of God's world.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is a significant part of each day when staff and pupils have the opportunity to join together and reflect. Worship is sequentially planned and themes are rooted with the Christian vision at the fore. With a collective focus on FRUITS, the school community describe it as a quiet time of togetherness. Bible stories are used effectively to exemplify how values are lived out in everyday life. These values underpin the life of the school and continually inspire this community. Worship enables pupils and adults to think and reflect which helps them in their day ahead. Reflection spaces in classrooms capture moments of thoughtful responses to big questions and ideas. Often, they talk at home about what they have learnt in worship, showing for example, the impact of Lent Challenges that have been explored together as a family.

Vision and School

St Leonard's is where genuine care sits alongside high aspiration. Fostering strong relationships between families is central to the school's vision. Pupils and adults treat one another with kindness, love and respect, creating a warm and cohesive community. A commitment to positive mental health and wellbeing is evident for all stakeholders. Senior leaders and staff model this through the thoughtful and timely support offered to individuals during challenging times. Pupils and adults are known, valued, and accepted as unique. Staff are provided with a range of wellbeing opportunities, such as 'Wellbeing Wednesday', which reflects the holistic approach to care. Staff show deep care for them and work diligently to provide tailored interventions, particularly for those who are vulnerable. They are included, nurtured, and enabled to experience success. Staff



actively identify and develop interests and talents. Parents speak positively about this approach, noting that staff truly understand their children and that 'nothing is too much trouble.'

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The school's Christian vision fosters a culture of justice and responsibility. Staff encourage pupils to understand their rights and responsibilities within the community. Leaders ensure that they have meaningful opportunities to become active citizens who can influence positive change. Pupils care deeply about what is right and leaders expect people to act with respect. There are many opportunities for them to take on leadership roles such as a happiness hero, courageous advocate, and playground leader. This helps them to build confidence, develop responsibility and contribute positively. For example, pupils visit a nearby care home, befriending residents. Similarly, Year 6 regularly support children in Reception to help them to read and build relationships. Through this, they encourage these younger members of the school to build confidence, skills and resilience. This illustrates how the vision's parable is being lived out as older pupils are like 'good soil' and a 'bountiful crop' is produced. Pupils are developing their understanding of justice through the delivery of the curriculum. Motivated by the vision, they are passionate about plans that they are driving to improve the willow garden area. Opportunities to be agents of positive change beyond their school community, however, are not always extended.

Religious Education

Driven by highly effective leadership, the RE curriculum is ambitious, rigorous, and continually developing. This has a tangible impact on pupils' flourishing, shaping a culture where RE is valued and well taught. As a result, this contributes significantly to the school's Christian distinctiveness. Because leaders and governors value the subject strongly, they are effective in their oversight and evaluation. Through robust monitoring, high-quality professional development, and clear direction, consistently strong teaching and meaningful learning is enabled. This ensures that RE is well resourced, has high status and meets the requirements for the subject in a Church school. The RE curriculum is effective and as a result there is a positive view of learning. It provides powerful opportunities to explore belief, ways of thinking and what it is like living out a faith. Focused training effectively improve teachers' subject knowledge and expertise. For example, working alongside the diocese has improved the strategic development of RE.

As a result of a carefully crafted curriculum, pupils develop a secure knowledge and understanding of faiths including Christianity. By studying a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, they gain a respectful appreciation of the diversity of beliefs and practice. Confident teaching and helpful assessment promote sound progress. Safe and thoughtful discussion helps pupils delve into their own identities and beliefs about God. This enables them to think critically and explore their convictions, and those of others, with confidence and respect. Faith days offer key moments to enhance and extend learning about people of faith and their culture.

Information

Address	Moor Lane, Padiham, Burnley, BB12 8HT		
Date	28 April 2026	URN	119425
Type of school	Voluntary aided	No. of pupils	315
Diocese	Blackburn		
Headteacher	Christopher Taylor		
Chair of Governors	Simon Butterworth		
Inspector	Lyndsay Ranby		