***Keeping On Track***

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| **School** | **Halebank CE Primary School** |
| **Adviser** | **Jane Griffiths** |
| **Date of Visit** | **08.06.23** |
| **School’s theologically rooted Christian Vision** | At the heart of Halebank Church of England Primary School is a caring Christian family with one core purpose: ‘Let your light shine.’ Matthew 5:16.  We are committed to educating ‘the whole person’ through the four basic elements of wisdom, hope, community and dignity. |
| **How was the vision developed and how does it respond to the CONTEXT of the school?** | The school’s current vision and values are being revised with all stakeholders in response to new leadership and the desire to ensure that they impact on all areas of school life and decision making. The school are taking into consideration its context and the role they wish to play as the hub of the local community. The staff and governors have a clear understanding of the challenges of the community the school serves and have embraced the opportunity to work together on a vision statement that celebrates their Christian purpose and vocation. |
| **How does the school environment and digital presence celebrate its theologically rooted Christian vision?** | The school environment celebrates its Christian distinctiveness with faith-inspired artefacts, displays, the chosen Christian values and the current biblical verse, “Let your light shine”. The main hall contains encouraging prayers on the walls and there is a focal area for collective worship. Reflection areas within classrooms are carefully maintained and are used during class worship sessions. Once the new vision and Christian values have been finalised, there are plans to create prominent wall murals to highlight their intrinsic importance in the daily life of the school community.  The opening page of the website contains the Headteacher’s Welcome, which includes the statement “At the heart of our school is a caring, Christian family with one core purpose: ‘Let your light shine’.” A drop-down tab takes the reader to the current vision and the latest SIAMS Report. All the school’s Newsletters are posted and these contain a prayer written by either pupils or staff. The website is under review and leaders intend to celebrate the school’s Christian distinctiveness more overtly in the near future. |
| **To what extent have the area/s for improvement from the**  **previous SIAMS inspection been addressed and with what impact?** | 1. *“Improve procedures for governors to monitor and evaluate church school distinctiveness through more formal and focused activities that ensure they are well informed and actively involved in the strategic development process.”*   The restrictions imposed by the pandemic over the past two years have resulted in leaders not being able to advance as quickly as they would have liked in this area. In addition, a number of governors have stood down in recent times. However, more have been appointed [including those from St Mary’s Church] and all governors will be involved at a strategic level in future plans for the continued and planned development of the school’s Christian distinctiveness.   1. *“Involve all members of the school community in more formal and recorded self-evaluation of worship to further enhance its equality and influence on the daily life of the school.”*   Plans are in place to increase the effectiveness of collective worship. Evaluations conducted so far have highlighted that a large proportion of pupils do not attend church regularly and therefore do not have access to the richness of biblical traditions, stories and Christian songs. Leaders have plans in place to remedy this and to involve pupils, staff and clergy from local churches in the planning, delivery and evaluation of invitational, inclusive and inspirational worship. |
| **How is the school’s theologically rooted Christian vision enabling pupils to flourish?** | * Leaders and staff know and understand their pupils well and relationships are strong within this school family. They have a real ambition for the pupils and there is a determination to seek out each pupil’s God-given talent and skill, to raise their aspirations and to make a difference to their futures. A wide menu of cultural capital opportunities enables pupils to develop an appreciation of social and cultural experiences which will enrich their life opportunities in the future. Examples include access to musical instruments, professional musicians and authors, theatre visits, motivational speakers and the opportunity to correspond with French penpals. * Pupils appreciate the invitational and inclusive collective worship. This is a school that enjoys worshipping together and there is a sense of joy and enthusiasm among the pupils, who are eager to take an active role. School leaders and staff have considered carefully the wide gaps in many of the pupils’ Christian experience and knowledge and are creating a worship programme that will introduce pupils to the rich tapestry of biblical narrative and to Christian belief and practice. Well maintained and attractive reflection spaces in classrooms give pupils the opportunity to add spontaneous prayers whenever they wish. The school enjoys its relationship with St Mary’s Church and the incumbent delivers collective worship regularly and prepares pupils for eucharistic services. * A new curriculum is to be created that will have the school’s chosen Christian vision and values threaded throughout. * Pupils have opportunities to develop their leadership skills through membership of a Pupil Parliament, Road safety and E-Safety officers, and other leadership roles. They routinely take the lead in selecting and fundraising for local and national causes, particularly supporting people in need through the foodbank, hospice and the NSPCC’s local defibrillator scheme. * Pupil wellbeing is important to the school and it has earned The Five Ways to Wellbeing Award. Pupils are keen to support and care for each other through such groups as their own road safety officers, e-safety officers and playground buddies. |
| **How is the school’s theologically rooted Christian vision enabling adults to flourish [staff, governors and parents]?** | * There is a real sense of excitement at all levels about the journey the school is now on, spearheaded by the creation of a new theologically rooted vision which has genuinely been the work of all. * Staff and governors have a strong sense of mutual support and team spiritedness and a shared determination to provide the best opportunities and experiences possible for their pupils. They are flourishing both professionally and spiritually within this environment. * Staff at all levels are encouraged to access CPD to enhance their professional development and advancement. Opportunities are given to take on leadership roles and responsibilities. * The governing body enjoy taking a strategic and supportive role in school life and are being enriched with new members. They receive external training to assist them in carrying out their duties. * The school is a hub of support for many families. Parents are encouraged to be partners within the school family and many appreciate the nurturing care given to their children. There is to be an increased effort in encouraging parents to come into school to take part in events and access further support from the school and each other. |
| **Agreed current strengths:** | * The inspirational vision, energy and servant leadership of the recently appointed Headteacher inspires and directs improvement and ensures that the school’s Christian distinctiveness and purpose are a priority. She is taking the school on a new and invigorating journey of rethinking their Christian purpose and practice within the community they serve and is well supported by the Deputy Headteacher and staff. There is a strong relationship with the Diocese. * The recent exercise of refreshing the school’s Christian vision and values highlighted the extent to which staff and governors know and understand the challenges experienced by the pupils and their families and their shared commitment to provide the best education, support and opportunities to enable the pupils to flourish. There is a sense of excitement for the adventure that lies ahead. * The school is inclusive and child-centred. Deep, caring relationships between all members of this tightly knit small church school family are a special feature of Halebank. The pupils’ enthusiasm and desire to learn and grow are inspired by the staff’s aspiration for them. * There are effective strategies in place to support the wellbeing of pupils, staff and the community’s families. |
| **Agreed areas for development:** | * To complete the work of refreshing the school’s Christian vision and values and ensuring that they are embedded, articulated and celebrated by all members of the school community. * To encourage further involvement of staff, governors and parents in the worshipping life of the school and to increase pupil leadership of worship. * To ensure that the website celebrates overtly the school’s Christian distinctiveness and purpose. |
| **Signed Headteacher** |  |
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| **Signed Adviser** |  |