Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Northern Saints Church of England Academy

Vision

At Northern Saints academy, we live by the belief that 'We Are Stronger Together.' Guided by Philippians 4:13 — 'I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength' — we trust that with God at the centre, every child and every member of our community can grow, achieve, and thrive. We are inspired by the faith and resilience of the Northern Saints, whose lives reflected courage, compassion, respect, and wisdom. These values are at the heart of our school family, shaping the way we learn, care for one another, and live out our faith each day.

Northern Saints Church of England Academy 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 school's shared Christian vision is well-developed. Pupils and adults articulate a real understanding of its significance and how it raises a sense of belonging and self-belief. It enriches the life of the community, where the school, trust, church and diocese work closely together as the Northern Saints family.
- Collective worship enables pupils to understand what the vision and values look like in daily life. It is carefully designed with involvement from staff, pupils and clergy. This provides significant and powerful opportunities for spiritual flourishing.
- Support for pupils, including those deemed vulnerable or those with special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND), is exceptional. This enables them to flourish together within a loving, caring and supportive school environment.
- Northern Saints has a strong sense of community and teamwork. Positive and supportive partnerships are at the heart of the school. Pupils and adults are treated well and are encouraged to grow as children of God.
- Religious education (RE) has been carefully planned and sequenced to accurately match the needs of pupils. Therefore, they value lessons, learn effectively and make impressive progress.

Development Points

- To embed a shared understanding of spirituality across the curriculum. This is to enable pupils to immerse themselves in rich experiences that further enhance their spiritual flourishing.

Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Leaders at Northern Saints Church of England Academy clearly articulate and consistently embody their Christian vision. It reflects the evolving community context, ensuring it remains deeply relevant, inclusive and aspirational. Rooted in biblical teaching, 'We Are Stronger Together' is widely understood and confidently expressed by pupils and adults. It aligns closely with the trust's commitment that every child matters and no child is ever left behind. Leaders, including the trust and academy council, make strategic decisions that place pupils at the centre. This demonstrates strong moral purpose and a clear awareness of their responsibility within the wider community. Strong partnerships with the trust, diocese and local church strengthen the school's Christian character and wider community links. Compassionate, inspiring leadership fosters high expectations, enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually, academically and personally as children of God. As a result, the vision shapes inclusive practice and strengthens community cohesion across the academy.

Vision and Curriculum

Leaders have established a strong, ambitious and inclusive curriculum. It is carefully designed and adapted to meet the needs of pupils, including those with SEND and those considered vulnerable. Bespoke planning, alongside both targeted and responsive interventions, enables pupils to make meaningful connections in their learning. Thoughtfully organised breakout spaces and effective partnerships with local agencies further strengthen provision. This ensures that support is well matched to individual need. A wide range of curriculum enrichment opportunities broadens pupils' experiences, fostering curiosity and enabling them to explore with confidence. Staff intentionally create opportunities for discussion and reflection, promoting pupils' spiritual development. However, a shared and embedded understanding of spirituality across the curriculum is still developing. As a result of this coherent and nurturing approach, pupils are well prepared for life beyond the school. Pupils develop a strong sense of belonging and understand that each individual is uniquely valued.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship at Northern Saints is inclusive, uplifting and central to school life. It strongly nurtures the spiritual development of both pupils and adults. Leaders prioritise worship as a key opportunity to connect meaningfully with God. Daily worship introduces calm, reflective pauses within otherwise busy school routines. It clearly reflects the school's Christian vision and values, including the example and influence of the Northern Saints. Traditional liturgy, the church calendar and contemporary styles are blended effectively. This combination creates engaging and meaningful worship experiences for those involved. The pupil worship council helps plan and lead worship, fostering ownership and belonging. Strong partnerships with the local church further enhance worship quality and impact. Additional opportunities, including prayer spaces, deepen spiritual understanding. Staff expertise has improved through focused training, ensuring consistently high-quality worship delivery. Reflection opportunities are widespread, including the Peace Garden and dedicated calm spaces. Classroom reflection areas encourage thoughtful engagement with spiritual themes. The shared language of 'Look In, Up and Out' supports clear understanding of spiritual growth. Pupils know biblical stories well and apply these lessons confidently to their lives. They recognise prayer as a source of strength and resilience. Leaders, pupils and governors carefully monitor and evaluate worship provision. Class worship jotters provide clear evidence that informs ongoing improvement. Worship sensitively addresses local and national issues, developing compassion and understanding. The whole-school prayer fosters unity and a strong sense of shared purpose.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The shared Christian vision inspires pupils to live out justice and responsibility as agents of change. Pupils access a range of leadership opportunities, including pupil parliament, school council, young leaders and the mini senior leadership team. They champion diversity, inclusion and justice, explaining clearly how these values shape their actions and relationships. Pupils demonstrate a secure and age-appropriate understanding of injustice and

The National Society Church of England and Church in Wales) for the Promotion of Education is a registered charity (313070) in England and Wales

inequality. They know how to respond to these issues within school and in the wider community. As a recognised SuperKind school, Northern Saints empowers pupils to take meaningful action. This results in real impact locally and beyond. Initiatives include working with the charity 'Pawz for Thought', Toilet Twinning and community litter picks led by the eco committee. These experiences enable them to develop as responsible stewards of God's creation. Consequently, pupils develop a strong moral purpose. They understand their responsibility and believe that their voices can bring about positive change.

Religious Education

RE is a significant strength, rooted in a bespoke, carefully sequenced curriculum responsive to context. Clear progression enables pupils to connect new learning with prior knowledge securely over time. High expectations ensure RE holds a valued place within the wider curriculum. This reflects a strong commitment to valuing each pupil as an individual. Targeted support enables learners to succeed through mentoring and collaborative coaching. Teaching is enriched through educational visits, visiting speakers and interfaith experiences of lived faith. Pupils act as investigators, asking thoughtful questions that deepen understanding. They show respect for a wide range of beliefs and share ideas with empathy and openness. As a result, pupils are reflective, respectful thinkers. They are well prepared to contribute positively within diverse and multicultural communities.

Leadership of RE is highly effective, securing strong provision and positive outcomes. Leaders prioritise professional development, strengthening staff subject knowledge and expertise. Teaching is engaging, using high-quality resources and relevant real-life contexts. Assessment systems enable tracking of progress and targeted support. Leaders work with staff to refine assessment so it benefits learning and progress. Robust monitoring and evaluation, including governor involvement, sustains RE as a valued subject. Pupils enjoy learning, achieve well and maintain secure progress over time. Encounters with visitors deepen pupils' understanding of cultural diversity and acceptance. They are confident, respectful and knowledgeable about beliefs and traditions. Pupils show a growing readiness to live well together in an increasingly diverse society.

Vision and School Culture

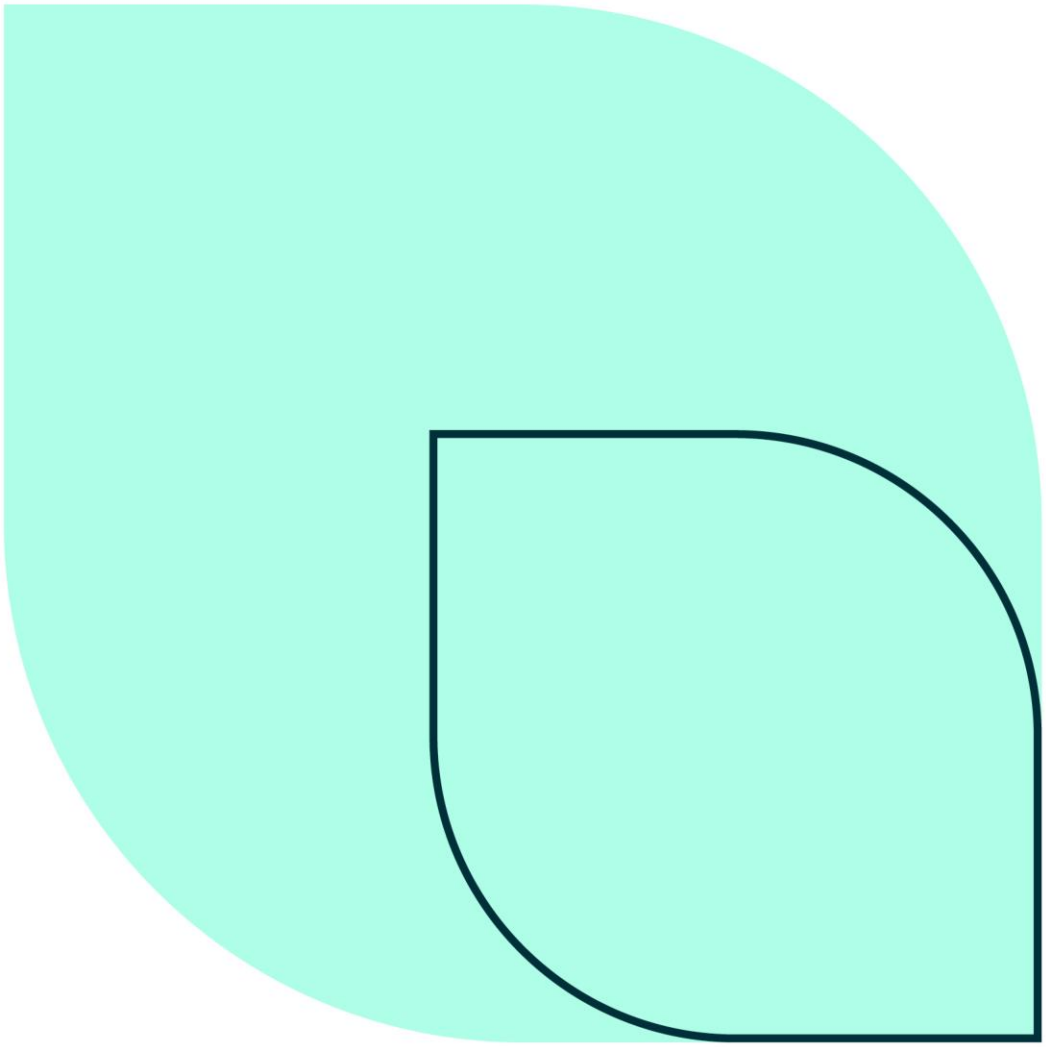
The school's deeply embedded Christian vision is clearly articulated and lived, shaping a culture of love, dignity and respect. Inclusive provision reflects this vision, including a thoughtfully designed sensory room supporting pupils with complex needs. As a committed 'No Outsiders' school, difference is actively celebrated, reflecting biblical teaching and underpinning core Christian values. Strong, trusting relationships between staff, pupils and families create a sense of belonging. Open communication enables pupils to express confidently that they feel safe, happy and valued. Close community partnerships further strengthen this shared sense of belonging and acceptance. Staff show exceptional dedication, going above and beyond to support families, reflecting the vision authentically in daily practice. A strong team culture ensures staff feel respected, supported and empowered to collaborate while maintaining their wellbeing. Parents speak highly of the school's care and value the personalised support. Leaders, supported by the trust and diocese, nurture an aspirational environment where pupils and adults flourish within this distinctively Christian school community.

The National Society Church of England and Church in Wales) for the Promotion of Education is a registered charity (313070) in England and Wales

Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information

Address	Rotherham Road, Red House, Tyne and Wear, SR5 5QL		
Date	29 June 2026	URN	149524
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	440
Diocese	Durham		
MAT	Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust		
MAT Chair	Paul Rickeard		
Headteacher	Rachel Heaney		
Chair of Governors	Jo Warner		
Inspector	Andrew Kay