

Summary SIAMS Self-Evaluation

NORHAM ST. CEOLWULF'S C OF E SCHOOL





School's Theologically Rooted Christian Vision

Norham St Ceolwulf's is a nurturing, inclusive, Church school where everyone is valued as a child of God. We warmly welcome people of all faiths/worldviews and backgrounds, fostering respect, compassion and forgiveness. Rooted in faith, family and community, we aim to grow together in love, developing wisdom, knowledge and aspirations for a brighter future.

Our school vision is, *'To realise the potential within every child, by providing the encouragement and challenge to inspire a love of life-long learning, within a caring community with Christian values and beliefs at its heart.'*

The school has a clear Christian vision, which is rooted in our mission statement and related teachings: **"I can do this through him who gives me strength."** **Philippians 4:1**. This inspires us to live out our Christian values and to strive for excellence and fulfilment in all that we do whilst celebrating life.

Inspection Conversations: Context

Context 1: Who are we?

Norham St Ceowulf's is a small rural primary school in North Northumberland on the English/Scottish border, with 34 pupils on roll. The school serves a small village community but recently is attracting children from Berwick and Scotland. It is a fully inclusive school, with 26% of pupils disadvantaged, 29% SEND, 6% EHCP and 3% EAL. There are currently 2 Early Help plans in place, reflecting the school's proactive approach to supporting families.

The school faces challenges of rural deprivation, including key factors such as service access for vulnerable groups. It is supported by other settings in the Tweed Learning Federation, providing support in key areas such as SEND.

The school became part of the Tweed Learning Federation in 2024 and a primary in September 2025, with the restructuring of the Berwick Partnership into 2 tiers. Since 2022 the school had faced potential closure and has been on a rapid cycle of



	improvement since Ofsted 2022, when it was classified as requiring improvement, but secured good judgements in all areas in 2024. In 2025-6, attendance 25-26 is currently 95.1%, with 8.3% persistently absent. Behaviour is a strength, with only 0 suspensions of any kind since September 2022. Academic outcomes are improving overtime but are difficult to demonstrate with small cohorts. 2026 GLD is 100% (2 pupils), Phonics is 100% (4 pupils) and KS1 voluntary data shows 100% (2 pupils) at expected levels for RWM particularly in Key Stage 1 where 100% of pupils met the expected standard in reading, writing, and math's Despite the challenges associated with rurality and the recent challenges of closure and poor standards in 2022, Norham St Ceowulf's continues to deliver strong outcomes and is committed to further improving attendance and progress for all pupils. As part of the Tweed Learning Federation, it aims to build on the successes of the last 3 years and continue to build pupil numbers and provide the community with a sustainable and impactful resource for the future.
Context 2: What are we doing here?	Norham St Ceowulf's is a nurturing, inclusive Church school where everyone is valued as a child of God. We warmly welcome people of all faiths/worldview's ad backgrounds, fostering respect, compassion and forgiveness. A school which has its community as a foundation of all its work, we aim to grow together in love, developing wisdom, knowledge and aspirations for a brighter future. A Bible story that resonates deeply with our school vision is Jesus Blesses the Children (Mark 10:13–16). It reflects our commitment to nurturing every child with love, dignity, and respect, recognising their unique value and potential—just as Jesus welcomed and blessed them." The school has a clear Christian vision, which is rooted in our mission statement and



	related teachings: <i>“I can do this through him who gives me strength.” Philipians 4:1.</i> This inspires us to live out our Christian values and to strive for excellence and fulfilment in all that we do whilst celebrating life. Our mission statement and values were decided upon after joint work by the pupils, staff and governors and are rooted in Biblical passages and stories so our children can explore and reflect upon them during worship and beyond. As a school we are guided and supported by St Cuthbert’s Church and the community within. The church and school share a combined mission to places where people can come together to experience the love and community which is found in following the Lord. The key Christian teachings that inspire our vision for our school are... • Friendship • Endurance • Service • Compassion • Justice
Inspection Questions (IQ) : How then shall we live? (This information is key to enabling inspectors to make evidence-based judgements.)	
INSPECTION QUESTION (IQ)	IMPACT OF PROVISION AND SOURCES OF EVIDENCE



IQ1 How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision enable pupils and adults to flourish?	Our school's vision statement is deeply rooted in Christian theology and inclusive values, which provides a strong foundation for flourishing in several key ways. Our key Christian values guide us to enable both pupils and adults to thrive: <u>Endurance</u> "Endurance and perseverance are only possible where there is hope and that hope is based on the enduring nature of God's love and faithfulness." (Matthew 26) Our children are encouraged to explore endurance through Biblical stories including 'The Widow who Never Gave Up' (Luke 18:1-8) and our enquiry-based approach to the curriculum allows the children to develop opportunities to apply our Christian Core Value alongside engaging in deeper, reflective thinking with regards to problem solving, understanding how to overcome physical challenges with determination and endurance in PE forest or in the outdoors. <u>Service</u> "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you should also wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done." (John 13:1-17) One of the stories we share which teaches the children about this value is the 'Queen Esther Serves her people' (Book of Esther). The children have opportunities to live out our value of Service through community work and beyond like the close relationship we have with Birch Hill Care Home and recently undertaking the Archbishop of York Young Leaders Project in KS1 and the National Young Leadership Group Award in KS2. <u>Friendship</u> "If one falls down, a friend can life him up." (Ecclesiastes 4:10) When we shared the story of 'Through the Roof' (Mark 2:1-12), the children explored the value of Friendship. We see the children demonstrating friendship in the links we
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	have between ourselves and the local schools we work closely with. We also ask <i>‘Who is my neighbour?’ (Luke 10:29)</i> and learn global answers, exploring the wider world around us. <u>Compassion</u> “Clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (Colossians 3:12) The Biblical story of the ‘Good Samaritan’ (Luke 10:29-37) helps us to explore the value of Compassion and the children try to understand how others might be feeling and do their best to try to help in a range of contexts including in suggesting and developing strategies to overcome ‘dilemmas’ in PSHE. Our children are also taught to accept different and celebrate diversity. <u>Justice</u> “You must not do wrong just because everyone else is doing it.” (Exodus 23:2) Our children are encouraged to explore justice through Biblical stories including ‘The Story of Jonah’ (Book of Jonah). The children find opportunities to demonstrate justice through the experiences, everlasting knowledge and skills that they develop at St Ceowulf’s necessary to make good judgements for the greater good, guided by God’s patience and love for example a climate justice project with Christian Aid as part of an RE Wonder Day recently.
IQ2 How does the curriculum reflect the school’s theologically rooted Christian vision?	We are committed to developing all aspects of our children’ lives. Our school curriculum encapsulates our commitment to our vision. Christian values are at the heart of our teaching and learning and we encourage all of our children to put these values into practice in every aspect of school life



IQ3 How is daily collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?	Collective Worship is at the heart of Norham St Ceowulf's and all children and staff engage fully with it. It provides the opportunity for our school community to come together in fellowship to share experiences, ideas and understanding. It is the context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared. Collective Worship provides the opportunity for our children and adults to become aware of the importance of reflection; how our positive and negative experiences can help us to learn about ourselves, the wider world, God's Kingdom, it allows us to connect, question and develop. Through daily Collective Worship, children and adults are offered a space and a place for hearing the Christian story. They are offered an understanding of worship by being invited to participate in, or observe, Christian spiritual practices such as: prayer, Reading and reflection on the Bible and liturgy and music. Children enjoy taking part in collective worship and relish contributing to questions linked with the theme of worship.
IQ4 How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision create a culture in which pupils and adults are treated well?	Our school vision drives us to focus on the wellbeing of the school community – both children and adults. We treat all with equity and value each individual for who they are to ensure a sense of belonging. We follow Jesus's example underpinned by our vision and ensure our Christian values guide us to embrace our unique gifts and talents resulting in our children and adults feeling safe and accepted in school.
IQ5 How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision create an active culture of justice and responsibility?	Our children recognise that helping others begins with our community and not just overseas. Our children recognise that support doesn't just take the form of raising money but also through the giving of time to our community e.g. work with our local care home, supporting community events, etc



	Our children recognise that 'working together' extends beyond the school context, this is driven by our aim for our children to become leading lights in our community and our world. Our children can relate the school's Christian Values to their activities and understand that by helping others they are fulfilling God's word. In our curriculum there is a focus on 'Big Questions' through the use of direct enquiry questions for our children to explore. We want our children to be inspired by our curriculum offer and to be an agent of change - to be that leading light; to question the wider world.
IQ6 Is the religious education curriculum effective (with reference to the expectations set out in the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education)	The provision, profile and priority of RE at Norham St Ceowulf's is of the utmost importance. RE holds equal priority to other core subjects; therefore, class teachers deliver all RE lessons and are not given to PPA teachers. The RE Lead has led on staff training for the new curriculum and shared resources. RE is given more than sufficient curriculum time. As far as possible RE is timetabled to take place at the same time for all children. The RE leader and teachers are given access to regular and high quality professional CPD as well as support from the diocese.
IQ7 What is the quality of religious education?	At Norham St Ceowulf's we believe that the teaching of RE is both a huge responsibility and a privilege that must be recognised by those who teach it. By embracing the explicit teaching of Christian concepts and God's big story, it is hoped that the content of our RE curriculum will give pupils a deeper understanding of Christianity. In addition, children explore all major world faiths and discuss world views where appropriate. Whoever we are, wherever we live, whether we are a person of faith or not, we all have a view on the world. Nobody stands nowhere. The children enjoy the rich experiences they receive in RE, as evidenced on displays, the website, pupil voice and by the high standard of work in childrens' books. All teachers teach RE with confidence and to a high standard. Quality RE has the



	potential, more than any other subject, to have the most powerful and lasting effect on the child's heart and mind. It is a subject that combines academic rigour with the development of the character and spirit of the child. RE provides opportunities for spiritual development and personal reflection. On a quest to discover more about religion and world views, children will discover more about themselves through high quality learning opportunities.
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