

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

### Mrs Mary King's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Address Linwood Road, Martin, Lincoln, LN4 3RB

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

**Overall grade**

**Good**

**The impact of collective worship**

**Good**

#### School's vision

'Working together with God's help we can achieve great things.'

Our school vision is inspired by the story of the loaves and fishes. With the humblest of ingredients Jesus performed a miracle, feeding the many. No matter their background, every child has the potential to achieve great things.

#### Key findings

- This school's Christian vision is rooted in biblical teaching. It places the child at the centre. As a result, all decisions are made based on the vision which enables pupils and adults to flourish.
- The pupils and their families encounter transformational work by the school to change their lives for the better, especially children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Spirituality is securely understood by adults in the school. However, pupils' understanding of the role spirituality has in living life in all its fullness, is not fully developed.
- Collective worship is the heart of this church school. It is invitational, offering everyone the opportunity to engage. However due to COVID disruption pupils' monitoring of worship has not been formalised.
- Religious education (RE) is taught in a creative way, making RE real and alive. Christianity is understood as a living world faith because of the close relationship the local church has with the school.

#### Areas for development

- Maximise occasions for older pupils to reflect, contemplate and understand their spiritual development enabling them to flourish in the fullness of life.
- Enhance systematic and structured opportunities for pupils to monitor the impact of collective worship following the disruption caused by the pandemic.
- Deepen pupils understanding of religions and worldviews beyond Christianity enabling them to identify their impact on society and culture.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

### Inspection findings

Mrs Mary King's Christian vision places the child at the centre of all decisions. It is rooted in the humblest working together for the benefit of all. As a result, the vision enables all pupils and adults to flourish. Warmth, compassion and love builds the community of the school. An example of this is the hard work of the staff and passionate leadership of the headteacher during COVID lockdowns. Daily contact with families kept the community together. Leaders, including governors, have a strong sense of how the school's Christian vision drives its work. Governors monitor the impact of the vision and receive regular reports from the dedicated headteacher about its impact. It is clear the school community works together, as the school's vision states, to bring about transformational change so everyone flourishes.

The school is a caring community built on a shared understanding of its Christian vision. It makes the school a place of security where pupils are understood, as a result they feel valued. Leaders speak of a togetherness built out of respect for every pupil's uniqueness. This is seen in how parents and carers view the school, particularly those with children who have additional needs. Staff work closely with parents to ensure every need is met, living out their Christian vision of working together to create miracles. It is because of this ethos pupils with SEND thrive. Pupils who are considered vulnerable find a secure and loving place in the school. The headteacher fits the school around the child. He has invested in staff who have created an engaging curriculum that enables all to celebrate success. Every child is given the opportunity to take part in a range of extra-curricular activities. These are designed to build resilience, compete as teams, or meet individual interests. As a result, everyone flourishes in the fullness of life.

Pupils enjoy coming to school and attendance has been strong throughout COVID. This is because pupils are nurtured, and their spiritual development is supported. Through reflection, invitations to prayer and open discussion in lessons, pupils' awareness of themselves and others grows. Spirituality is securely understood by adults in the school. However, pupils understanding of how God can help shape the way they choose to live is hard for them to articulate. The school has acted on this by focusing on developing how pupils understand and use language to express spirituality.

Pupils are valued and empowered to lead at Mrs Mary King's. The school is fully inclusive and demonstrates a deeply loving culture of compassion. This has resulted in pupils confidently leading projects to care for God's world. Pupils have formed a climate club, introduced a weekly award for collecting soft plastics and are planting a new woodland. This enables them to be aware of the environmental issues of the wider world, regularly raising funds for the Rainforest Foundation. As a result, pupils live out the core intent of the school to make them global citizens in God's creation.

Leaders of the school form a cohesive team. Each member has strengths to support and build different relationships with the school community. The school actively brings everyone together. Wellbeing and mental health of others, as well as themselves, is a key component of this work. Through a local charity, mental health support has been utilised by the school. Also, the new special educational needs co-ordinator works with a range of services to provide much needed support. As a result, everyone lives well together. Respect and dignity are core values within the school. They are developed sensitively through the comprehensive relationships and sex education curriculum. Purposeful and healthy relationships are also made real by the school community being the custodians of the 106 Squadron memorial. Pupils flourish through the care they take in having regular contact with relatives from the squadron. They are proud to have created the memorial and share this unique heritage.

Collective worship is the beating heart of the school day. It is built from the vision that enables all pupils to be invited to encounter the miracles of Jesus. The school values daily, inclusive, whole school worship. It uses reflective storytelling to question and make sense of the Christian teachings of the Bible. Pupils sing with happiness and enjoy coming together for this special time. Everyone is offered the opportunity to pray and have time for reflection and stillness. The impact is the whole community values prayer. Pupils articulate that they enjoy how they use prayer to speak with God and feel his presence. Biblical teachings are remembered and impact on how pupils behave and act with one another.

The headteacher and his staff have worked hard in COVID lockdowns to maintain worship for the whole school. Pupils are actively involved in the delivery of worship through a worship council led by a foundation governor. As a result, they feel empowered, especially when leading services in church. However, the pandemic has prevented the development of a systematic approach to pupils monitoring the impact of worship.

RE is led with enthusiasm and expertise. As a result, RE is a meaningful way for pupils to be prepared for life. A range of big questions within Christianity ensures a good breadth of knowledge and understanding of concepts, such as 'Why is the word God so important to Christians?' Christianity is explored as a diverse, living worldwide faith. This is because the relationship with the local church enables pupils to experience Christianity first-hand. Whilst the RE curriculum covers a range of religions and worldviews, these are not as embedded yet. Recent training from the Diocese has grown staff confidence in delivering the core knowledge of these. This is beginning to impact on pupils wider understanding of the world. Pupils have an RE curriculum that supports progress in their learning. It enables pupils to explore RE through what people believe, how they think and live. Governors monitor the provision of RE and robustly hold the subject leader to account. This ensures the subject has a high profile in the school. As a result, RE meets the requirements of the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.

### Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	22 March 2022	URN	120530
Date of previous inspection	16 October 2014		
School status	Voluntary controlled primary school	NOR	105
Name of Federation	Carrdyke Federation		
Diocese	Lincoln		
Headteacher	Andrew Sewell		
Pupil profile	The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is above national averages.		
	The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is above national averages.		
Additional significant information (if needed)	10% of families in the school are key workers in the armed forces.		
Inspector's name	Christopher Allen	No.	847