

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Lawrence Church of England Primary School, Skellingthorpe	
Address	Lower Church Road, Skellingthorpe, LN6 5UZ
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	Excellent

School's vision
<p>We are passionate about learning, shining in our achievements and actions, like beacons of light. Every day we learn within an inclusive and supportive culture – just as God intended – that values effort, enabling us to be the best that we can be. The Christian values we have in our hearts are lived out in all of our relationships and care for each other.</p> <p>Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective Worship at St Lawrence's is excellent. It is centred around the school's Christian vision and enables empowerment through biblical teachings. As a result, the school community finds deep meaning in celebrating the fullness of life that God intended. • Leaders have developed a vision that reflects the local context and is rooted in Christian teachings. All decisions are based on this vision and places the pupils at the centre, allowing them to 'shine out'. As a result, every pupil's uniqueness is valued and appreciated. • Spirituality is securely understood. It is weaved throughout the curriculum and ethos of the school. Pupils and adults engage without direction in the rich culture of deep reflection. As a result, pupils are confident in exploring their own spirituality. • Pupils behave well. The key to this is the relationships that the school enables and grows so that the community lives well together. Forgiveness and reconciliation underpin all relationships. As a result, the whole child is compassionately considered. • 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. Assessment is in place but doesn't reflect the different disciplines it is taught through.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure structures and process remain robust to maintain opportunities for self-reflection during a period of change in school leadership. • Extend the courageous advocacy work of the school from local projects to wider global projects that tackle disadvantage, deprivation and exploitation. • Build on assessment systems in RE so teachers consider the skills being taught and can effectively embed assessment practices.



Inspection findings

St Lawrence's Christian vision places the pupils and adults at the centre of all decisions. It is rooted in the commitment to giving the best opportunities to live a fulfilled life. It supports and guides families to enable transformational change in their lives. As a result, the vision enables all pupils and adults to flourish. Warmth, compassion and love binds the community of the school together. An example of this is the hard work of the staff and passionate leadership of the headteacher with families when they face extreme difficulties in their lives. Parents recognise the school walks with them in these times with the light of Jesus. Parents value how every pupil is encouraged to shine out. 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. The recent decision of the head teacher to reduce her working days will need careful monitoring and support to ensure the robust self-evaluation of this church school continues.

The curriculum and extra-curricular activities prepare pupils for life, enabling them to grow and experience life in all its fullness. Pupils' uniqueness is explored in the purposeful Relationships and Health Education curriculum, enabling them to be confident and considerate individuals. Weekly 'Praise Parties' celebrate pupils' achievements and reflect how they live out the school's Christian vision. As a result, pupils demonstrate a joy for the school and their learning. Pupils who may struggle with school life are fully embraced through the generous outworking of the school's vision. The school adapts to meet the needs of the child. Its flexible and creative approach ensures that pupils are listened to, and their needs are acted upon and this enables them to flourish. As a result, the community consistently values all God's children in the compassion it shows.

The school community values school services held in the parish church. The school and church work closely together and bring cohesion to the wider village community. The harvest festival, held in church, enabled pupils to demonstrate courageous advocacy in the community. They collected food for the Lincoln foodbank. This built on a long-established relationship with the food bank where pupils have explored the injustice of people in God's world not having the basic essentials to live. The school works with several local charities and is proud of this. Pupils understand some of the issues the local community face around disadvantage and enthusiastically campaign to change this. Many of their actions are celebrated proudly by pupils and are visible around the school. However, pupils are less aware of global campaigns that tackle injustice or inequality.

Opportunities for pupils to explore spirituality in the school are rich and varied. Spiritual development extends beyond collective worship, enabling pupils to have personal experiences of deep reflection. It equips pupils to listen, question and respond to the world God created. Every pupil benefits from planned spiritual development within the taught curriculum. This contributes to pupils being calm, confident and flourishing in their daily experience. Staff value weekly prayer meetings in school, parents appreciate staff offering prayer when they face difficult moments and children spontaneously and openly use prayer. As a result, spirituality embraces the whole school community and contributes to supporting good mental health provision.

Collective worship is transformational in the daily life of the school. Adults see it as the heartbeat of their day. Worship is exceptional because it is inclusive and seen as a conversation with God. As a result, pupils have a deep and meaningful connection to God through prayer. Here, they ask him questions and hear his answers. Vibrant, joyful singing is a key part of daily collective worship which everyone finds deeply moving and uplifting. Christian teachings within worship have a real impact on the school community. They help to promote the vision and secure the atmosphere of loving care and support for one another. Worship builds a strong sense of community. During COVID lockdowns worship was the most important part of the day because it brought the whole community together (virtually). It equipped the school with resilience and compassion. It enabled an all-encompassing loving presence. The richness of the church year is celebrated through the seamless links with the local church. The result is a school identity of tradition, generosity and grace. Pupils play a key role in planning, delivering and monitoring worship. Their voice is heard and acted on by senior leaders on a weekly basis, keeping worship dynamic and empowering. The result is that collective worship is a bold, cohesive statement of the Christian foundations of the school.

Pupils flourish in RE as it is led well. Leaders invest in it and ensure that it meets the requirements of the Church of England Statement of Entitlement. The school uses the locally agreed syllabus to effectively plan and sequence learning. RE meets the needs of every pupil by offering a range of support. High expectations for every pupil result in them becoming critical thinkers. This is seen in how they are curious about the vastness of RE and the many questions it can generate. RE is a safe space in the timetable that enables pupils to challenge ideas, reflect and shape their knowledge and understanding of world faiths. The curriculum planning ensures Christianity is experienced as a living, diverse worldwide faith. However, current assessment in RE does not encompass the different methods of teaching RE for assessment practices to be embedded. Learning embraces more opportunities for creative approaches to learning, including art and drama. As a result, pupils are enthusiastic about RE and are developing their understanding in different ways. They demonstrate good subject knowledge, and this enables them to be prepared for the modern world they live in.

Information			
School	St Lawrence Church of England Primary School, Skellingthorpe	Inspection date	13 October 2022
URN	120537	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Lincoln	Pupils on roll	208
Mrs	Marion Watson		
Chair of Governors	Colin Evans		
Inspector	Christopher Allen	No.	847