

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

<b>Dunholme St Chad's Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	Ryland Road, Dunholme, Lincoln, LN2 3NE
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
<p>Creating a community with open hearts and minds.</p> <p>As an inclusive and welcoming church school, we work towards creating a community with open hearts and open minds. We strive to ensure that all members of our school community understand themselves to be valued for who they are. Our inspiring and ambitious learning environment enables pupils and adults to aspire to fulfil their hopes for the future. Through challenge and support, we help each other overcome barriers so that everyone can feel confident in pursuing excellence in all they do.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The deeply embedded Christian vision builds upon a shared understanding of what is important to the community. It is the driving force, enabling pupils and adults to flourish in a loving school. Open hearts and minds allow truth, love and humility to shape lives.</li> <li>The needs of pupils are met through the curriculum, enabling them to flourish. The 'Golden Threads' bind the vision and values. Carefully developed learning opportunities encourage pupils to consider disadvantage and injustice, leading to self-awareness and personal growth. However, spirituality is not clearly defined.</li> <li>The vision led shared leadership creates a culture of tangible care for all, including the most vulnerable. Leaders, governors, and staff exemplify the vision's importance of flourishing together. Nevertheless, pupils' views are not fully utilised in decision making.</li> <li>Collective worship impacts the lives of the school community, positively influencing all. It is invitational, inclusive and inspiring, deepening pupils' understanding of Christian values, helping them to live these. However, opportunities for pupils to lead worship are not developed.</li> <li>Religious education (RE) is an important subject in the life of the school. The curriculum provides opportunities to explore Christianity, major world faiths and world views. However, there is inconsistency in pupils' understanding of their own progress in RE.</li> </ul>



#### Areas for development

- Develop a shared definition of spirituality so that it is understood by all, enabling recognition and appreciation of these rich experiences.
- Ensure pupils' views help shape school improvement so that policies and practice reflect their aspirations and provide them with a sense of ownership.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to lead worship, so that they can share their understanding of the school's vision, values and traditions.



## Inspection findings

The Christian vision and values, known and lived out by adults and pupils, create a strong Church school community. Consequently, all at Dunholme flourish. The vision drives the work of the school, with the example of St Chad at its heart. Leaders, including governors, use the vision and values as a lens to measure the school's impact. As a result, there is a shared, robust and accurate understanding of the school's effectiveness and development areas. The diocese's involvement, including training, is highly valued. Governors are committed and effective; as new staff and governors take up their roles, they are planning accordingly.

Open hearts and minds represent how the school thinks of itself and acts. There is confidence in the expression of the Christian values of love, truth and humility. Each member of school understands the importance of valuing themselves and others. Consequently, there is commitment to shared responsibility and recognition that it is important to 'do your little bit of good'. The school community looks forward with positivity and with common purpose, aspiration and hope. As a result, families and pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those considered vulnerable, thrive. Carefully targeted provision for those with additional needs or vulnerabilities, demonstrates that the school considers every child special. Parents recognise the school's commitment to families and the compassionate approach taken to providing support which extends to home. However, pupils are not given sufficient opportunities to share their views and ideas to positively influence the school's development.

Curriculum planning provides opportunities for pupils to learn and think about 'Big Questions'. 'Golden Threads' are carefully woven through, encouraging pupils to look beyond themselves and consider real world issues. Inspirational figures are studied alongside events in history where discrimination and prejudice have led to injustice. As a result, children are on their journey to becoming courageous advocates. However, spirituality is not clearly defined. Therefore, the many opportunities that exist for its development are not fully realised.

Pupils take pride in their school and are unequivocal in their understanding of acceptance. They are clear in words and actions that anybody, regardless of difference, is welcome. This instils confidence, promoting cohesion and collective responsibility for living well together. A culture of compassion ensures pupils and adults feel cared for. Leaders model the compassionate and nurturing relationships which are prevalent throughout the school. These are powerful as they naturally occur as a direct impact of how the vision is lived out by all. Parents, pupils and staff acknowledge that St Chad's is a place which embraces difference and encourages forgiveness. Through policies rooted in the vision, behaviour is respectful and caring. Understanding and reconciliation instinctively occur when problems arise, enhancing relationships. The decision by governors to appoint specialist staff is widely appreciated and impacts positively on families. Direct, practical support for families enhances lives, builds trust and creates a bond of compassion where all feel valued. As a consequence, love, humility and trust are explicit and implicit in school life extending to the wider community.

Love is not just spoken about; it is lived out through generous actions and humility. The school staff exemplify strong relationships. Shared leadership of responsibilities across the school supports their well-being and provides space and time for staff to thrive. As part of a collaborative school alliance, staff also benefit from ongoing professional learning and develop their own evidence informed practice. Consequently, staff enjoy working at the school, are mindful of each



other and dedicated to the flourishing of all.

Character and moral development are embedded into school life. Pupils show they have the knowledge, desire and faith to act for social justice, following the example of Jesus. Classes support national organisations through pupil and staff initiated fundraising. This includes raising money and awareness of, for example, the plight of people in Ukraine. Pupils also show commitment to serving their local community. They enthusiastically participate in events that support the 'Friday Food Bank', a long standing and school led initiative. The school is committed to helping the children to 'be the change they want to see'. This is done through the curriculum and by providing the opportunity for example, through the Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award. Consequently, pupils are aware of their responsibility to not just themselves but also to helping others overcome barriers.

There are mutually beneficial and strong relationships between the local parish church, members of the clergy and the school. This brings the community together in common purpose. The Sunday service held in school provides opportunity for families to worship together and share special times. As a result, the gospel is celebrated and shared in a setting that is familiar and which promotes active engagement with the church. This service is designed for the community, all are welcome and many attend. Reflection is encouraged within the school and the Christian values and invitation to reflect are displayed in classrooms. Pupils share their responses to special moments and reflect on how the school's vision and values help them.

There is a deep commitment to the provision of structured, invitational collective worship. A comprehensive plan encourages everyone to live out the school's vision and values. Inclusive and invitational Christian prayer opportunities are seen within the hall and classrooms. The school community regularly visits the church to celebrate key Christian festivals, developing knowledge and understanding of Anglican traditions. Members of the clergy are highly valued visitors. Their presence, relationships and service personify the fruits of the spirit. Worship, in all its forms, provides opportunities for spiritual growth through song, prayer and reflective silence. Pupils are actively involved in aspects of worship. They are lifted by the varied opportunities they encounter and confidently share their views and ideas for improvement. However, they do not have responsibility to plan, lead and deliver worship. Therefore, the impact of pupils' contribution to the understanding and message of the Christian vision and values is limited.

RE has a high profile within the school because it is seen as an academic subject. Leaders are clear that the curriculum is an expression of the school's Christian vision. The programme provides an appropriate balance of learning about Christianity, world faiths and world views. Drama, art, discussion and creative approaches ensure learning is engaging. Pupils understand the importance of studying religion and are building their knowledge in a carefully sequenced way. Teaching, learning and assessment in RE follows the school's agreed approaches.

Dunholme St Chad's community are united in their desire that the Christian vision and values are lived out daily. The vision makes a powerful difference to the lives and outcomes of both pupils and adults. They encapsulate what has been achieved by the school and stand it in good stead as it begins the next phase of its journey.



Information			
School	Dunholme St Chad's Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	23 June 2023
URN	120569	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Lincoln	Pupils on roll	210
Headteacher	Patricia Ruff		
Chair of Governors	Shaun Caig		
Inspector	Paul Bowlas	No.	2200