

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Luke's Church of England VA Primary School, Upton	
Address	Saint Crispin Drive, Upton, NN5 4BL
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
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision
<p>'Working, Growing and Learning together'</p> <p>'All children from our diverse community (Mark 9:37) to feel welcomed and valued. For everyone to embrace and develop our 12 Christian values to help them to flourish in their education and future lives (Proverbs 22:6)'</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passionate, deeply Christian leadership enables pupils and adults to flourish in this aspirational and inclusive Church school. The Christian vision, and associated values, underpin the whole life of the school. • Partnerships between the school, families, local community and multi academy trust are highly valued. The vision underpins relationships at all levels so that this diverse community can 'work, learn and grow together'. • Motivated by the Christian vision, collective worship is varied, Bible-based and valued by the school community. It encourages pupils to live out the Christian values in their daily lives. Whilst pupils have some opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate worship, this is not fully developed. • Driven by the vision, leaders have developed a creative curriculum enabling all pupils to flourish. A shared articulation of spirituality within the curriculum has not yet been fully developed. • Pupils flourish in RE through high quality provision that nourishes and engages the pupil's interests. They discuss their understanding of world faiths and have a good knowledge of biblical texts. Effective teaching helps pupils to learn to respect and value different beliefs to their own.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an enhanced approach to spirituality that includes intentional opportunities for spiritual development in a range of curriculum areas. • Extend pupils' roles in leading and shaping worship to further enrich the worship life of the school.



Inspection findings

St Luke's is an exceptionally welcoming, caring and inclusive Church school. Its deeply rooted Christian vision lies at the centre of the daily life of the school. School leaders, well-supported by the trust, accurately understand the school's changing context. The vision effectively addresses the needs of this diverse community by raising pupils' aspirations and extending their awareness of the wider world. Staff, pupils and families have real ownership of the vision and articulate the difference it makes. Pupils 'feel welcomed and valued' which has a tangible impact on the flourishing of all.

Driven by the school's Christian values, adults consistently model trust and respect in their interactions with pupils. Displays around school positively reinforce the values. All are treated with dignity. This impacts positively on how pupils treat each other. Conflicts within the school community are rare. However, pupils have faith in their teachers to resolve issues although they are encouraged to sort their differences themselves first. Pupils talk eagerly about doing this through their work with 'Relationship Builders'. This system empowers the whole school community, beginning with the pupils, to support relationships with each other. This results in a culture of respectful support for all.

Leaders nurture strong personal relationships. They support staff with deep compassion, including through challenging times. As a result, staff are dedicated and loyal, instilling a culture of hope and resilience in the community. Love and nurture permeate throughout the school. One parent stated that school was 'an extension of my family'. They see the family-centred vision lived out in the way they are supported. Parents speak highly of their confidence in the school to manage their children's medical and learning needs. As a result, they feel valued and loved as part of the community. The school has a well-used foodbank, 'Larder of Love' and parents are encouraged to help themselves. Staff help to keep this well-stocked. Strong links with St Crispin retirement village further enhance the sense of community across school.

The Christian vision inspires leaders to create a broad and rich curriculum, raising pupils' aspirations. Adults foster high expectations in learning for all pupils, including more vulnerable groups. Those with additional needs are well supported. As a result, the needs of the whole child are met and this ensures that all learners, including the most vulnerable, are flourishing in their learning. Opportunities for spiritual growth arise in some curriculum areas and in the use of reflection areas across school. Development of planned opportunities for spirituality across the wider curriculum is in its early stages.

Through monitoring visits and reviews of parent, staff and pupil surveys, leaders and governors know the school well. Consequently, school development priorities are accurately identified and leaders talk confidently about how the vision guides their strategic decisions. Governors are dedicated to their role and representatives from key community organisations sit on the governing body. This results in the school's vision permeating the local community as well as the school. The trust and diocese provide high quality professional development resulting in staff feeling inspired to improve their skills and knowledge for teaching in a



Church school. Governors are robust in their monitoring of the effectiveness of St Luke's as a church school. Consequently, this leads to sustained developments such as their work in the local community with the retirement village and local church .


Pupils are supported to take action as leaders in many different groups. Pupils recently demonstrated leadership in responding to challenges faced by a family. A fund-raising activity was organised and they have also engaged in fundraising activities in response to the situation in Ukraine. Leaders and pupils plan social action projects that are inspired by local, national and global issues. The whole school, led by the eco team, have been instrumental in bringing about recycling initiatives in the school and are rightly proud to hold the Eco Schools Green Flag with Distinction. Pupils are taught what they do makes a difference.

There is significant investment in wellbeing and mental health. St Luke's is a Mental Health Support Team. Initiatives have been implemented to ensure a consistent approach to promoting positive mental health. Pupils explain how this has helped them become more resilient.

Pupils enjoy collective worship and prefer it when they are most involved. An emphasis on a different Christian value every half term provides a focus for stories and topics which connect to the lives of pupils. Pupils are proud of their involvement in class assemblies and parents enjoy the opportunity to attend. Worship invites reflection during lessons as well when discussions encourage pupils to ponder deeply upon 'big questions'. There are opportunities for reflection and prayer established outside of collective worship in the classrooms. The worship action group has identified the next stage in the development of this is to create an area in the outdoor environment. Pupils are keen for further opportunities and involvement in evaluating and shaping collective worship across the school.

RE has a high priority across school. It enables pupils to further their understanding of and engagement with a wide range of religions and worldviews. The subject leader is up to date with the latest thinking in RE and attends regular training run by both the trust and the diocese. They encourage classroom teachers to improve their skills and knowledge. Pupils' work includes a range of activities reflecting Christianity and world religions. The school values its relationship with the vicar and a governor who come into school to support the teaching of RE. Pupils are enthused by their work and speak with pride of their achievements. They apply learning very effectively to their own lives. Teachers are creative in their approach to teaching RE. For example, pupils were learning about Sikh weddings from a staff member who was recently married. Pupils reflect on and talk about their learning very effectively.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Good	
	<p>RE is seen as an important subject. The RE leader has devised a rich, engaging RE curriculum which is well resourced. Staff are confident in delivering the ambitious RE curriculum. Pupils respond positively to their learning because teaching is good. It is reviewed and monitored by leaders. Assessment has been systematically introduced and is effective. Pupil work is of a high standard and reflects the quality of teaching they receive.</p>			
Information				
School	St Luke's Church of England VA Primary School, Upton	Inspection date	26 June 2023	
URN	143467	VC/VA/Academy	Academy	
Diocese/District	Peterborough	Pupils on roll	402	
MAT/Federation	Peterborough Diocese Education Trust			
Headteacher	Sonia Clews			
Chair of Governors	Andrew Mumford			
Inspector	Jane Davis	No.	2210	