



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Cossington Church of England Primary School	
Address	Main Street, Cossington, Leicester, LE7 4UU

School vision

Care, Significance, Purpose

With a foundation of distinctly Christian Values at our core, Cossington CE Primary School aims to offer an inclusive and inspirational learning environment where every learner can say:

‘I am cared for’ because God loves me and calls me to care for others.’

‘I am significant because God chose to create me and everyone else in his image.’

‘I have purpose because God created me, and everyone else, with their own unique personality and abilities.’

All of these are rooted in our Christian beliefs that God is a God of Love, Grace and Faithfulness.

School strengths

- The Christian vision at Cossington is powerful in its simplicity and intrinsic in every aspect of school life. It has been thoughtfully underpinned by relevant biblical texts.
- Leaders at all levels are passionate about their role in enriching Christian distinctiveness. They wholeheartedly live out the vision and pupils thrive in this culture of care, significance and purpose.
- Strong church links greatly enhance the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. Clergy assist in planning and leading inspirational collective worship.
- Positive relationships make a valued contribution to the wellbeing of many. This is because they know that they are valued members of this tight knit school community.
- The inspirational and creative religious education (RE) curriculum positively influences a comprehensive understanding of Christianity and world faiths.

Areas for development

- Enhance the impact of Cossington’s Christian vision by making it more explicit in all strategic processes carried out by leaders. This is to ensure the vision remains central in decision making and development planning.
- Consolidate a shared understanding of spirituality so that spiritual language is intrinsic across all aspects of school life. This is to deepen spiritual growth in both pupils and adults.
- Enrich opportunities for pupils to challenge injustice and act on causes known to them. This is to give them greater ownership in being agents of change and make a difference in the world.



Inspection findings

Powerful in its simplicity, the Christian vision at Cossington is intrinsic in every aspect of school life. Prominent visual images are a constant reminder that 'care, significance and purpose' is at the heart of all decisions. The vision has been crafted and thoughtfully underpinned by relevant biblical texts. Simplified, child friendly explanations contribute to clarity of understanding. Key Christian values of koinonia, hope, wisdom, fairness, thankfulness and forgiveness, ensure the outworking of the vision within the school. Rooted in the belief that God is a God of love, grace and faithfulness, pupils and adults are flourishing.

Leaders are passionate about their role and confidently articulate the deeply embedded vision. It is central to their conviction that all are cared for at Cossington. Everyone is seen as significant to God and there is an assurance that he has a purpose for their lives. This belief is fundamental in discussions and decision making in meeting the needs of pupils and adults. Governors know the school well and are committed to ensuring the best for everyone. They have created a strategic plan to review the impact of the vision. However, recognition of its effect is often implied, but not always clear in some aspects of monitoring. A collaboration with other local schools makes a valuable contribution to the ongoing development of staff support and expertise.

Shaped by the vision, the curriculum at Cossington instils a purpose for learning. Class names from 'acorns to oaks' reinforce the understanding that all are growing to be significant human beings. An imaginative curriculum based on themed units, ensures pupils learn about their place as individuals in a wider world. For example, carefully chosen texts as part of the 'Reading Spine' promote diversity and big questions about life. All are celebrated as unique children of God. As a result, those with additional needs are lovingly nurtured in creative and innovative ways ensuring everyone is valued and included. Bespoke and highly individualised provision make it possible for all to engage in learning. A wide variety of funded extra-curricular activities ensure inclusive enrichment opportunities. These foster experiences in a range of skills. Pupils eagerly describe moments of 'awe and wonder' following a recent residential trip. However, the shared language of 'ow, wow and now' is less well developed through the school. Leaders recognise they are on a journey with their understanding of spiritual flourishing and shared language of expression.

Collective worship is a special time to reflect and meet together. Stunning images, created to depict the vision, give clear focus to the school community as they arrive for worship. Quiet music supports a time of poignant reflection. Bible storytelling by pupils is often inspirational. It motivates the school to focus on their values and how they are lived out. For example, the story of Joseph encourages pupils to reflect on his feelings. This helps create a community that empathises with the emotions of others. Times of reflection nurture the spirituality of staff and pupils. Other opportunities for deepening spirituality are provided by a cross in the peace garden. Here pupils can say their own prayers or experience moments of stillness, enabling them to be calm when playing outside. Exceptionally strong links with the local church are also contributing to the spiritual flourishing of many at Cossington. Clergy participation as well as 'Candletime' class worship enables deep reflection on the vision. This prompts careful thought and application of the values in many lives. As a result, love and care for each other is shown at every opportunity. Pupils work with members of the local community to design and make altar cloths further deepening the partnership. Family services held in the hall strengthen the seamless relationship between church and school. Trails around the locality at special times in the church calendar add to the richness of the worship life of Cossington.

A culture of deep care and recognition that all are significant is a thread woven through this school community. Parents choose to send their children to Cossington because they know they will be loved as individuals. They feel listened to and find staff approachable if they need to discuss issues

relating to their children. Pupils appreciate being able to speak to a trusted adult through technology and ‘safe spaces’. They are reassured that matters will be dealt with straight away. Many talk freely about living out the values. This contributes positively to everyone behaving well together. The awareness of a God of grace ensures that forgiveness is a key in deepening relationships and resolving issues. This establishes meaningful interactions and strong bonds of friendship. The cohesive strength and personal support within the whole staff team is an embodiment of the vision in action. Collaborative partnerships with teachers in other local schools is enhancing professional development and adult wellbeing. Recognition of a God of love is undoubtedly being outworked in this tight knit community enabling many to thrive.

Grounded in the belief that all are significant to God, there is the realisation that there is also a responsibility towards each other. Pupils take their leadership roles very seriously and Christian values support their activities and relationships. As a result, they get involved wholeheartedly in identified causes. Partnership links with a residential home and petitioning to save a local tree demonstrates their impact in the local community. Curriculum provision and charity initiatives enable an awareness of injustice in the wider world. However, many of these are adult led and opportunities for pupils to initiate actions themselves are less well developed.

A creative curriculum, supported by inspirational provision, contributes to the effectiveness of RE at Cossington. It is well led. Sequential planning is deepening knowledge of Christianity and world faiths. Access to diocesan courses enables leaders to strengthen their own learning. Regular training ensures this is cascaded to staff and deepens their understanding. Consequently, teachers’ subject knowledge is challenging pupils to explore core concepts and questions. Reciprocal expertise is shared with RE leaders through collaborative partnerships, strengthening curriculum development. Bold financial decisions have been made to enable regular visits to a range of places of worship. These real-life opportunities are enriching experiences of world religions and cultures. As a result, pupils realise the importance of RE in helping them converse and interact with people from a range of faiths and world views. They articulate how RE lessons ‘make them think’ because they are challenged through practical activities. RE at Cossington is preparing pupils well to live in an increasingly diverse society.

The inspection findings indicate that Cossington Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	14 March 2024	URN	120124
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	103
Diocese	Leicester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Matthew Yandell		
Chair	Andrew Marshall		
Inspector	Joy Hardy	No.	944