

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Lowdham (VA) Church of England Primary School	
Address	Main Street, Lowdham, NG14 7BE
School vision	
<p>Shine Like Stars – Philippians (2:15)</p> <p>Our vision is for everyone to ‘<i>Shine like Stars</i>’ taken from the book of Philippians (2:15). We do this through our five ‘Lowdham LEARNer’ Values which are rooted in scripture.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Love others Everyone join in Always do your best Reach out Never give up</p> <p>These five values unpack our motto so they become virtues and the children know what it means to ‘<i>Shine like Stars!</i>’</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision of ‘Shine like Stars’ underpins all aspects of school. The vision and ‘Lowdham LEARNer’ values are well understood and transform the lives of all stakeholders. • A richly varied diet of collective worship is inspiring, engaging and provides opportunities for spiritual flourishing for all. • The school’s deeply rooted Christian vision has developed an ethos and culture where everyone is treated with kindness and respect. The ‘Lowdham LEARNer’ values provide the foundations for a highly inclusive and caring school. • The religious education (RE) curriculum is extremely well planned, delivered and monitored. This ensures that children have a broad and balanced understanding of Christianity as a global faith. The curriculum enables children to have a powerful understanding of other world faiths and beliefs. • Opportunities for spiritual development, both in and beyond the curriculum are plentiful, varied and impact on all members of the school community. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop children as agents of change within their local community. This will enable them to make a tangible and meaningful impact on their environment and the lives of those around them. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Lowdham Primary School is a school of kindness, compassion and unwavering care. The school's deeply rooted Christian vision to 'Shine like Stars' (Philippians 2:15), illuminates the path for all who enter its doors. This is a place where everyone is welcomed and encouraged to thrive in a nurturing, accepting culture.</p> <p>The exceptional leadership team steadfastly uphold the school's vision, which acts as the cornerstone guiding every decision made by all stakeholders. With unwavering commitment, they ensure that every policy, initiative and action taken resonates with the school’s deep Christian ethos. Staff members speak</p>	

passionately about the opportunities provided to flourish in their roles. The consideration for staff wellbeing exhibited by the school's leadership further reinforces the inclusive and supportive environment cultivated within the school community. The governing body show remarkable dedication, passion and firm commitment to the school. It is abundantly clear that they are deeply invested in the welfare and success of the school community. The governors actively live out the school's Christian vision in their actions and decision-making processes. They engage in highly effective formal monitoring activities and willingly lend a helping hand whenever needed. This exemplifies their genuine care and support.

The curriculum reflects the vision of the school, ensuring that it is supportive and inclusive. It caters to the diverse needs and abilities of all children, creating an environment where everyone feels valued and respected. Spirituality is integral to the curriculum by enabling children to engage with deeper meanings and values throughout their educational journey. By embracing inclusivity, the school cultivates a culture of acceptance and support, where every child can 'Shine like Stars'.

The school's culture is marked by an atmosphere of love and respect. Children of all ages consistently demonstrate kindness, empathy, and understanding towards their peers. This creates a vibrant environment where children embody the 'Lowdham LEARNer' values wholeheartedly. The inclusive and accepting ethos cultivates a warm and inviting atmosphere, ensuring every child feels valued and supported. Children embrace the value of 'Everyone join in'. They enthusiastically engage in a diverse array of activities and initiatives, both in and out of the classroom. Whether participating in sports, arts, gardening or social action projects, children collaborate eagerly, celebrating the diversity of talents within the school. Their dedication to 'Always do your best' is evident in their enthusiastic approach to learning.

Lowdham Primary School nurtures a culture of community engagement, encouraging children to 'Reach out' and enact positive change locally and globally. They actively participate in social justice projects, including supporting a school in Ghana. This includes sending care packages and writing letters to the children. They eagerly await and receive replies from their pen pals in Ghana. Children earn recognition as 'Change Makers' for their compassion and empathy. Recently, an Eco Team was established to explore ways to positively impact the environment, particularly within the local community. School leaders have prioritised the development of this team to enable children to understand how they can make a difference to the local environment. The value of 'Never give up' is ingrained in children, empowering them to persist in overcoming challenges, both academic and personal. By embodying the 'Lowdham LEARNer' values, children emerge as resilient and compassionate. They are socially responsible individuals who are poised to make a difference in God's world.

The deeply rooted Christian vision ensures that every child, regardless of need, can flourish and thrive within a nurturing environment. All staff demonstrate a commitment to inclusivity, guaranteeing that every child feels valued, respected and supported on their educational journey. The school's pastoral team exemplifies the school's vision, ensuring that all children receive the best possible education and wider opportunities. Their dedication to the wellbeing and academic success of each student is evident in their personalised approach to pastoral care. Every child's individual needs are recognised and addressed with care and sensitivity.

Collective worship at Lowdham Primary School is invitational, inspiring and deeply rooted in the school's vision and values. This is enhanced by inclusive participation and meaningful connections to the school's vision and values. Strong partnerships with external groups such as the local church and Walk through the Bible enhance worship. Children fully engage and actively participate in worship, demonstrating a genuine

enthusiasm and reverence for the spiritual aspect of school life. Throughout worship there are plentiful opportunities for reflection and spirituality. Children are warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate, fostering a sense of belonging and unity within the school community. The worship sessions are thoughtfully designed to resonate with children of varying ages and interests. The school's vision and values are skilfully woven throughout. All children have the opportunity to become 'Leading Lights'. These children actively participate in delivering significant parts of the collective worship, such as leading prayers and readings. This inclusive approach not only empowers children to take ownership of their faith journey but also enriches the collective worship experience for all. Collective worship provides opportunities for reflection and spirituality for all children and adults, regardless of their background or beliefs. Quiet moments of contemplation and opportunities for personal prayer are integrated into classroom prayer spaces and during whole school worship. This enables children to connect with their inner spirituality and deepen their sense of connection with something greater than themselves.

The exceptional quality of RE lessons provides children with a deep understanding of Christianity as a global faith. Meticulously planned and expertly delivered lessons also facilitate a powerful and rich exploration of world religions and beliefs. Lessons are carefully designed to foster respect, empathy and appreciation for the beliefs and traditions of others. This promotes a culture of inclusivity and tolerance within the school community. Children are exposed to a diverse range of religious practices, beliefs and cultures. Their learning is enriched through a trip to a multi-cultural part of Leicester, where children experience the Golden Mile. This allows children to develop a broad and nuanced understanding of the religious landscape both locally and globally. The depth of knowledge and passion demonstrated by children during RE lessons, shows that children can articulate their understanding of key religious concepts. They talk about key events and figures with clarity and confidence, showcasing a profound engagement with the subject matter.

Leaders have implemented robust systems for monitoring and assessing student progress in RE. Learning objectives are effectively met and all children are supported in their academic and spiritual development. Highly effective assessment strategies allow teachers to track student progress over time and provide support where needed. As a result, children demonstrate a deepening understanding of religious concepts and can build upon their previous learning.

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

Information			
Inspection date	26 April 2024	URN	122806
VA/VC/Academy	VA	Pupils on roll	195
Diocese	Southwell & Nottingham		
MAT/Federation	N/A		
Headteacher	Matt Jones		
Chair	Emma Wilson		
Inspector	Daniel Walls	No.	C.23/24