



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

North Cotes Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Sea Lane, North Cotes, Grimsby, DN36 5UZ

### School vision

'God knows your heart.' Luke 16:15  
We believe in our Christian values through which every member of our community is nurtured. We are committed to teaching how to live well through faith, challenge and support, so that all can flourish and have a future of life in all its fullness.

Our aims:

Respect: God created a wonderful world for us. We respect this through kindness to one another and caring for the environment.

Generosity: God gave his only Son to the world. We try to mirror this selflessness by helping those in need and never putting ourselves before others.

Justice: God is fair and true. We look to be the same by making sure we always listen well and never act quickly without reason.

Truth: Jesus always spoke the truth. We are always honest in our words and our actions so others know we can be trusted.

Friendship: God is the ultimate friend. We care for all our friends, support them when in need and never act selfishly towards them.

### School strengths

- The Christian vision is considered and lived out in everything that the school undertakes. It is strongly underpinned by Christian teachings. Through its values the vision is well understood by all and allows all to flourish.
- Inspired by the vision and its associated values, leaders and staff ensure that North Cotes school is a place where pupils are individually nurtured. It is a loving family community full of support and encouragement.
- Planning and curriculum design in religious education (RE) is very thorough. It supports the development of pupils' knowledge and understanding. This enables them to talk confidently about religions and their impact.
- The vision underpins a curriculum that is accessible to all and provides a variety of enrichment experiences. This enables pupils, including those who are vulnerable and have special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND), to thrive.
- Collective worship is at the centre of school life. It has a significant impact on pupils and adults, effectively guiding the positive actions in their lives.

### Areas for development

- Inspire and enable pupils to challenge injustice in the world. This will enable them to recognise that they can have influence and make a positive difference to bring about meaningful change.
- Extend opportunities in collective worship and the curriculum for spiritual development. This is to ensure that pupils and adults flourish spiritually.

## Inspection findings

The affirmation that God knows your heart weaves seamlessly through all areas of life at North Cotes School. This vision promotes a culture of responsibility for behaviour and attitudes in which all are challenged to live well. It encourages everyone to fulfil their individual roles in an open and honest way.

It prioritises a compulsion to understand motivation and hold themselves to account for actions. This is enhanced through school values that support development and independence within a caring community. Parents are rightly proud of the impact that this has, not only in school, but at home and beyond. They effectively describe the school as a loving family providing genuine care.

A behaviour policy built around the Christian values of forgiveness and truthfulness bears rich fruit. Adults and pupils embrace the role that reconciliation plays in creating an environment of harmony where bullying is rare. There is an additional emphasis on learning to forgive yourself. As a result, pupils learn from mistakes and grow as individuals. They understand that wrong decisions do not result in being valued less. Thoughtfulness and support abound in all areas of school life. Pupils are quick to see when their peers are struggling and immediately come to their aid. Adults prioritise meeting the needs of those who are vulnerable with care and compassion. Wellbeing is given high priority. Leaders make sure that professional development and staff workload are considered regularly. Appropriate actions taken as a result. This enables adults, as well as pupils, to flourish.

Strong and meaningful connections with the community are mutually beneficial. Fundraising for local causes, such as a women's aid charity, features significantly. The school community is fundamental in ensuring that the local parish church remains open at a time of change. It has worked closely with the diocese to enable the continued availability of this resource. This has had an immensely positive impact on the whole community. Pupils are conscious of unfairness in the world via exploration in the curriculum. However, they are less aware of how they can act independently to challenge injustice and bring about change.

The vision and values are at the heart of the school's curriculum. It has been carefully crafted to celebrate the uniqueness of every child, resulting in their flourishing. Staff invest greatly in ensuring that it is bespoke to meet the learning requirements of pupils. Specific consideration is given to the individual learning needs of pupils, including those with SEND. Likewise, many and varied opportunities for challenge make certain that they are equipped to reach their potential. This positively impacts their academic achievement as well as good mental health. This is further enhanced by enrichment activities. These are threaded throughout the curriculum to broaden horizons and experiences within the breadth of British society. This recently included a cultural and diversity day during which pupils explored life as a Hindu. Pupils confidently and accurately explain the enrichment that this brings to their understanding of diversity.

A recent focus on spirituality is extending the impact of the vision. However, this is not fully developed. There is an emphasis on appreciating the natural world and the impact that it can have on individuals. Pupils express a sense of awe and wonder having observed seals during a recent visit to the beach. They enthusiastically describe the way that this inspires them to care for the world around them. Bible stories, such as Jesus' distress in the Garden of Gethsemane, provide an impetus to consider challenging areas of life. They understand that time to reflect on difficulties is beneficial in developing resilience and personal growth. However, such examples and opportunities for reflection are limited and a school wide understanding of spirituality is not embedded.

Worship is embraced and highly valued by adults and pupils. It is the precious thread that links this

community together in love. Harvest, Christmas and other key Christian festivals are explored in the parish church. Links with the local worshipping community are strong. Through these special times of coming together, Christianity is celebrated as a living and relevant faith. Worship has a recognisable pattern and rhythm that reflects Anglican traditions. It is planned and structured to provide powerful opportunities to worship, praise and learn. Carefully chosen Bible stories based on the school's values are explored. They challenge thinking, explore the nature of God in Christianity and visibly impact thoughts and actions. A sense of spirituality is enhanced by a specifically designed worship space. Pupils enthuse about their love of singing and the way that this can lift their spirits and bring real joy. Adults acknowledge the role that worship plays in providing a daily opportunity to be together. They greatly appreciate this time to be bathed in stillness and reflect quietly. However, pupils are not empowered to steer the direction of spiritual development in the worshipping life of the school.

RE provides clear progression and regular occasions to visit key concepts across the religions studied. It has been carefully planned to identify links with previous units of work so that it continually builds on prior learning. Planning expertly makes provision for both the acquisition of knowledge and the development of essential skills. It encompasses a range of learning opportunities and takes account of individual needs. This ensures that lessons are varied, creative and reflect the school's vision and values. The curriculum supports an understanding of religious diversity and pupils' ability to see things from a different point of view. Frequent opportunities to review the curriculum ensure that it continues to be effective. Diocesan training is given high priority and has supported curriculum development. A recent change in subject leadership has taken place seamlessly due to a significant investment in time and resources. This reflects the high priority placed on the subject and the passion and commitment that leaders have to ensure its success.

The inspection findings indicate that North Cotes Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	9 May 2024	URN	120579
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	32
Diocese	Lincoln		
MAT/Federation	North Cotes CE Primary and Fulstow CE Primary Federation		
Executive Headteacher	Jonathan Grant		
Chair	Matthew Petley		
Inspector	Jo Brookes	No.	2110