

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Gunness and Burringham Church of England Primary School

Vision

Learning Together with Hope. Aspiring to be Agents of Change.

In our inclusive church school community we learn together, encouraging curiosity, valuing every voice and supporting each to flourish. We strive to become courageous agents of change in the world with kindness, resilience and wisdom.

'Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people...'

Galatians 6:10

Gunness and Burringham Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- Ambitious and inspirational church school leadership has ensured that the Christian vision is a living reality throughout the school. As a result, pupils and staff are enabled to flourish.
- Relationships are a strength of this caring and compassionate school. The vision has developed a culture where wellbeing is prioritised; pupils and adults are welcomed, valued and empowered to be the best version of themselves.
- Driven by the vision, this outward-looking school has enabled pupils to have a strong understanding of justice and a sense of responsibility to each other and their local community. Consequently, pupils are flourishing as agents of change.
- Collective worship is central to the life of the school and carefully planned to promote the school's vision and values. As a result, pupils are inspired to make a positive difference to the world.
- The curriculum provides a rich and varied range of curricular and extra-curricular learning opportunities. These enthuse and engage pupils, both fuelling and strengthening their spiritual and personal development.

Development Points

- Develop pupils' understanding of believing, living and thinking within the religious education (RE) curriculum. This is to strengthen pupils' skills when studying religions and world views.
- Develop governors' monitoring and evaluation of Church school development against the vision. This is to support and sustain the strategic growth of Gunness and Burringham as a Church school.



Inspection Findings

Working with energy and conviction, leaders have established a strong and distinctively Christian vision that has a transformational impact on the school. The vision is now known, understood, and fully embedded within the life and work of the school. Respectful and trusting relationships are at the heart of the school. Children and their families are embraced and supported. Parents place high value on the education and personalised approach provided for their children. They describe the confidence and belief they have in staff. The vision inspires pupils to strive to achieve their best and make a positive difference to others. This creates a strong sense of unity and belonging. The moral and spiritual development of pupils is successfully guided by Christian values. These are the pillars of the vision. As a result, pupils and adults flourish. Governors actively support the school through their relationships and monitoring. However, there is a lack of evaluation against the vision to determine the future growth of Gunness and Burringham as a Church school.

Understanding the needs of the community, leaders have devised an ambitious curriculum founded on high expectations. Pupils are provided with a wide breadth of learning experiences that offer opportunities to thrive. This is seen through a rich and enabling learning environment. Time has been invested in ensuring that spiritual development is a key aspect of this. Pupils are encouraged to be curious. Time is provided for stillness and silence. Pupils are supported to ask big questions and foster a sense of belonging. These elements are now threaded through curriculum subjects, meaning that there is a shared understanding of spirituality in the school. Pupils are enthusiastic about learning new knowledge and how this will help them to achieve their goals. Further enriched by an annual careers fair, pupils' self-belief in what they can achieve knows no limits. The curriculum is adapted to ensure equitable access, regardless of pupils' starting points. Consequently, pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) achieve well. Active partnerships with other local schools, Scunthorpe United and learning hubs enrich the curriculum offer. A diverse range of extra-curricular clubs and residential visits further support pupils' spiritual development.

Collective worship is strongly influenced by the school's vision and values. Pupils' knowledge, understanding and spiritual development is deepened through the weekly cycle of worship. This enables pupils to re-visit, reflect and discuss their thoughts and feelings. As a result, pupils are enabled to consider the relevance of Bible stories to their everyday lives and relationships. Worship is joyous, because pupils and staff feel free to express themselves through lively singing and movement. They look forward to being involved in drama and readings. Moments of silence are provided for personal reflection and reverence. Together, pupils and staff are able to explore their connection to one another. As a result, they are inspired to make a positive difference to the lives of others. An active partnership with the local church strengthens community bonds. Pupil worship councillors lead the school community in liturgy and prayer. They express how this makes them feel closer to God. Visits from local clergy and other Christian faith groups enrich opportunities for pupils and widen their perspectives.

Inspired by the call to 'let us do good to all people...', a culture of kindness founded on respect and high value for one another is deeply rooted within the school. This strong ethos is fuelled by the school's values and daily worship. Consequently, the bonds between the school and the local community are strong. All are welcomed to the school and made to feel like part of a loving family. Parents appreciate the personal support they are provided with. They give high value to their children having a voice that is heard and acted upon. SEND coffee mornings and regular curriculum events support parents' roles in their child's education. Pupils' understanding of justice enables them to resolve their differences and live well together. Consequently, high standards of pupil behaviour are



evident throughout the school. Pupils relish the responsibilities they are given as wellbeing and reading ambassadors. They offer friendship and comfort to others who may need it and support those who may find learning more challenging. Pupils strive to be awarded the school's 'kindness' cup for living out the values through their positive interactions with one another. Leaders have prioritised the learning and working environment. The creation of a peace garden, friendship bench, wellbeing room, and additions to the staffroom promote the importance of strong relationships. High priority is given to wellbeing days, mental health weeks and valuing pupils' achievements through weekly community celebration worship. Staff support one another and willingly go the extra mile to help those in need. They feel highly valued in their roles, are encouraged to take risks, and are enabled to progress in their careers.

Pupils describe 'the fire in their bellies' which fuels them to 'treat others how they want to be treated themselves'. They talk passionately about how they know that their actions help others and how this makes them feel. Pupils bring joy into the lives of those in the local hospice through their singing. The impact on the local community as a result of pupils' delivery of personalised letters and seasonal cards is profound. These acts of kindness are highly valued, generating responses to the school expressing personal gratitude and hope for the future. Support for homeless charities and the school's twin school in Tanzania provide opportunities for pupils to widen their understanding of injustice in the world. Inspired by the vision, pupils aspire to be agents of change. Outward-looking, this small school understands the value of partnerships and how they help it achieve its vision. Through a local schools' partnership, church school leadership is nourished. Staff are enabled professionally through active peer leadership opportunities.

RE has a high profile in the school and is enthusiastically led by the RE lead. A strong partnership exists with the diocese, which supports the leadership of RE and the strategic development of the subject. Consequently, the school has established a well-balanced and progressive curriculum. The key knowledge that pupils need to acquire, along with relevant vocabulary, is organised sequentially. This enables pupils to build accurate knowledge of world religions over time. However, pupils' ability to use this knowledge to critically think about how belief affects how people live their lives is underdeveloped. The RE curriculum is enriched through opportunities to visit the local mosque. A partnership with a school in Tanzania is helping to develop understanding of Christianity as a global faith.

Information

Address	Burringham Road, Gunness, Scunthorpe, DN17 3LT		
Date	21 January 2025	URN	118010
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	101
Diocese	Lincoln		
Headteacher	Luan Sowerby		
Chair of Governors	Donna Senior		
Inspector	Daniel Kinsey		