

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Whaplode Church of England Primary School	
Address	Mill Lane, Whaplode, Spalding, PE12 6TS
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	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent

School's vision
<p style="text-align: center;">Inspire Believe Achieve</p> <p>Our church school inspires everyone to believe in their ability to succeed through learning in a joyful and encouraging Christian atmosphere. We encourage our children to learn as much as possible and achieve their individual potential whilst developing respect and consideration for others. Inspired by the Parable of the Lost Sheep, which tells us that each individual is valued by God including those who may get lost along the way, we recognise that it is our duty to give each child the very best and to allow each individual to flourish.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inspirational leadership team has developed a highly effective Christian vision for the school. Built around the parable of the lost sheep, the vision offers wholeness and healing to its community. All stakeholders understand the school's vision and how it contributes directly to the flourishing of adults and pupils. • The carefully constructed curriculum uses the principles of the Christian vision to enable all pupils to succeed. Opportunities for spiritual development are identified and used well across all subjects. • Informed by the aspirational Christian vision and values, healthy relationships are at the heart of the work and life of the school. This leads to the transformation of individual lives, families and the wider community. • Exceptionally well-planned and inspirational collective worship offers multiple opportunities for learning, reflection and spiritual development to both adults and pupils. However, there is a limited range of opportunities provided for pupils to plan and lead worship. • The religious education (RE) curriculum is extremely thorough, carefully planned and regularly reviewed. As a result, pupils gain important knowledge of religious belief and practice and develop critical thinking.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the ways in which pupils are involved in planning and leading collective worship. This is to deepen their understanding of biblical teaching and provide opportunities for deeper reflection. • Extend opportunities for pupils to engage in social action and challenge injustice to a national and global scale. This is in order to widen pupils' scope to grow as agents of change.

Inspection findings

Working as a trusting team, leaders at all levels have developed a highly effective Christian vision that permeates school life. As a result of the clear purpose provided by the vision, pupils and adults flourish, both in and out of school. The vision uses the parable of the lost sheep to bring a sense of hope and purpose to the whole community. This leads to the lives of individual pupils and families being transformed. Building on a strong legacy, leaders guide the school with wisdom and humility. Although the impact of the school has been consistent across generations, leaders work hard to continue to develop its effectiveness. The drive for constant improvement as a Church school is supported by strong partnerships with the local academy trust and diocese. Training opportunities are used exceptionally well in the development of all staff. This has included the growth of future Church school leaders.

The highly ambitious governing body monitors the effectiveness of Whaplode as a Church school to ensure continuous improvement. This includes the regular gathering of views of parents, pupils and staff. As a result, the whole school community has a voice and shares fully in the life and growth of the school. The governing body considers Church school development in committee and full body meetings, making it a priority in all future planning. The Christian vision and values inform decision making, policy writing and financial planning.

The newly refreshed and ambitious curriculum is built around the principles of the school's Christian vision. Driven by a moral imperative, leaders have designed creative learning experiences to meet the needs of individual pupils. By inspiring pupils to believe and achieve, the school is able to nurture aspiration that impacts on learning. From a young age, pupils talk confidently about their hopes and future careers, firmly convinced that they 'can do all things'. The strong commitment to adult learning and professional development enables staff to model this aspirational way of living.

Leaders strive to challenge disadvantage and work with families to access all available forms of support. They are relentless in their determination to challenge persistent absence and improve the life chances of all pupils. The school demonstrates an inspirational dedication to building and maintaining positive relationships with families. The school has a clear understanding of spirituality which is shared by all members of staff. Curriculum planning includes opportunities for deep reflection in the context of each subject. As a result there is a rich culture and gentle expectation for spiritual growth across the school.

The Christian vision has an extremely positive impact on the development of pupils' character. The nurturing environment, where pupils feel safe to make, and learn from mistakes, provides hope and aspiration. This includes a strong sense of responsibility towards the community and the natural world. The Eco Committee, inspired by the 'Coat of Hopes', works hard to highlight climate issues. Every pupil in school is challenged to consider ways in which they can take action. As a result, use of single use plastic by caterers has reduced and a patch of nearby wasteland is now a garden. The programme of action and fundraising enables pupils to have a voice and be agents of change. The school makes very good use of the swimming pool on site. While pupils grow in confidence as they develop skills year on year, other schools are also able to benefit. This unique offer leads to transformational opportunity beyond the school community. In this way the Christian vision extends in generous service to the local area.

Leaders prioritise the health and wellbeing of pupils and adults. A range of support is provided built around the security of being accepted in the school family. High expectations for behaviour are informed by the Christian vision. Time is given for pupils to talk, to restore relationships and to work towards forgiveness. Adults in school model dignity and respect in

all relationships with both intention and humility.

Worship is vibrant, relevant and central to the life of the school. All pupils and adults are encouraged to take part in a wide variety of activities which provide opportunity for spiritual growth. Each class keeps a reflection book that records pupils' ongoing responses to the teaching and challenge presented in collective worship. Regular discussion helps pupils to relate collective worship to other aspects of life in and out of school. Leaders use this feedback to monitor the impact and further develop the worship life of the school.

Worship offers a wide range of different experiences designed to include all pupils and those adults present. There is opportunity to learn about, and engage in, various Anglican traditions. The seasons and festivals of the Church calendar are used creatively to provide a structure to each year's worship. The thorough and careful planning of the programme supports visitors from the local church who lead acts of worship. They appreciate being able to provide appropriate and relevant input. Pupils and adults are able to flourish together in their understanding of Christian belief and values. The worship council, consisting of pupils from each year group, meets regularly to discuss issues relating to collective and class worship. Older pupils lead acts of worship weekly, taking the responsibility seriously and growing in understanding as a result. The full impact of pupils leading whole school worship is less developed.

Pupils benefit from an exceptionally well-crafted, high quality RE curriculum. By gaining knowledge, and reflecting deeply, pupils flourish in their understanding of themselves and others. Learning is enhanced through a careful balance of factual information and core concepts. This provides pupils with a rich variety of ways to think about the big questions of life. Pupils develop an impressive religious vocabulary and talk confidently about their learning. RE lessons are safe places for pupils to share and reflect on thoughts and opinions. This approach, used consistently across the school, also provides opportunity for spiritual and personal development.

Passionate and well-informed leadership of RE ensures that it is both a priority and highly valued across the school. The school makes very good use of all available training and the local diocesan RE network. This leads to regular training for teachers and development of both policy and practice. The governing body monitors the provision of RE which contributes to a process of continuous improvement. Carefully developed systems for assessment, written and verbal, enable teachers to know how and what their pupils are learning in RE.

Information			
School	Whaplode Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	20 June 2023
URN	144119	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Lincoln	Pupils on roll	200
MAT/Federation	Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust		
Executive Headteacher	Abbie Muir		
Chair of Governors	Chris Mackman		
Inspector	Peter Barfoot	No.	2216