

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

The Lincoln St Peter-in-Eastgate Church of England (Controlled) Infants School

Address	Greetwellgate, Lincoln LN2 4AW		
Date of inspection	18 June 2019	Status of school	VC Infant
Diocese	Lincoln	URN	120560

Overall Judgement	How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	Grade	Excellent
Additional Judgements	The impact of collective worship	Grade	Excellent

School context

St Peter-in-Eastgate Infant School is an infant school with 89 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below national averages.

The school's Christian vision

'Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us'. Ephesians 5:2

Our vision is to encourage your child to develop their talents and skills in a stimulating, secure and happy environment, based on the understanding that we are all made in the image of God and loved by Him through his son Jesus Christ.

Key findings

- Exemplary leadership by the headteacher and senior leaders ensures a deeply Christian learning community in which every member flourishes. The Christian vision is thoroughly embedded by dedicated staff and committed governors who are passionate in driving school improvement.
- Relationships at all levels are founded on Christian values and rooted in love. These sustain pupils and adults at times of personal need, supporting their mental health and emotional wellbeing extremely well.
- The high quality of pupils' behaviour is evident in their positive, caring choices and actions. They show great maturity and are excellent ambassadors for social action and charitable works.
- The spiritual life of the school is greatly enhanced by sustained, mutually beneficial partnerships with the church, local schools, colleges and the Diocese. This has a significant impact on the wider Christian life of the school.
- Collective worship is highly inclusive and brings together the whole Christian community. As a result the pupils have an excellent understanding of prayer and reflection for their age. Pupils play a considerable part in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship. This contributes whole-heartedly to their spiritual development.

Areas for development

- Embed assessment systems in RE which reflect pupils' ability to communicate their knowledge and ideas in ways other than writing across all year groups.
- Expand pupils' ability to communicate their desire for positive action to address current environmental issues.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

Leaders are immensely proud of their Christian school. United by their vision, they strive to enrich the lives of everyone, enabling them to flourish within an aspirational, loving and engaging learning community. Leaders actively ensure that the vision's biblical roots, 'Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us' Ephesians 5:2, are lived out through Christian values such as respect and forgiveness. Pupils are eager to show Jesus' love for others and one pupil commented, 'Saying sorry is not being a coward, it is doing the right thing.' Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of everything provided by the school and portray it as 'a village school in the city'. They cite examples of the ways in which staff go 'above and beyond' to support them as well as their children. Highly effective partnerships with the local church and Diocese enrich the Christian life of the school and provide valuable support for worship. Parents and governors see the school in unison with the church, as a beacon in the community and a hub for community events. Staff skills and knowledge have been effectively nurtured through well targeted professional development, particularly in relation to RE. Training undertaken through the Diocese has enabled individual members of staff to flourish and gain leadership positions within their own school. This has led to them successfully supporting other local schools. A newer member of staff commented 'I now have a deeper understanding of the Bible and how this impacts on daily life.'

The governors effectively monitor and challenge the school to evaluate the impact that it has on the learning, progress and development of all pupils. They ensure that pupil progress is tracked and individual needs identified and supported. Governors have placed their Christian vision at the heart of the school's work by appointing an Intervention Lead who successfully works with children and families who have suffered bereavement, family crisis or health issues. She has carried out activities such as baking and bracelet making, whilst taking on a counsellor's role with vulnerable pupils. Pupils strive to meet the high expectations of their teachers, whom they respect and trust implicitly. They thoroughly enjoy all that the school has to offer. Standards of attainment are consistently above those achieved nationally. Individuality and diversity is celebrated and pupils feel nurtured to grow as unique individuals, loved by all. Through partnerships with local schools, colleges and support services, staff have developed strong practice in supporting mental health. This has raised the importance of 'love of self' which one staff member commented, 'self-esteem is important for good mental health'. Pupils' attitude towards their learning is exemplary. Provision for pupils' spiritual development and emotional wellbeing is extremely well considered. Pupils have repeated high quality experiences through outdoor learning, visits and visitors. RE and collective worship make very substantial contributions to pupils' spiritual growth. The school has fully addressed all of the actions from the previous inspection.

The vision, rooted in love, ensures that pupils and staff tirelessly drive social action. The school has supported a variety of causes, local and global. A visitor to school inspired pupils to initiate links with South Sudan. Pupils wrote letters and entered into fundraising to buy vital food supplies and mosquito nets for those in need. Innovative work saw pupils Skype with a member of clergy in South Sudan to see the impact of their fundraising. Pupils talk passionately about how they can help save the environment with their current project focussing on reducing plastic and recycling batteries. One pupil said 'It's up to all of us to make a difference.' Pupils wrote to their school lunch providers asking them to reduce the amount of plastic coming into school which they duly did, reinforcing to the pupils that their actions can make a difference.

The school's vision is at the heart of collective worship. It brings the community together to be nurtured by God's love. Thorough planning based on the Church year, is underpinned by the life and teaching of Jesus. Worship frequently explores the school's Christian values ensuring pupils gain a deeper understanding of the different concepts. Worship is a joyous, interactive occasion which pupils relish because they feel included and involved. Their participation in prayer, song, stories and imaginative activities all ensure worship is highly engaging and a purposeful experience. A candle is lit for worship and pupils consider how the light and smoke from the blown out candle can represent the Spirit moving around and within us, introducing them to the Holy Trinity. Pupils embrace worship which takes place within the school grounds. The Worship Group are exemplary role models in their regular contributions to planning, leading and evaluating worship. At home pupils often share songs and prayers they have enjoyed in school. Frequent visitors from the Church, alongside the Bishop's Visitor, lead worship following the planned themes. Pupils look forward to their visits and enjoy the variety they bring. During daily acts of collective worship, pupils lead prayers in the school hall. All pupils are given the opportunity to write prayers and place them in the prayer box on the worship table. Pupils are familiar with the school

prayer and the Lord's Prayer which they can recite. Pupils take reflection time very seriously and find 'holding crosses' helpful when concentrating.

As part of living life in all its fullness, RE is extending pupils' minds and their responsibility for the wider world. With their love of learning and the world, they are developing knowledge and understanding of Christianity and of other major world religions. They talk about a range of Christian concepts, engaging in discussion about aspects of Christian practice. The level of pupils' writing skills does not allow them to express the maturity of their ideas for their age, however teachers are beginning to address this through their assessment system, ensuring that not all assessment needs to be from written work. Teachers use a wide range of activities to capture pupils' knowledge and understanding of RE, for example, through group activities with an adult scribe, recording of pupil conversations or photographs. Pupils like the fact that 'we do writing, drama, art and other fun things in RE'. This includes vulnerable pupils who have a chance to contribute to the 'Big Questions' which are an essential ingredient of RE lessons. Successful implementation of the recently introduced 'Understanding Christianity' programme has deepened pupils' knowledge of the Christian faith and a similar approach will be taken when learning about other major world religions.

St Peter-in-Eastgate is exceptional in how it lives its Christian vision, nurturing its community through God's love. It has a lasting impact and makes a transformational difference to the lives of pupils and adults.

Headteacher	Julia Marshall
Inspector's name and number	Fiona Griffiths 705