

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Bartholomew's Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	Leaveslake Drove, West Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 3QJ

School vision

“Let your light shine”
Matthew 5:15

Nurturing children, enabling them to become disciples of change who flourish through a gateway of discovery surrounded by boundless forgiveness and love. We shine as a beacon of hope for everyone.

Dignity, Hope, Wisdom, Community

School strengths

- Leaders have established a Christian vision that is deeply understood and valued by all members of the school community. It enables pupils and adults to flourish in their daily lives.
- Inspired by the vision of hope, forgiveness and love, pupils and adults live very well together in a nurturing community. Pupils, including those who are most vulnerable, are supported so that they ‘let their light shine’.
- The school’s vision and supporting values meaningfully shape collective worship. Relevant biblical stories enable pupils to reflect on their thoughts and take responsibility for their actions.
- Inspired by a vision of hope and aspiration, leaders have crafted a curriculum that expands pupils’ horizons. Asking ‘What’s the point?’ at the start of each lesson gives learning meaning and purpose.
- Religious Education (RE) has a high profile in school. Proactive and knowledgeable leadership ensures a balanced and well-sequenced curriculum. As a result, pupils systematically gain knowledge of a range of religions and worldviews.

Areas for development

- Develop a whole-school, shared understanding and approach to spirituality. This is to support consistency, equipping staff to deepen opportunities across the curriculum for pupils to consider life’s meaning and purpose.
- Develop more opportunities that empower pupils to take the lead on responding to issues of social injustice, locally and globally. This is so that pupils themselves understand how to become ‘disciples of change’ and make a positive difference.

Inspection findings

St Bartholomew's Church of England VC Primary School is a warm and welcoming Church school. Its Christian vision is at the centre of all decision making. Leaders, including governors, understand the needs of pupils in the context of their wider community. As a result, leadership is decisive and impactful, giving clear direction and stability. Building on the principle 'let your light shine', the school is a place of acceptance and nurture. Pupils are enabled to grow as confident, well-rounded individuals and adults are sustained in times of challenge as well as joy. Mutually beneficial partnerships with the local church, as well as the diocese, deepen and enrich Church school life.

The curriculum is designed with the aspirational vision at its core. It aims for pupils to be 'beacons of hope' in their community and the world beyond. Leaders are committed to expanding pupils' horizons through a 'gateway of discovery'. Trips and visitors are an important part of Church school life. Every lesson begins with 'What's the point?', giving meaning and purpose to learning. Pupils have a 'Pathway' of thirty things to do before leaving St Bartholomew's. These have been chosen by members of the school and community, with aspiration in mind, such as visiting places beyond West Pinchbeck. These broader experiences excite pupils and inspire them to travel further afield, thus expanding their horizons. Leaders adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of disadvantaged pupils or those who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). They regularly review resources and approaches to meet the growing diverse needs of the school. The school's inclusive approach results in pupils who learn happily together, growing in confidence and hope for the future. The curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to experience and reflect on the awe and wonder they see in the natural world. However, whilst leaders can speak about spirituality, there is no consistent understanding shared across the school community. Therefore, planned opportunities to explicitly promote, develop and express spiritual flourishing within the curriculum are underdeveloped.

Collective worship is firmly rooted in the Christian vision. It is valued by members of the school community and it is treasured by them as a special way to end the school day. Daily worship is well-planned, embracing the school's Christian values of friendship, forgiveness, love, trust, hope, tolerance and acceptance. It provides an inclusive and invitational opportunity to reflect and learn, thus fostering spirituality. Leaders inspire pupils to live out their values in other aspects of the school day, making worship purposeful. Pupils enjoy involvement in collective worship and do so with great enthusiasm. Music and singing are energetically used to enhance the experience, uniting the school community and contributing to spiritual growth. Collective worship enables pupils to draw learning from a range of biblical stories. For example, the story of Noah's Ark helped the pupils to explore the value of trust and believing in themselves. A weekly 'celebration worship' affirms pupils' achievements, through 'Fantastic Awards' and 'Excellent Awards'. Pupils are able to 'shine their lights', both within and outside school. Parents and pupils appreciate the value the school places on the strong bond between school, home and community. Collective worship is strengthened by a fruitful relationship with the local church. Regular special services and pupil visits enrich the variety of worship experiences for the whole community. Services to welcome the school's youngest pupils, as well as a valued leavers' service, deepen the sense of belonging. In addition, involvement in a range of church activities inspires pupils to consider the needs of others. Groups of pupils eagerly join the church's outreach work, giving their time to the local community at a weekly coffee morning.

Inspired by the Christian vision, members of the school community are proud of their school. They speak of its 'family feel' and knowing each other very well. Effective support programmes demonstrate that each pupil is unique, loved and cared for. Forgiveness is

talked about, understood and shown. For example, a feelings box and the use of ‘learning conversations’ help pupils to consider how they feel and reflect on their actions. As a result, pupils behave well towards each other. Relationships between members of the school community are very positive. Flexible and open-minded leaders prioritise staff wellbeing and work-life balance. Staff feel appreciated, valued and listened to. They are compassionately supported through times of change and challenge, receiving relevant professional development. As a result, staff are hopeful and ambitious for the future of their community.

The Christian vision encourages pupils to become ‘disciples of change’, by developing confident individuals who celebrate their uniqueness. Leaders strive, through the vision, to help pupils to believe that they can change the world for the better. Older pupils have been given the opportunity to spend time at a local food bank, supporting their local community. Pupils are involved in fundraising for charities, both nationally and locally. Pupils recently joined the church community in holding a flower festival, raising awareness about pollution. Their individually designed leaflets provoked members of the community to rethink their actions. However, more regular opportunities for pupils themselves to drive forward and tackle issues of social injustice are limited. As such, their understanding of how they can initiate action to make a positive difference in the world is underdeveloped.

Leaders ensure RE has a high priority in school and pupils enjoy their learning. Training from the diocese supports leaders in crafting a well-sequenced and cohesive curriculum, built around life’s big questions. This motivates pupils and engages their curiosity. The curriculum’s two-year cycle is carefully mapped out and benefits the mixed-age year groups. Teachers establish a safe environment for discussion and debate, providing opportunities for pupils to consider different ways of believing, thinking and living. Staff provide opportunities for pupils to respond to what they learn in creative ways. For example, they use QR codes in workbooks that link to songs, photographs and videos. This allows pupils to express themselves in ways that they feel comfortable and successful. Pupils learn comprehensively about Christianity and a range of religions and worldviews. The progressive curriculum ensures that pupils deepen their knowledge and understanding as they move through school. Visits to places of worship, such as a mosque, combined with people of different faiths visiting St Bartholomew’s, enrich pupils’ learning.

The inspection findings indicate that St Bartholomew’s Church of England VC Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church School.

Information			
School	St Bartholomew’s Church of England VC Primary School	Inspection date	20 May 2024
URN	120551	VC/VA/Academy	VC
Diocese/District	Lincoln	Pupils on roll	96
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Sophie Ingle		
Chair of Governors/ Trust Board	Phil Callow		
Inspector	Wendy Rose	No.	C23/24