

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

<b>St Anne's Church of England Primary School, Grantham</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Harrowby Road, Grantham NG31 9ED		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	26 September 2019	<b>Status of school</b>	Voluntary Controlled Primary
<b>Diocese</b>	Lincoln	<b>URN</b>	120522

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

<p><b>School context</b></p> <p>St Anne's is a primary school with 211 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Around a quarter of pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is above national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below the national averages. The headteacher has been in post for 8 years. Staffing is considered stable.</p>
<p><b>The school's Christian vision</b></p> <p>Rooted in faith, family and friendship. Growing in hope and aspiration. Flourishing in love. '...these three remain: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.' 1 Corinthians 13 v13</p>
<p><b>Key findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The deeply Christian vision is used to shape every aspect of life in this Church school so that all can articulate its relevance to them and how it enables them to flourish.</li> <li>Distinctive Christian leadership from senior leaders ensures that this vision is lived out and expressed in the day to day life of the school so modelling a distinctively Christian way of living to others.</li> <li>Every child and adult matters at St Anne's school so that individuals are valued within this family. Consequently, they can live a fulfilled life rooted in a deep sense of love for one another.</li> <li>Collective worship is the heartbeat of the school day. It inspires both adults and children in their journey together.</li> <li>The partnerships with the local church community are rooted in a shared faith so that school and church together are striving for the flourishing of all.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Areas for development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to the Christian vision more explicitly in all policies so that leaders' monitoring of its effectiveness can be further supported and excellence sustained.</li> <li>Secure links with a school in Sierra Leone to deepen pupils' understanding of the global dimension of Christianity and to support their understanding of their role as agents of change.</li> <li>Widen support for other schools, particularly in their work with vulnerable pupils and families, by sharing the excellent practice of St Anne's school.</li> </ul>

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

St Anne's school is grounded in faith, hope and love. Its vision is deeply rooted in the Bible. It is aspirational and expresses a deep desire that everyone should flourish. This vision, although newly developed, is known and expressed by everyone. The strands of it are deeply embedded in the school. 'This is who we are' is typical of the comments made. The vision ensures that the school is not inward looking. Faith, hope and love are expressed towards the local community. Generous harvest donations were made to the local foodbank. Leaders at all levels are unswerving in their commitment that all pupils receive the very best educational opportunities. At the heart of the wonderful learning experiences and family feel to the school are the dedicated headteacher, senior staff and governors. They embody the vision in their daily interactions and strategic decisions. While the governors know the school well the vision is not yet consistently referenced in all policies. Its impact is therefore less readily evaluated. A stable staff team have ensured that the vision underpins everything about the school through their constant reference to it in all aspects of their work. The broader Christian character is prominent in strategic decisions. Building friendships amongst staff by pairing them to act as critical friends and coaches to one another is one such example.

Progress for almost all pupils is strong and, in most cases, exceeding national expectations. This is a community full of hope for all its pupils and staff. Inspirational messages on classroom walls ensure that older pupils recognise their worth and value. Staff morale is very high. This is because each adult's talents flourish. Music, sports and the arts give pupils ways to develop their talents and interests. A recent 'Spirited Arts' project enabled pupils to demonstrate their creativity as they responded to deep questions of belief. One pupil expressed the view that working on the project had 'made me realise that I can do art, as well as think about big questions'.

The vision decisively drives both the strategic and operational work of the school. Hope and aspiration, underpinned by love, are key motivators for the school's work with a significant number of pupils who they recognise as vulnerable. Alongside this a quarter of pupils on roll speak English as an additional language. A culture of care and encouragement for these pupils is woven seamlessly into the daily life of the school. At St Anne's all are regarded as part of the family. The school is proactive in ensuring that these pupils and their families flourish. The support given to them is a powerful expression of the gift of love. Leaders cite examples of pupils facing significant challenges at home who, on coming into school, find a place of sanctuary and calm. This is a result of the highly effective approach of all members of staff. They ensure that the needs of these pupils and their families are met. A breakfast club for the most vulnerable, run by teaching assistants, expresses love in a tangible way. Bold ethical decisions are made that significantly improve outcomes for these pupils. The recent refurbishment of 'The Bungalow' is evidence of the high level of commitment staff and governors show to ensuring the very best outcomes for these pupils and their families. It is a place for them to meet staff and receive support. Parents are fulsome in their praise for the generous support they receive from the school. As one commented 'My child is known as an individual and cared about as an individual'.

The culture of aspiration and enjoyment in learning is palpable. Pupils bubble with enthusiasm in their classrooms. Foundation stage pupils talk with delight about the vegetables growing in their garden 'that God made'. Pupils regularly engage in independent learning tasks. A homework task for older pupils, which almost all participated in, encouraged them to link Bible stories with their school values. They articulate how these stories inspire them to think more deeply about the values and how they express them at school and home. In this school all ages live well together, enveloped by love. The value of compassion is seen as an expression of this love. This ranges from older pupils supporting younger ones at lunchtime to pupils initiating and leading the school's support for toilet twinning. They recognise that 'We have the chance to be compassionate and help to change people's lives.'

Collective worship is the heartbeat of this school. It is in worship that deep roots of faith are being established. It is engaging, inclusive and carefully planned. Everyone has opportunity to learn of the Bible and the life and teaching of Jesus in a way that is relevant and appropriate to them. Key to worship is the partnership of the vicar, headteacher and two local schools' workers. They ensure that others are empowered to lead worship as well as skilfully leading worship themselves. Pupils and staff are not passive during worship. They engage in structured conversation so that they better understand and apply the teaching to their lives. Pupils express confident views about how worship inspires them. These include a sense of knowing that God is present with them and that 'We can live our lives for God with his help.' Worship is steeped in faith while enabling all those who wish it to come closer to God. Pupils relish the time to pray and reflect together. They enjoy contributing to and leading worship. Since the last inspection this has developed significantly. Pupils now feel more ownership of worship. They know they effectively contribute to its development. Music, particularly singing, makes worship inspiring and uplifting. It

is used as a means of confidently expressing deep values and convictions. Through worship pupils are developing their awareness of diversity within Christianity. However, the global dimension of the Christian faith is not yet as well developed. The main Christian festivals are celebrated in church. Church and school work seamlessly together to provide opportunities for worship for adults and children. Feedback from the recent harvest festival service focussed on how everyone was enabled to participate in worship through the thoughtful leadership of pupils.

Within the rich curriculum RE makes a significant contribution to learning. Pupils talk of RE with enthusiasm and enjoyment. They value how the subject helps them to consider a wider world of diverse faiths and cultures. It also enables them to engage in deep exploration of Christianity. They particularly enjoy when learning is practical and offers them opportunities to express their ideas creatively. RE therefore strongly supports spiritual awareness and development.

Leaders live out an authentic and deeply held Christian vision that being rooted, growing and flourishing is possible when love underpins all words and actions.

Headteacher	Jonathan Austin
Inspector's name and number	Jane Lewis (27)