

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

### Swineshead St Mary's Church of England Primary School

#### Vision

##### **On the Road to Emmaus – Luke 24: 13 – 35**

Two travellers are transformed and enriched by sharing their journey with a guide. We view our work to be similar in making a difference to future lives. We travel together on our journey of transformation and commit our school to always being supportive, nurturing, and challenging.

#### Strengths

- Strong partnerships with the trust and diocese empower leaders and governors to make the Christian vision a lived reality for the school community. Pupils and adults are strengthened by their understanding of education as a journey undertaken together. As a result, they feel supported and challenged to be the best they can be.
- The curriculum is carefully shaped to meet the needs of the community. The Small Village, Big Horizons approach provides rich opportunities to learn about the wider world. As a result, aspirations are raised and pupils are well-prepared for the lives that lie ahead of them.
- Positive relationships underpin the work of the school which results in a culture of love and concern. Pupils and adults are celebrated as individuals and value the freedom to be themselves. Consequently, the wellbeing of the school community is enhanced.
- Religious education (RE) has a high profile in the curriculum. A commitment to professional development means that RE is up to date and reflects faith in the modern world. As a result, pupils speak confidently about belief and its impact on people's lives.

#### Development Points

- Embed the shared language and understanding of spirituality in both collective worship and the curriculum. This is in order to enable pupils to understand and articulate their growing spiritual awareness.
- Enhance pupils' understanding of justice. This is in order to enable them to recognise how they can make a positive difference to the lives of others.



## Inspection Findings

As two disciples were guided by Jesus on the road to Emmaus, so are the leaders of Swineshead St Mary's School. Inspired by words from St Luke's gospel, pupils and adults understand learning as a journey to be undertaken together. This provides strength as the school embraces change as part of the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust. The additional support and challenge membership provides empowers leaders, including governors, to continue their journey in pursuit of excellence. Leaders speak passionately about how Christian faith motivates them to make a difference to future lives. Their commitment to enabling pupils and adults to be the best they can be drives the work of the school. Rigorous monitoring of the vision ensures that leaders know their school well. This informs strategic decisions to ensure that future developments meet the needs of pupils and adults.

The carefully considered curriculum reflects the school's view of education as a journey. The Small Village, Big Horizons approach opens pupils' eyes to what lies beyond their rural community. Consequently, they develop an understanding of the wider world and the opportunities which it offers. This raises aspirations as pupils look to the future. As a result of staff training, adults have a secure understanding of aspects of spirituality. They identify opportunities within the curriculum for pupils to reflect and grow spiritually. Pupils wonder at the beauty of a blossoming cherry tree in the school grounds. However, they do not have sufficient depth of understanding to recognise their own spirituality without guidance. Inspired by Christ's example, leaders are committed to inclusion. Supported by the trust's vision, they seek to see and understand the needs of individuals. Working with colleagues and parents, they identify those who need additional help and implement timely support. Consequently, pupils with special educational needs and or disabilities (SEND) feel valued and make good progress.

Collective worship provides a daily opportunity to come together as a school community. It offers an invitation to rest, revive, understand and replenish at the end of a busy day. As a result, pupils and adults value this time for reflection and celebration which enables them to grow spiritually. Staff and members of the Christian community share their own experiences and personalities as they lead worship. This brings a richness to the worship life of the school. Members of the Open the Book team bring Bible stories to life through drama. This fosters a deeper understanding of the Christian message. Equally, sharing Bible stories in modern day contexts enables pupils to appreciate the relevance of them. For example, exploring the doubts of St Thomas through a lively discussion between soft toys engages pupils and encourages reflection. The 'Faith In Small Hearts' (Little Fish) initiative offers pupils an opportunity to explore worship themes further. Understanding is deepened through prayer, reflection, games and discussion. This empowers pupils to share Bible readings and lead prayers in whole school worship. Pupils and adults are invited to sing the Gloria and seek forgiveness for wrongdoings. This develops understanding of aspects of Anglican liturgy and an appreciation of what Christian faith has to offer. Invitations to celebrate Christian festivals in church extend this message to pupils' families and the wider community.

The Christian values of love, respect, inclusion, compassion and forgiveness underpin relationships within the school. As a result, pupils and adults liken the school to a loving home where they feel safe and cared for. The curriculum offers ample opportunities to explore difference. This ensures that pupils have a good understanding of diversity, equality and inclusion. They feel celebrated as individuals and value the freedom to be themselves. They understand the importance of respect and show tolerance towards others. Pupils and adults thrive in the calm and orderly environment of the school. A programme of pastoral care supports those with social and emotional needs. 'Growing Acorns' provides a warm and safe environment where pupils can develop social skills. Enjoying time together nurtures a sense of belonging as they build friendships. Other groups explore feelings such as anxiety.



Pupils are supported to share their worries without fear of judgement. This helps them to understand their emotions and offers strategies to manage them in times of difficulty, further enhancing wellbeing.

School leaders have a strong understanding of the Christian imperative to work for justice. They recognise need within the school community and ensure that pupils have everything they require to thrive. This work is enhanced by the trust's 'Love in Action' fund which helps families by providing furniture and household appliances. This practical support transforms people's lives, making a significant contribution to their flourishing. The curriculum challenges pupils to view the world through the eyes of others. They consider local issues such as the accommodation of refugees. This develops empathy and encourages them to welcome newcomers into the school community. Charitable events foster pupils' understanding of how they can make a difference in the world. Pupils participate with enthusiasm in events such as anti-bullying week and raising money for Children in Need. Although they can recall these activities, they are unable to express their understanding of justice and how they can help to achieve this.

School leaders ensure that RE has a high profile in the curriculum. Working closely with the diocese and trust, they ensure that it reflects the latest research into good practice. Comprehensive staff training secures subject knowledge and fosters confidence in delivering the curriculum. As a result, pupils speak knowledgeably about faith and its impact on people's lives. They understand the diversity of Christianity, explaining how Easter might be celebrated by different groups of Christians around the world. Well-chosen teaching resources bring learning to life. Videos of young Muslims living in Norway contribute to a deeper understanding of faith in the modern world. Work in RE is enriched through annual inter-faith days where pupils are invited to reflect upon stories and scenarios. They are challenged to ask difficult questions and then consider how those of different faiths might respond. This growing understanding prepares them well for life in a diverse society.

## Information

Address	Abbey Road, Swineshead, Boston, PE20 3EN		
Date	01 May 2025	URN	151178
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	227
Diocese	Lincoln		
MAT	Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Claire Collett		
Chair of Governors	Jean Powell		
Inspector	Helen Simms		