

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Loscoe Church of England Primary School	
Address	Church View, Loscoe, DE75 7RT
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>We may be small but together we can make a big difference.</p> <p>Our faith can move mountains.</p> <p>(Matthew 17:20)</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transformational Christian vision underpins everything the school does. The school's dynamic leadership ensures the vision is shared and promoted by all and through all. This vision makes the school a beacon of hope to the local and wider community. • Pupils and adults are cared for exceptionally well. As a result of the vision, all feel safe, valued and equipped to release their full potential. • Spirituality has priority status. All are offered highly meaningful opportunities to develop spiritually. There is a rich culture of deep reflection. Opportunities to encourage deeper reflection using the outdoors environment are not yet established. • Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational. It is the focal point of the school day. Through collective worship the school community grows in faith. This results in a deep understanding of what it means to believe in God and oneself to overcome challenges. • Religious education (RE) enables all pupils to flourish. Curriculum planning is very strong, ensuring pupils are given a depth of knowledge of Christianity and other world faiths. This results in high levels of religious literacy.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways to develop outdoor spaces so that the deep culture of reflection can be taken outside the classroom. • Embed opportunities to support pupil leaders of worship with ongoing training in order that creativity, confidence and spirituality can further develop



Inspection findings

At the heart of this exceptional Church school is the vision 'Our faith can move mountains' (Matthew 17: 20). It is known and demonstrated by all members of the school community. Ambitious Christian leadership has secured this deeply rooted vision. Lives are transformed because the vision and associated values enable pupils and adults to flourish. An all-encompassing acceptance of one another results in a community where adults and pupils are enabled to overcome challenges. 'Faith as small as a mustard seed' is part of everyday conversation. Leaders, including governors, energetically pursue a Christian distinctiveness that has an impact on every pupil from Nursery through to Year 6. They and all staff are exemplars of service based on biblically-based values including generosity, compassion and respect. Every pupil aspires to display the values. These have a transformational impact on their lives. Behaviour is exemplary. Differences are resolved with forgiveness. Watching over one another in love is unforced, spontaneous and intentional. This reaches beyond the school into the wider community.

The partnership between the parish church and school brings cohesion across the community. Together they respond to challenging community needs exceptionally well. Parents are effusive in praise of the school and church for how their partnership impacts upon the community. Together they encourage a belief that faith can support everyone to work through challenges. Worship is supported by local churches and Christian organisations. Services take place in the parish church. In response to this some adults and pupils speak of a developing personal faith, others of genuine enjoyment at attending church.

An innovative curriculum encourages high aspirations. Pupils know what they can achieve through each curriculum area and learn to be ambitious for their futures. A strength of the curriculum is the way learning is sequenced. It supports spiritual development. Vigorous monitoring and evaluation by senior leaders and governors ensures high pupil engagement. Pupils love their learning and are affirmed by staff. The 'Loscoe promise' guarantees a wide curriculum of opportunity for all outside of the classroom. This includes visits to the ballet and the seaside. Leaders relentlessly pursue the raising of pupils' aspirations. Pupils believe that there is no 'mountain' they cannot overcome. A focus on inspirational people reminds them of what is possible. 'I can be anything I want to be, and God will help me. I only need a tiny bit of faith' commented one pupil. Parents acknowledge that leaders create a climate in which each child can aspire to be the very best they can be.

Leaders show boldness in applying the vision to those with additional needs. They are highly valued as unique individuals. High levels of nurture are shown by all adults. Pupils and families requiring additional support are given it without reservation. Staff take time to listen to the needs of families. Those requiring practical or emotional support are given it. A parent commented 'whatever any family needs the school will do all it can to help'.

Staff morale is high. They know they are valued and so they flourish. Staff from Loscoe have moved on to leadership in other Church schools. The executive headteacher and head of school are highly regarded within the diocese. The executive head teacher currently supports another Church school alongside sharing expertise through training and mentoring aspiring Church school leaders.

Pupils share leadership responsibilities. Opportunities to take on leadership are offered to all without exception. These responsibilities give them a maturity beyond their years. They talk of knowing how to be a great leader and that the best sort of leader is one who serves like Jesus. Pupils demonstrate through their actions how Jesus' teaching and Christian values influence their own choices and behaviours. Through a powerful diocesan partnership with

Kolkata the school looks to a wider world. Learning from staff who have visited Kolkata pupils know they can be agents of change too, powerfully advocating for justice. They show a highly developed awareness of how small acts, when added to other small acts makes a difference.

Collective worship is the heartbeat of the school. It is understood to be a means by which everyone grows in faith. It is an excellent expression of the vision because it impacts deeply on the whole school community. The pupil worship team have a consistent and central role in worship. They meet weekly to plan. Planning takes account of the evaluations of other pupils which occurs daily. They confidently follow Anglican traditions. Everyone is individually welcomed to worship with the words 'Peace be with you'. They show a mature understanding of the elements of worship. Lighting a candle, prayer and deep reflection are always present. Pupils say this is because all these are needed to remind everyone of the importance of faith. Currently worship leaders have little opportunity to further develop and expand their role.

Opportunities for deep reflection go beyond worship. A shared understanding of spirituality and ways in which it can be nurtured is clear. Pupils and staff talk of 'ow', 'wow' and 'now' moments. These mean that they reflect on challenging times, moments of awe and wonder alongside everyday life. Reflection areas successfully allow pupils and staff to respond. These feature as requests for prayer or personal thoughts concerning their own wellbeing. 'What I learn in worship helps me to think about how I can live that way' reflected one pupil. Adults speak of this approach to spirituality as being helpful in enabling deep reflection for them. It supports them to work through challenges they encounter. As yet, insufficient use is made of outdoor spaces for reflection.

Strong leadership in RE ensures that all pupils flourish. Planning is detailed with systems in place to ensure that teachers know how well pupils are learning. Pupils of all abilities are justifiably proud of the very high standard of work they produce. They readily talk about their learning with significantly high levels of religious literacy. Deep reflections abound. Comments such as 'I've learnt about an amazing God in RE who is still alive in the world today because of the Holy Spirit' illustrate this. The school ensures that, along with Christianity, a diverse range of religions and worldviews is studied in considerable depth. Pupils are highly engaged and creative ways of tackling the subject are evident.

Information			
School	Loscoe Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	18 November 2022
URN	146502	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Derby	Pupils on roll	173
Executive headteacher	Sarah Tew		
Chair of Governors	Laura Knowlton		
Inspector	Jane Lewis	No.	27