

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Gunthorpe C of E Primary School

Address	David's Lane, Gunthorpe, Nottingham NG14 7EW		
Date of inspection	26 March 2019	Status of school	Academy inspected as a VA. Aspire Multi-Academy Trust
Diocese / Methodist District	Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham	URN	144534

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

School context

Gunthorpe is a primary school with 88 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 became part of the Aspire multi-academy trust in September 2017. The headteacher has been in post since September 2018.

The school's Christian vision

We strive for excellence for our whole community. This is lived out by their understanding of the world that God created; their place in it, their value to it and their responsibility for it. Built on the foundations of our Christian values of forgiveness, service, determination, respect and friendship.

Key findings

- There is a clear Christian vision based upon five values that are at the heart of the school and lived out by a variety of stakeholders.
- The school ethos ensures that all pupils are enabled to be their best. Supportive staff allow the space and reflection time for them to question and consolidate their thinking.
- There is a culture where everyone is valued for whoever they are or whatever they want to be.
- Biblically based worship is at the core of the school with prayer being a fundamental part of all school experiences.
- Religious Education under the auspices of a passionate and highly skilled subject lead is well coordinated and integral to pupils' learning.

Areas for development

- For pupils to take a greater and more active role in the planning, preparation and delivery of collective worship.
- To embed recent resources in religious education to ensure staff have the confidence to provide opportunities for pupils to dig deeper in their thinking.
- To widen the opportunities for pupils to have the same deep understanding of other world faiths as they demonstrate for Christianity.

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

The recently created school vision is articulated with passion and practical illustration by all leaders of this inclusive, caring community. Building upon the well-established values of service, determination, respect, forgiveness and friendship, the vision is clearly visible in all school practice. The headteacher and her supportive staff team, together ensure that the Christian vision underpins all learning and support for pupils' wellbeing. This means that pupils flourish in the school, demonstrating progress academically, socially and spiritually. Parents' views support inspection evidence that the school's focus on values is having an impact upon pupils. One parent remarked that it helped her child to have 'more understanding of life'. Others enjoyed recognising the values in their child's daily lives and returning completed values cards to the school. Guided by the highly effective and deeply Christian leadership of the headteacher, the school is ensuring that all stakeholders are aware that the school's values are rooted in scripture. The leadership of the school is supported by strong links with the local churches. There is excitement and enthusiasm in the school for the opportunities that arise from being a part of the Bishop's new initiative encouraging young people in the life of the church. Staff at all levels feel valued and are committed to the school's vision. Governors are enthusiastic and dedicated to their responsibilities. They are aware of current national developments and reports and are embarking on a review of policies to ensure that they reflect the themes contained within 'Valuing All God's Children'.

The Christian vision shapes the way decisions are made regarding the curriculum and extended learning. All policies start from a Christian perspective and 'have at their heart a delight in wisdom and a passion to pursue it'. Leaders ensure that by the end of Year 6, 100 per cent of pupils will have represented the school at a sporting event. Pupils talk enthusiastically about their learning. They are taught explicit skills of resilience and are confident in identifying the skills they need to develop further. They fondly recall their annual values day and its focus on remembrance. The biblically linked activities had made a clear impact on pupils' understanding of the world and the complex issues involved. All stakeholders are appreciative of the opportunities that are provided. One parent explained, 'For a small school lots are available'. The school provides well thought out programmes of support for all pupils, including the most vulnerable and those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). This ensures that pupils of all abilities are making good progress.

The recently formed pupil prayer team are at the heart of spiritual development in the school. They are keen to be 'more involved with Jesus and God' and have a great desire to support their fellow pupils. They led a well-received whole school prayer day, having a deep impact on many stakeholders. The team led the rest of the school through a carousel of activities in a creative and sensitive way. Their enthusiasm to continue this journey is palpable. Senior leaders in the school are keen to deepen the involvement of the team in the planning and leading of collective worship.

The school very effectively ensures that its pupils have a global viewpoint that links the school's Christian values to a wider landscape. It takes a great pride in its numerous charitable enterprises. Pupils see these as a way of helping others and are beginning to understand how their actions might address injustice across the world. A recent 90kg Fairtrade rice challenge captured the pupils' imagination. They were thrilled to share how they were helping to educate a young child from Malawi. In addition, the school have been involved in other projects through the work of Christian Aid and nearer to home via the donation of goods for an 'alternative' advent calendar each Christmas providing much needed support for the homeless and vulnerable. This serving of others reflects one of the school values and is a real focus for the whole school. As one child explained, 'It is not just telling people about things but actually doing something.'

As a result of the school's focus on its Christian values, priority is given to the well-being of everyone. Parents know that the staff will help their children to overcome barriers to learning and provide Christian care throughout the day. They welcome the recent introduction of staff being available on the playground before the start of the school day. They feel that 'teachers are accessible' and that any issues can be quickly resolved. Parents were very appreciative of the teaching of mindfulness classes during those weeks running up to Year 6 statutory tests. They believed it had helped to reduce anxiety at a particularly stressful time. Collective worship is at the heart of the school. It is welcoming to the whole community, inspirational and uplifting. Pupils talk enthusiastically of worship seeing it as a place where the whole school learn about Jesus, God and how they relate to the school's values. They appreciate the inclusivity of worship and recognise that at Gunthorpe you have the freedom to choose 'whoever you want to be'. Worship is rooted in biblical teaching,

the life of Jesus and the Christian festivals. There is a focus table at the front which reflects the Anglican foundation and this is replicated in the worship spaces found in the classrooms. A Year 1 pupil explained that the cover was purple because we are in the 'waiting time'. The pupils value and make frequent use of the reflective spaces in school. They provide stimulating and thought-provoking displays, which are often interactive. Prayer plays an important part in the school day. Pupils have opportunities to write prayers and share them in collective worship and at lunchtime. The children have a good knowledge of the Bible and are able to articulate how stories have taught them a greater understanding of the Christian values. They have age appropriate understanding of the Trinity. The school benefits from a close partnership with local churches. The curate regularly leads worship in school and the pupils visit St John the Baptist church for special services.



The effectiveness of RE is Good

RE is given a high priority within the school. The RE lead is enthusiastic, knowledgeable and has successfully begun to introduce the Understanding Christianity materials. As a result, staff are becoming more confident in delivering the Christianity aspects of the syllabus. RE is carefully planned and standards are good with effective use made of big books to capture learning responses. Pupils say they enjoy RE and feel safe to discuss religious and spiritual ideas: 'Bigger questions make you think about Jesus and God'. The study of world faiths promotes the school's Christian vision and values in developing respect for diversity, difference and living well together. Inspection evidence supports the pupils' view that they would value learning more about such faiths including opportunities to visit different places of worship.

Headteacher	Claire Bills
Inspector's name and number	Tony Walker 924