

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Long Clawson Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Address School Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire LE14 4PB

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

Good

The impact of collective worship

Good

School's vision

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart" Colossians 3:23

We value trying our hardest so we become the very best we can be as pupils and teachers and citizens in this beautiful yet complex world. Within our Christian ethos we aim to: Achieve our best. Love life and learning. Be confident, safe and happy. Show respect, responsibility and resilience.

Key findings

- School leaders have a clear biblically based vision that underpins all elements of school life. This has created a deeply nurturing community that allows both adults and pupils to flourish.
- The school has a clear and secure understanding of, and approach to, the spiritual development of all. As a result everyone is seen as an individual who is valued as a child of God.
- All pupils are clear as to how the school's Christian vision and associated values help them to make positive choices. Pupils interact by supporting one another and offering forgiveness and reconciliation when required.
- Collective worship is planned effectively and as a result allows the spiritual growth of all members of the school community.
- Curriculum planning for religious education (RE) is inclusive and allows pupils to demonstrate and explore their own faith and that of others. Opportunities to engage with a wide range of living faiths would enhance the inclusive nature of the school.

Areas for development

- To enhance the future impact of the distinctively Christian vision of this Church school through establishing mutually beneficial partnerships with other Church schools.
- To further develop the opportunities for pupils to explore big questions in RE and grow as advocates for change.
- To enhance opportunities for the development of spiritual growth for adults and pupils through the wider curriculum.

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

Long Clawson's vision is articulated and embraced by the whole community and has created a nurturing environment. Leaders effective use of this vision within policies and the school development plan has allowed pupils and adults to flourish. As chair of the Vale Collaborative Partnership group of local schools, the headteacher has brought about beneficial learning partnerships. Through strategic work with other schools, the school's vision is lived out with her staff gaining access to professional development opportunities.

Inspired by the vision, the school has skillfully crafted a broad and balanced curriculum within a small school context. The curriculum celebrates the individual and effectively identifies and supports those pupils who are vulnerable or have additional learning needs. Pupils talk about their learning with confidence and passion. These positive peer relationships, and a culture of inclusivity, allows them to challenge and support one another in line with the school vision. As a result of the vision, teachers actively addressed the gaps in knowledge and social skills that developed during the pandemic. This allowed barriers to learning to be tackled effectively and pupils make good progress. The recently renovated learning spaces enable pupils to be inquisitive and question and embrace their learning with all their heart. This leads to pupils who listen well and encourage one another as they live out the vision. Through bold curriculum decisions, spiritual development is fostered and promoted for all. As a result, pupils can confidently express their own beliefs and respect the beliefs of others. Parents acknowledge the impact that the school's remote learning provision made in supporting pupils to flourish during lockdowns.

Through effectively planned RE and collective worship, pupils have the opportunity to question and challenge. Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism are understood by pupils as living world faiths. This allows pupils to explore their own faiths and look beyond their local community into the wider world. Visits to local churches and temples in Leicester have been limited due to pandemic restrictions. To enhance the exploration of theological concepts, visits to a variety of places of worship are planned. Within English lessons the exploitation of the natural world challenged pupils to write courageously to national leaders. Whilst in art lessons pupils have created installation art that celebrate the Trinity and key biblical figures such as Moses. They have created displays in the Garton Hall that promote the school's distinctly Christian vision. Relationships within this school community are strong and this stems from the shared understanding that everyone should do their best. Inspired by the vision, Year 1 pupils stated 'it makes them happy and that this helps them learn'. This shared knowledge of their vision enables behaviour inside and outside of the classroom to be calm. Activities such as the daily mile provide opportunities for pupils live out their support one another via a buddy system. This means concepts of forgiveness and reconciliation are well understood and demonstrated by pupils of all ages. As a result, bullying and prejudicial behaviour are rare and tackled effectively should they occur. Members of the school council are involved in decisions about their school. As a direct result of this, pupils feel they have a voice which makes them feel valued. The Christian Star awards are held in very high regard and parents speak of their pride when these were awarded. Consequently, pupils live out their Christian values and state this was a 'big deal' to them and enables all to flourish.

Governors play an active role in the life of this community and evaluate the effectiveness of this Church school through regular strategic monitoring. Governors effectively review collective worship and the RE curriculum and are supported in their own development by the school leaders. The knowledge and intent of governors in ensuring that Christ is at the heart of every decision is clear.

Pastoral support reflects the vision and focuses on nurturing each individual. As a result, pupils have a safe space to consider and reflect on new experiences at an age appropriate level. Through effective teaching and careful planning, a coherent sex and relationships policy allows discussion on how to remain healthy mentally and physically. Pupils speak with maturity and confidence about these issues and therefore feel prepared for their next steps in education and life. However, these good relationships do not yet fully engage with all issues illustrated in the guidance of 'Valuing all God's Children'.

Collective worship is well planned, resourced and distinctly Christian. It is invitational and enables everybody involved to be inspired through conversation and reflection. As a result, pupils look forward to this element of their day as it gives them time to draw close to God. Prayer is regular and natural and allows opportunity for stillness, thankfulness and celebration providing further opportunities for spiritual development. Pupils articulate a clear understanding of the God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When exploring the concept of Lent pupils demonstrated a clear Christian understanding and a reverence of the Easter story. Pupils enjoy leading and participating in worship and look forward to all being able to worship in their local church now Covid restrictions are lifting.

At a community level the school has close ties to those in the village and those surrounding it. Pupils, parents and staff all speak of their experiences of activities they have been involved in. For example, pupils walking to school carrying their most precious belongings to empathise with refugees. The school has strong links with local Anglican, Baptist and Methodist churches which has been fostered over many years. The passion with which these churches are looking forward to the pupils returning is testimony to these strong links.

The vision, associated values and ethos of Long Clawson celebrates each individual and nurtures them as they grow in faith and knowledge. Consequently, adults and pupils are united in feeling that they are enabled to flourish as a gift of God within this distinctly Christian school.

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	1 March 2022	URN	120141
Date of previous inspection	23 January 2015		
School status	Voluntary controlled primary school	NOR	068
Name of MAT/Federation	n/a		
Diocese	Leicester		
Headteacher	Jane Dawda		
Pupil profile	The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is in line with national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is above with national averages.		
Additional significant information (if needed)	The school is structured into three classes due to its cohort size which varies from year to year because of the school's context.		
Inspector's name	Thomas Hutchinson	No.	0978