



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

<b>St George's Church of England VA Primary School, Stamford</b>	
Address	Kesteven Road, Stamford, PE9 1SX

### School vision

As part of the Aspire Federation, at St. George's C of E Primary School, we aspire for everyone to let their light shine.

Our Christian values are at the heart of all we do. We provide an inclusive and nurturing space which allows children to celebrate their uniqueness and supports them to become confident, resilient and independent learners. We encourage children to develop curiosity and have enquiring minds, to enable all to flourish and reach their full potential within our school and as part of the wider community.

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A town on a hill cannot be hidden.

### School strengths

- Leaders have implemented strategies which ensure the recently reviewed Christian vision has rapidly become embedded. It is now becoming intrinsic in many aspects of school life.
- A well established rhythm to the pattern of collective worship contributes to a rich and meaningful, daily reflection on the school vision.
- High aspirations are positively impacting the lives of many, most notably, the most vulnerable and those with additional needs. Leaders and staff are relentless in their commitment to supporting their pupils to be the best they can be.
- A range of pupil leaders take their responsibilities very seriously contributing to the calm and efficiency of each day. They are passionate that they 'let their lights shine' in their various roles.
- Religious education (RE) is inspirational. Pupils learn through innovative and creative provision contributing to a rich understanding of a range of worldviews and world faiths including Christianity.

### Areas for development

- Build more opportunities into the strategic plan for leaders to monitor and evaluate the impact of the school's Christian vision. This is so that they will have a wider overview which feeds into ongoing development plans.
- Continue to consolidate and develop the understanding and language of spirituality. This will deepen spiritual flourishing in collective worship and enable it to become embedded in the wider curriculum.
- Strengthen enrichment and curriculum opportunities which will further challenge pupils to become agents of change within and beyond their community.

## Inspection findings

There is an inherent belief at St George's that everyone is special to God. The community are lovingly nurtured as they are encompassed in an atmosphere of compassion and great empathy. Leaders reviewed how to articulate this deeply established Christian culture. 'Let your light shine' is now becoming intrinsic in many aspects of school life. This is because of rapid, effective strategies implemented to raise awareness and understanding of the revitalised vision. Adults and pupils readily use a common and succinct language. Many, rightly describe how the vision and values influence their own lives with maturity and perception. Twelve Christian values are the fundamental way in which the school community display the light of Jesus in their lives.

Leaders acknowledge they are on a journey with ensuring the vision continues to be fundamental in every element at St George's. It is given prominence in development plans. They are aware of current priorities in Church school education because of regular support and relevant training from the diocese. Governors know that religious education and collective worship enable pupils to flourish. This is because their monitoring of these areas is regular and effective. However, they are less well informed of how the revitalised vision is prompting people to flourish in other aspects of school life. An effective federation with another local Church school is of reciprocal benefit and particularly supports staff development. Both share a common vision which contributes to a clear focus by leaders at all levels.

A belief in high aspirations for all is deeply entrenched in curriculum opportunities at St George's. The language of 'let your light shine' is empowering pupils to do their best. They demonstrate a real love for learning and their lessons are carefully structured based on clear objectives. As a result of wholeheartedly living out its vision, the school attracts a high number of pupils with additional needs. This is because bespoke provision ensures they have the targeted interventions necessary for their learning. Staff are relentless in accessing and providing relevant support. There is a rich culture of loving care and encouragement. Leaders have focussed on the development of a shared understanding of spirituality. As a result, there is an emerging awareness of this element of the life of the school.

A deeply instilled common pattern to collective worship contributes to a meaningful daily focus on the school vision. All who lead and take part follow a clear structure creating a sense of familiarity. A focus on values ensures worship is planned effectively. Confident pupil leaders prepare everyone to begin worship. Responses centred on being lights in the world reflect Anglican tradition. Worship is inspirational as varied resources are used to engage those gathered. There is a palpable sense of spiritual awareness. Adults, justifiably, express how they experience a 'wow' moment as the school community share traditional and contemporary hymns. They sing about being a light in the darkness and how Jesus can help them to change the world. Pupils choose to regularly write their own prayers. The spiritual language used in worship helps many to express emotions through difficult times. The outdoor peace garden, in memory of a former pupil, is readily used. Here pupils and adults reflect and experience moments of stillness as they support each other. A strong partnership with St George's church enriches worship provision. Weekly visitors frequently tell Bible stories. These reflect the current Christian value contributing to a deepening awareness of faith and the teachings of Jesus. After school 'Cornerstone Kids' strengthens links with the church. Church celebration services of key Christian events at are 'live streamed' allowing parents to worship alongside their children.

Being part of the community at St George's leaves a legacy which is celebrated and warmly acknowledged. Many speak of how the school's Christian foundation impacts families over several generations. It is transformational and influences how they live their lives. Adults and pupils freely articulate how others are 'letting their light shine' deepening the sense of unity and encouragement.

Strong partnerships help to sustain many through very difficult times. Clergy and the diocese provide valuable support which is crucial in nurturing and upholding the school community. A meaningful relationship with the local college contributes to raising aspirations. Students helped to design and construct a peace garden providing a well utilised space for quiet reflection. Pupils tend the area with reverence and commitment as they share memories and work through their feelings. Wellbeing champions complement provision for their peers which is having a positive impact in the classroom. For example, they support with well-rehearsed breathing techniques to help calm situations. Mental health first aiders and a tight knit staff team are instrumental in providing crucial support ensuring adults are well cared for. Highly impactful and relevant initiatives contribute to an atmosphere of calm where pupils are empowered to behave well. Mental health and well-being provision is enhanced as practical needs are addressed through the community food hub based in school.

As elected participants to their various leadership roles, pupils act with a great sense of responsibility and maturity. They are confident and articulate as they carry out their duties, eager to 'let their lights shine'. Curriculum themes and weekly collective worship focussing on global news raises awareness of life beyond Stamford. Working through a structured programme creates a wider knowledge of world issues. Forest school activities deepen knowledge of the plight of the natural world and the impact of human activity. Most charity initiatives are adult led and pupils have limited opportunities to be agents of change themselves.

Pupils are enthusiastic about RE lessons and enjoy the creative and innovative ways in which they are taught. It is well led and the subject has a high profile. The vibrant curriculum is well sequenced and builds on previous knowledge. It is carefully structured and covers a range of religions. Pupils visit different places of worship in Peterborough as part of their learning experiences. This develops an insight into what it means to have faith and appreciate the beliefs and rituals of others. They understand that what they learn in RE will help them to communicate and understand people from different cultures. Leaders monitor the subject to ensure consistency and high standards. Assessment systems prioritise it alongside other core subjects. Staff receive ongoing training and support, developing their own expertise and confidence. Consequently, pupils are acquiring a rich knowledge of world views and making good progress.

The inspection findings indicate that St George's Church of England VA Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	24 April 2024	URN	120607
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary aided	Pupils on roll	176
Diocese	Lincoln		
MAT/Federation	Aspire Federation		
Executive Headteacher	Laura Martin		
Chair	Peter Hilton		
Inspector	Joy Hardy	No.	944