

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Ropsley Church of England VC Primary School	
Address	School Lane, Ropsley, Lincolnshire. NG33 4BT

School vision

In God's image, we strive and shine: with happy hearts and inspired minds. Our vision is to be a caring, happy and inclusive Church school that is at the heart of our community. We strive to provide an excellent education which develops a life-long love of learning in a global context. We see all members of our school family as valued and precious in the eyes of God. We seek to do this through an innovative, engaging and inspiring curriculum that encourages us all to flourish.

School strengths

- The clear Christian vision inspires leaders to ensure that it drives all school priorities and development plans. As a result, pupils and adults ‘shine and strive’ happily in this inclusive Church school.
- Collective worship is thoughtfully planned. It enables pupils and adults to meaningfully explore the school’s vision and values, nurturing their spiritual lives.
- The Christian vision fosters a deep sense of belonging in this caring Church school. Pupils and adults feel valued and supported as individuals, enabling them to shine.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum is coherently sequenced and well-balanced. Consequently, pupils develop a deepening knowledge and appreciation of a range of religions and worldviews.
- Inspired by establishing a ‘life-long love of learning’, leaders have developed an engaging and innovative curriculum. Pupils enjoy learning and are empowered to deepen their understanding of the world around them.

Areas for development

- Building on the school’s shared understanding of spirituality, plan experiences across the curriculum that deepen pupils’ awareness of the spiritual dimension of their lives.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to challenge injustice and bring about positive change within the local community and in the wider world. This is so that pupils understand that they have the power to make a difference.

Inspection findings

Ropsley Church of England Primary School truly lives out its inspiring Christian vision at the heart of its village community. Leaders are dedicated to ensuring that the vision guides decisions and actions, creating a school that is welcoming and inclusive. They are passionate about their role and respond proactively to the needs of all pupils. Pupils and adults flourish through leaders’ unwavering commitment to providing a

supportive and creative learning environment. The governing body is deeply involved in the outworking of the school's vision, ensuring that the uniqueness of the Christian community is upheld. Governors hold leaders to account and are active in monitoring and evaluating the impact of the Christian vision on the pupils' educational experience. This leads to a robust system of strategic improvement, where the school's vision remains central to personal and academic growth.

Inspired to develop a 'life-long love of learning', pupils at Ropsley thrive. The creative and innovative curriculum enables all to be included and catered for; pupils are deeply engaged in their learning. Ensuring that all can shine, leaders embrace new ways of inspiring pupils, for example in their creative writing. This results in enthusiastic and successful learners. School is a place where pupils feel safe to learn, as well as being supported in their emotional development. Opportunities for pupils to flourish through extra-curricular activities are carefully planned. For example, teamwork and confidence building are central to the aspirational drama club, thus demonstrating the school's vision in action. Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are nurtured and provided for, ensuring that they are empowered to reach their full potential. Pupils are loved for who they are, valued as unique and seen as special in the eyes of God. Spiritual flourishing for all is a priority for the school. The shared understanding of spirituality enables pupils and adults to begin exploring life's spiritual dimension. Pupils talk about 'ows' and 'wows', helping them extend their use of spiritual language. However, planned opportunities across the wider curriculum that nurture spiritual growth, are not fully embedded.

Collective worship plays a central role in supporting pupils and adults in their spiritual development. The school's values are explored through a thoughtfully planned schedule, linking them to the words and actions of Jesus. Consequently, pupils and adults understand deeply how Christian teachings impact on people's thinking and choices. Pupils are selected as 'Values Spies'. They then search out and report back to staff when they see individuals demonstrating the school's values. Pupils and adults are mutually inspired by these thoughtful actions. Worship times are approached with a shared sense of spiritual reverence. Members of the school community value reflective opportunities, enabling them to find moments of peace. Pupils confidently lead elements of worship, thus deepening engagement and inspiring others. Pupils can safely share their thoughts, hopes and anxieties in classroom 'prayerful spaces', thereby supporting their spiritual growth. Recently energised by a new selection of lively worship songs, a shared love of singing engages the whole school community. The strong link with the local church, through the vicar's active role, further enriches worship provision at the school. School worship events are also held at the church, welcoming families and the local community. Those involved cherish these shared experiences. For example, a recent celebration enabled parents and carers to see the 'joy on children's faces' as they presented their songs.

There is a rich awareness of belonging at Ropsley Church of England Primary School. The school community is proud of being part of this nurturing and happy family. Pupils are welcomed by name as they come through the school gate. Senior leaders make themselves visible and available for families so that issues are addressed and support is given when needed. Parents and carers feel welcome, valued and integral to school life. They trust the school deeply to provide genuine and compassionate care for their children. They say that treating others well is 'in the woodwork of the school'. The wellbeing of the school community is prioritised; leaders ensure staff are supported. As a result, the staff are a confident and committed team, diligently showing compassion and kindness. Wellbeing activities for pupils take place regularly. They know the importance of talking about their feelings and benefit from moments of stillness. Enriching this, outdoor areas are utilised to their full potential. Forest school and other creative opportunities enable the school community to develop a love of the natural world in their rural environment. The school's vision and associated values positively impact on pupils' behaviour and conduct, which is exceptional. Pupils demonstrate consideration and respect to others within the school community.

Relationships within the school community flourish. Inspired by the vision of being a 'school family', older pupils take on the role of being buddies for the youngest. Rich and meaningful connections are made as the vision is wholeheartedly lived out. Pupils have a growing awareness of issues around justice and fairness.

Within the curriculum and collective worship, pupils thoughtfully explore global issues such as poverty and climate change. Pupil council members vote democratically, deciding which charities to support. Alongside these planned events, pupils are also able to respond more spontaneously to show compassion to others. For example, they raise money for local homelessness initiatives and collect donations for a nearby foodbank. However, opportunities for pupils themselves to challenge inequality, both locally and in the wider world, are underdeveloped. Consequently, pupils do not fully appreciate how they can make a positive difference to issues that they feel are unjust.

Driven by the vision, RE is skillfully led. The curriculum content is sequenced coherently and effectively. Detailed and meticulous progression and planning documentation ensure that provision is enriching and challenging. Supportive partnerships within the diocese and local church provide training opportunities that develop teachers' subject knowledge and confidence. RE is taught in an engaging and lively way through the use of role-play, discussion and vibrant resources, inspiring pupils to think deeply. The local vicar actively supports learning in RE, for example, when comparing religious and scientific beliefs about creation. Pupils appreciate being able to explore 'big questions' more meaningfully. Pupils' use of religious and spiritual vocabulary demonstrates a rich and deepening awareness of faith and beliefs. Christianity is represented and recognised as a global religion through carefully chosen resources. Pupils know the importance of learning about a range of religions and worldviews. This deepens their awareness and understanding of those with beliefs different to their own. They are enthusiastic learners and articulate their knowledge, thoughts and ideas confidently in RE lessons.

The inspection findings indicate that Ropsley Church of England VC Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information

Inspection date	21 May 2024	URN	120536
VA/VC/Academy	VC	Pupils on roll	113
Diocese	Lincolnshire		
MAT/Federation	N/A		
Headteacher	Ann Cook		
Chair	Fred Mann		
Inspector	Andrea Burrows	No.	C23/24