

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Thurnby St Luke's CE Primary School

Address	Main Street, Thurnby, Leicestershire. LE7 9PN		
Date of inspection	12 June 2019	Status of school	Primary Academy in Diocese of Leicester Academies Trust inspected as voluntary controlled.
Diocese	Leicester	URN	120166

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

School context

Thurnby St Luke's is a primary school with 233 pupils on roll. About 50% of pupils are of White British heritage and 50% from other ethnic backgrounds. A 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 is a member of the Diocese of Leicester Academies Trust (DLAT). The current head has been in post since September 2018 and the school is in its second year of being extended to include Year 6.

The school's Christian vision

Through God's love, we are the rich soil where roots grow and seeds flourish. Luke 8: 4-15

Our aims as a school are that we will give children fulfilling learning opportunities, we will nurture social, emotional and moral well-being and we serve our church, our village and community.

To fulfil these aims, as a whole school community, we strive to show our values of:

KINDNESS THANKFULNESS FORGIVENESS ASPIRATION PERSEVERANCE

Key findings

- The passion with which the whole school family speaks of being involved in creating the revised biblical vision for the school gives a real sense of empowerment.
- There are extremely strong, sustainable and mutually beneficial links with the local church congregation. The new headteacher has plans for further creative and exciting initiatives which will continue to consolidate and strengthen the vibrant partnership with St. Luke's Church. This gives the school the potential to be a deeply Christian learning community.
- Christian values are linked to every aspect of school life giving clarity to the vision. Every member of the school family is given a second chance at this school.
- The governing body are very supportive, although they are not strategic enough in monitoring and evaluating the Christian character of the school.
- RE is given a high priority and well planned making positive contributions to the school's vision and values.

Areas for development

- To ensure the Christian distinctiveness of St Luke's is more strategically monitored by leadership at all levels.
- To embed children's leadership involvement in all aspects of worship in the school.
- To ensure the school's vision and values are reflected in the curriculum through further development of the mutually beneficial links between church and school.

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 school's collaborative, recently reviewed Christian vision is beginning to influence afresh everything which happens at St. Luke's and build on the school's already strong Christian foundation. 'Through God's love, we are the rich soil where roots grow and seeds flourish' is appropriately inspired by the Parable of the Sower in St. Luke's Gospel. Along with 5 Christian values, it is being shared and embraced by all members of the school family. Leaders work very closely with the local church. All members of the school community are excited at the prospect of becoming involved in the creation and use of the new community 'Hub' which is being developed by the church. The new headteacher is keen to further develop this partnership with innovative and creative initiatives and was described as being a person who 'won't give up on people'. Governors carry out monitoring visits to observe the Christian distinctiveness of the school. However, this is not robust or strategic enough to ensure regular and consistent evaluation. Recommendations from the previous SIAMS report have been addressed and an effective streamlined system of evaluating Collective Worship by everyone has been implemented.

Intensive support from the congregation at St. Luke's Church has a huge impact on ensuring the Christian vision for the school is implemented both through the curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Children speak enthusiastically about how their regular sessions of Godly Play, led by the church's children and families worker during curriculum time, cause them to think deeply about the Christian faith. The school is in its second year of having a Year 6 cohort in school and current data indicates that this year's national assessments will be above national averages. The school identifies pupils with additional needs early, enabling them to make good progress and staff are relentless in ensuring these children also get the help they need. A child with additional needs who moved from another school ran out of school shouting, 'I've never felt so good about myself than what I felt today!' The church also supports funded 'Frontier' weekends away for identified children helping to deepen their spiritual development.

Pupils articulate the value of aspiration with clarity. They are encouraged to persevere when struggling and speak of being the best they can be. St Luke's prepares their children well for 'real life' by using the Christian vision and values as a good foundation on which to build. It is evident this view transcends across the different religious communities represented in the school. Following accurate evaluation and analysis, church charitable and international links are to be incorporated into future curriculum plans. This will further reflect the school's vision and values and also with the intent of encouraging pupils to challenge justice and inequality.

Pupils behave well. All members of the school community reiterated that everyone is given a 'second chance' at St. Luke's. There is a sense of forgiveness and being able to start afresh each day. The rainbow behaviour system enables pupils to re-establish themselves throughout the day and this creates a feeling of positivity within the school. Pupils can clearly articulate what forgiveness means in their own lives and link it to the story of Joseph in the Bible. Counsellors visit the school to provide mental health and well-being support and a member of staff in school is trained to provide art therapy if needed. A 'Listening Lunch' currently takes place on an occasional basis, where staff can chat to the church support worker if they chose to do so. Members of the school family support each other in a variety of ways but especially through prayer. Governors support the headteacher and staff. They help to alleviate stressful situations by taking their responsibilities seriously and being proactive in dealing with issues which distract the staff team from their core purpose in school.

There is an effective online system to record behavioural incidents in school and this is then triaged by the senior leadership team. All faith communities in school were able to articulate what it means to be 'good soil' within the vision and how the values give them a solid foundation for their futures. Pupils are able to empathise with the feelings of others. Staff of all faiths lead collective worship and embrace the Christian vision of the school. There is currently an appropriate broad and balanced curriculum in place which ensures the well-rounded development and academic success for each pupil. However, St Luke's pupils have a limited awareness of their place in an ever changing global world.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. Throughout the week it takes a variety of forms and settings such as in the peace garden and the church. It is led by a range of staff. The richness that pupils experience in worship enables them to independently recall Bible stories and link the school values to their own

lives. However, although the pupil's worship group make valuable contributions, they have too few opportunities to plan and lead worship on a regular basis. Pupils understand the value of prayer and reflection and make effective links between Christian values and their own actions. Church representatives are regular worship leaders and this has a huge impact on the Christian character of the school. This mutually beneficial partnership is a real support to the ongoing development of St. Luke's as a vibrant Christian community.

The teaching of RE is celebrated in this school. It has been well planned and assessment is effectively used to ensure pupils have some understanding of Christianity as a living world faith but also to develop knowledge and understanding of major world religions. Resources developed by the school have been used nationally as examples in the professional development of teachers. Strong support is given to the RE coordinator by the previous subject leader, who is passionate about RE and this enthusiasm is reflected in the work produced in pupils' books. A planned timetable of visits to places of worship, readily available in the nearby city of Leicester, is to support the knowledge and understanding of pupils. A Hindu temple was recently recreated in a classroom to contribute to their studies.

St. Luke's is a school where the biblical vision is clearly articulated and there are excellent foundations on which to build, particularly with the inspirational and unique links with the church. This supportive and sustainable partnership gives the school the potential to be a deeply Christian learning community in which every member is able to thrive by being the 'good soil where roots grow and seeds flourish.'

Headteacher	Paul Galvin
Inspector's name and number	Joy Hardy 944