

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

St Peter at Gowts Church of England Primary School	
Address	Pennell Street, Lincoln LN5 7TA

School vision
<p>'Unlocking potential in all; empowering a community of hope'.</p> <p>'Dare to declare who you are. It is not far from the shores of silence to the boundaries of speech. The path is not long, but the way is deep. You must not only walk there, you must be prepared to leap.' St Hildegard of Bingen</p> <p>'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.' (Proverbs 22:6)</p> <p>Unlocking young peoples' potential by providing an education that gives them the 'keys for life.' (St Peter)</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact of the Christian vision is transformative on the lives of pupils, staff and families within this school. St Peter at Gowts is a bright light of hope in which opportunities to flourish are available to all.</li> <li>• Guided by the Christian vision, passionate and ambitious school leaders make bold decisions. These create an aspirational culture where adults and pupils thrive.</li> <li>• The Christian vision shapes the challenging and ambitious religious education (RE) curriculum. Consequently, pupils demonstrate exceptional knowledge and understanding of a range of worldviews and faiths, including Christianity.</li> <li>• Joyful and uplifting worship creates meaningful moments for the spiritual development of adults and pupils. It is reflective of the school's vision and has a positive impact upon the lives of both pupils and adults.</li> <li>• Leaders, including governors, create a culture of positive wellbeing which enriches relationships and celebrates individuals' achievements. Staff and pupils are known and loved as the unique person they are with their individual achievements celebrated.</li> </ul>
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further enhance the strong RE curriculum through the school's engagement in action research. This is to deepen pupils' understanding of worldviews and faiths.</li> <li>• Further enrich the breath of opportunities for pupils and adults to encounter spirituality. This is to extend the way that they flourish spiritually.</li> </ul>
Inspection findings
<p>St Peter at Gowts' Christian vision is deeply rooted in biblical tradition. Leaders, including governors, ensure it is relevant and appropriate to the school's foundation and context. It is lived out through a well-known set of associated values. Leaders accurately understand the needs of pupils. The vision drives them to ensure they are provided with all they need to thrive.</p> <p>The highly focused nature of governor and leaders' monitoring strengthens the way that St Peter at Gowts shines as a Church school. Their Christian vision is their guiding light. This ensures that</p>



leaders' highly ambitious plans are inspired by a sense of hope and aspiration for the pupils, staff and families.

All pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those considered vulnerable are given opportunities to thrive. Those whose home language is not English benefit from targeted help. The school is diverse and fully inclusive. Consequently, all have opportunities to thrive. The curriculum broadens pupils' horizons through carefully selected reading materials and well-planned support. This enables them to consider how values such as justice and forgiveness can be lived out in the local and wider community. The opportunity to take part in activities outside the normal teaching day are accessible to all and enrich pupils' learning. The recent residential experience and visits to the forest school are just some of the numerous examples that pupils benefit from.

The development of pupils' spirituality enriches their personal development. It is a direct result of the importance that ambitious leaders place on it and the school's effective partnership with the diocese. Pupils have a clear understanding of what spirituality means to them and can talk openly about 'awe and wonder' moments both within and outside the classroom. This has a positive impact on their perceptions of the diversity, complexity and brilliance of the world in which they live. The school's 'spirituality book' highlights the rich variety of experiences that extends pupils' spiritual development. Consequently, both staff and pupils can reference the positive impact these have on their daily life. Leaders have created meaningful spaces for pupils to encounter moments of quiet reflection both within the classroom spaces and without. They accurately highlight the need to further embed the impact of this provision. Their thoughtful planning of the new spiritual garden is evidence of their ambitiousness for the further spiritual flourishing of adults and pupils.

The planning of worship reflects key events in the Anglican calendar and is enriched by a variety of different styles. Collective worship is a key part of the school day, giving pupils valued moments to reflect and develop their understanding of Christian values. Carefully selected Bible stories link to pupils' own experiences which allow them to think meaningfully upon their own lives, views, and values. This is characterised by the school's commitment to collective worship that, 'warms fires and open doors'. Invitational worship allows pupils and staff to come as close to the 'fire' as they would wish or respectfully observe at a distance. Pupil 'collective worship councillors' are an integral part of the planning, delivery, and evaluation of collective worship. This enriches the way worship is an inclusive experience for pupils and staff, enhancing the impact it has on them. Singing during collective worship is joyful and infectious. This enables pupils, regardless of personal faith or view, to immerse themselves in uplifting songs that provide personal moments of spiritual development.

Leaders are acutely aware of the importance of both pupil and staff mental health and wellbeing. Carefully considered support is available to promote wellbeing, including through difficult times. Staff are provided with opportunities to grow professionally through a well-planned programme of training. Consequentially, staff feel valued and flourish. Peer mentoring and staff support are instrumental in helping pupils develop resilience and in identifying their individual needs.

The aspirational design of the RE curriculum reflects the school's Christian vision. It is well-balanced and relevant to the needs of the pupils. It enables pupils to extend their already strong understanding of worldviews and religions, including Christianity. Extremely positive links with the diocese enhance this through training and support which deepens adults' knowledge and understanding. The school's golden thread of values is an integral part of pupils' learning. This enables them to be able to speak about their understanding, and generate individual opinions on religious and non-religious worldviews. Enrichment opportunities to visit various places of worship and visits by leaders of different faiths enhance pupils' knowledge and understanding. This increases their ability to develop and rationalise their own view or faith. Aspirational leaders are committed to building upon their already comprehensive RE curriculum. They eagerly search for

ways to extend pupils' strong understanding of worldviews and religions, including Christianity. Their involvement in a range of prestigious research projects is illustrative of this fact. As the research is at an early stage, the impact of it on the curriculum is not fully clear.

The link with the local church is particularly strong. Pupils visit on several occasions to celebrate major Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The church also provides a rich learning environment for pupils to develop their understanding of Christianity and the way many Christians worship. The school has strong links with the local community and knows the families that they serve well. Active support, including provision of English lessons for some parents, opens doors to them and is transformative on their lives.

Pupils are eager to challenge injustice and to find ways to help others. They are actively involved in numerous fund-raising events during the school year. By providing these opportunities, pupils develop their understanding of the importance of being good neighbours and caring for people in their community. Activities such as litter picking and helping with garden projects enhance the local area. These activities provide the opportunity for pupils and adults to put the school's vision and values into action, encouraging all to be positive agents of change. The impact of this work empowers pupils to actively create 'a community of hope'. This is guided by the school's Christian vision, giving pupils a set of deeply-held values that are 'keys' in the choices they make.

The inspection findings indicate that St Peter at Gowts Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
School	St Peter at Gowts Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	10 May 2024
URN	120563	VC/VA/Academy	VC
Diocese	Lincoln	Pupils on roll	260
MAT/Federation	N/A		
Headteacher	Emily Mayer		
Chair of Governors	Roger Hewins		
Inspector	Helen Birch	No.	c23/24