

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Branston Church of England Infant Academy

Vision

Travelling together to be 'The Best We Can Be' within the love of God.

Children are welcomed and valued. We ensure they are safe and able to flourish within our nurturing Christian ethos based on distinctive Christian values of Kindness, Love, Respect, Community, Forgiveness and Perseverance. Our children are inspired by rich and exciting learning opportunities and encouraged to grow, physically, spiritually and emotionally through the experiences they have and the choices they make.

Our children leave us as independent, resilient individuals who know themselves, respect others of all faiths and none and have an intrinsic love of learning.

Branston Church of England Infant Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- The thoughtfully considered Christian vision inspires pupils and adults to be 'the best they can be'. It shapes daily life and enables the school community to flourish.
- There is a palpable climate of love and kindness which extends into the wider community. Consequently, individuals are cherished and respected.
- The vision driven curriculum, enriched by diverse extra-curricular activities and themed days, takes learners on an engaging educational journey. It facilitates spiritual growth and fosters a love of learning.
- Collective worship is a special time that is enhanced by exceptionally close connections with the local church. It creates a sense of community and helps pupils understand moments of joy and sadness.
- Highly effective and mutually beneficial partnerships are influenced by leaders' unwavering commitment to serve. They allow pupils to understand how to positively impact the lives of others.

Development Points

- Embed the new religious education (RE) curriculum. This is to deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding of diversity within a range of religions and worldviews.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Underpinned by the life of Moses, the Christian vision takes the school community on an aspirational educational journey. Carefully selected values of love, perseverance, kindness, forgiveness, community and respect, flow from the vision. They are a natural part of school life and extend into the wider world. Consequently, pupils and adults flourish and lives are transformed. Leaders' steadfast commitment to the vision ensures it drives the strategic direction of the school. They are well supported in this work by the diocese and Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust. A rigorous programme of evaluation, including by governors, informs the continual drive to 'be the best we can be'. A recent review of the values led to the inclusion of community. This further supports the school to live out the vision of travelling together on a daily basis. Staff thrive professionally due to the 'I see you' approach of the multi-academy trust (MAT) and school. Training, including leadership development, empowers staff to grow in confidence in their roles. The school is professionally generous, sharing best practice across the MAT and beyond. This enables the vision to have an impact beyond the walls of the school.

Vision and Curriculum

Pupils are excited to learn and well prepared for the future as a result of the carefully crafted curriculum. Underpinned by the Christian vision, it takes pupils on a journey where knowledge and understanding grow. Inclusive adaptations allow the needs of individuals to be met, including those of the most vulnerable. An extensive enrichment offer is provided in the form of a 'rainbow of opportunities'. Themed days allow topics such as science, art and sport to be explored creatively and at a deeper level. An array of extra-curricular activities, including dodge ball, choir and craft, are informed by pupil voice and well attended. These opportunities allow individual talents and interests to be nurtured, helping pupils to become well-rounded citizens of the future. A shared understanding and language of spirituality are embedded within the school. This helps pupils, including the very youngest, make sense of the widespread opportunities for spiritual growth.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is intricately planned to be welcoming, engaging and provide meaningful moments of reflection. It provides rich opportunities for pupils to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. It also allows pupils to glimpse into the lives of others. This broadens horizons and encourages them to look beyond their lived experiences. As a result, pupils develop a deeper understanding of their place in the world. Occasions to worship with other schools are embraced. These include diocesan and MAT opportunities which allow pupils to experience worship in a variety of forms and settings. Collective worship is enriched by close links with the local church. The whole school community come together to celebrate key festivals in All Saints Church. This creates a feeling of community and builds close relations between school, home and church. Pupils, through the awe and wonder council, support with the planning and evaluation of worship. This ensures it remains relevant and inspiring. Spirituality trees are well used throughout the school. Star shaped tags remind pupils of when they have experienced spiritual moments. The shared language of 'ows', 'wows', and 'nows' helps pupils comprehend times of joy and sadness. Consequently, they thrive spiritually.

Vision and School Culture

The nurturing environment of the school is inspired by the Christian vision and creates a tangible sense of belonging. Love, kindness and respect permeate throughout the building and into the local community. A well-established family learning programme helps carers develop their own skills and understand how to effectively support their child. Those going through difficult times are treated with dignity and respect. Consequently, flourishing extends to the wider family. Pupils and adults' talents are celebrated and nurtured, leading to individuals feeling valued and cared for. Leaders ensure wellbeing is a priority. Decisions are always made with the welfare of those involved in mind. Staff therefore feel appreciated and listened to. Pupils benefit from bespoke interventions such as sand tray therapy and sensory circuits. These help them to be 'the best they can be'. Forgiveness is central to the life of the school. Relationships are built on mutual respect, and pupils understand how kindness impacts lives. As a result, children and adults live well together.



Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Effective partnerships are driven by the Christian vision. An intergenerational project with a local care home allows pupils to take part in activities with the residents. This helps them understand how their actions can make a positive difference to the lives of others. Pupils demonstrate compassion for those in their local community and further afield. They understand the impact their donations of food and Christmas presents have on the people who receive them. Close links with local schools are mutually beneficial. They facilitate a smoother transition between educational settings and provide pupils with enriching opportunities, such as swimming. There are numerous openings for pupil leadership, including reading ambassadors and sports crew. These develop pupils' sense of responsibility and develop transferrable skills for the future. The school council influences decision making, for example deciding on new extra-curricular activities. This deepens pupils understanding of how to be agents of change.

Religious Education

RE has a high profile within the school and provides a safe space to ask big questions. Consequently, pupils can articulate the importance of RE and how it links to the school values of respect and love. The newly implemented curriculum is well-balanced and has been effectively adapted to meet the needs of current learners. It is continually reviewed through professional conversations and pupil voice to ensure it remains of the highest standard. Pupils enjoy exploring religions and worldviews through a variety of lived experiences. They demonstrate an age-appropriate knowledge and understanding that builds over time. Fictional characters help pupils develop their skills as theologians, social scientists and philosophers. However, as the curriculum is in its early stages of delivery it is not embedded. This means pupils' understanding of diversity within religion and worldviews is limited. Leaders benefit from professional development opportunities and effectively disseminate training across the wider staff body. This strengthens staff subject knowledge and practice.

Information

Address	Beech Road, Valley Estate, Branston, Lincoln, LN4 1PR		
Date	03 December 2025	URN	144122
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	130
Diocese	Lincoln		
MAT	Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust		
MAT Chair	Jerry Woolner		
Headteacher	Lianne Cook		
Chair of Governors	Dale Brownless		
Inspector	Kelly Wall		