Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bourne Abbey CofE Primary Academy	
Address	Abbey Road, Bourne, PE10 9EP
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent

School's vision

We are a community in which everyone is offered the opportunity to fulfil their full potential, to understand themselves and be valued for who they are. Through a stimulating and challenging learning environment, we pursue academic excellence and seek the flourishing of all. This is because we know we are all God's children.

Key findings

- The Christian distinctiveness of this excellent school draws on biblical teachings to underpin all decisions, actions and policies that enable all to flourish.
- Empowered by the inspirational and dedicated leadership, the school provides a stimulating, engaging and challenging education for all. This promotes curiosity and the pursuit of excellence.
- Pupils are celebrated as individuals and all are encouraged to be the best they can. This results in a culture of responsibility in the school that looks outward.
- Collective worship is at the heart of school life. It enhances numerous opportunities for spiritual development across the school. It enriches all and enables them to make connections to their lives and learning.
- A rich and engaging religious education (RE) curriculum is tailored carefully to the school's needs. This inspires pupils to explore a wide range of religious and philosophical ideas, resulting in deep understanding.

Areas for development

- Review the current school vision to incorporate the biblical teachings that underpin daily practice. This will help to articulate the school's highly evident, impactful Christian distinctiveness.
- Enable the work of pupils as agents of change to grow beyond their school so they can support others more widely.

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Inspection findings

Ambition and opportunity, rooted in biblical teachings, underpin the distinctively Christian ethos of this excellent church school. By drawing on the biblical teachings of love and service, the school supports all to fulfil their full potential. It's unrelenting pursuit of excellence enables the community to flourish. Inspirational leaders show generosity and grace in the relationships they build. They draw on the life of Jesus to grow an ethos based on love and friendship. Each Christian value is explained through biblical memory verses to ensure understanding of the Christian foundation of the school. Aspiration is a golden thread throughout this. Consequently, pupils are confident, inquisitive and motivated to widen their horizons. Their voice is heard through a wide range of leadership roles, including as UNICEF ambassadors, well-being warriors, eco-councillors and school councillors. As a result, pupils' ideas and views are included in all strategic development plans. The impact is that pupils work harmoniously together, building interdependent relationships where they are valued.

Exceptional partnerships within the academy trust, diocese and local churches make this school a beacon of excellence. Each contributes to pupils' and adults' flourishing. This is supported further by a highly effective governing body and academy trust board. They make wise decisions based on biblical teachings. For example, well-being and mental health are paramount priorities, drawing on the value of humility. The school community reflect on the story of David and Goliath as an example of humility. This is used as a foundation to build a strong support network at Bourne Abbey ensuring everyone has the resilience to flourish. It is achieved by training staff as mental health first aiders, pupils as well-being warriors and establishing a well-being hub.

This excellent school has a deep working relationship with the local church. Together they plan and lead regular services for the school community, reflecting great cohesiveness. The vicar is well known in the school, and pupils regularly have opportunities to meet with him. They ask him deep questions about life and existence, and as a result genuinely feel part of the wider Christian community. Opportunities for spiritual flourishing are seen in moments of deep reflection provided throughout the day. The shared definition of spirituality has been thoughtfully constructed ensuring it is emphatically understood. Peaceful reflection areas provide space to enrich the pupils' experience of the mystery of life. The school plans opportunities for spirituality which enable children to think of themselves, others, and the world beyond. As a result, when pupils encounter moments of wonder and awe, they naturally show curiosity and want to reflect.

Leaders are aware of the limited cultural opportunities available locally, and provide transformative opportunities to broaden pupils' awareness. The exemplary curriculum addresses this, and reflects the Christian ethos, by offering opportunities to extend pupils' knowledge and empathy. Drawing on the Christian value of courage, and biblical teachings, the school has established a clear strategy to promote the flourishing of all. One significant aspect of this is that everyone knows that this is a safe place to make mistakes and learn. As a result, pupils love learning and make great progress because they are accepting, compassionate and respectful.

This excellent school prides itself on every pupil having a role of responsibility. This is reflected in it being a gold UNICEF Rights Respecting School and results in pupils having high expectations of themselves. The same ambition exists for adults. Extensive professional development ensures an expert, enthusiastic workforce. Consequently, all reflect the Christian ethos underpinning the school's ambition for everyone to reach their full potential. Dedicated, skilled staff determinedly support and enhance learning experiences, so pupils are ambitious and achieve. Vulnerable pupils have their needs sensitively addressed, are

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supported to be aspirational and thrive. Pupils are extremely articulate; emboldened to ask, and effectively answer, probing and incisive questions, The curriculum inspires aspiration, enabling pupils, including the most able, to respond positively and flourish.

Families actively choose the school for its distinctly Christian ethos. Christian values, including responsibility and love, arise from this strong foundation which permeates every aspect of school life. Behaviour is exemplary, characterised by empathetic and caring relationships. It is reflected in the stories of Jesus showing forgiveness to others that pupils know and understand. Consequently, pupils are empowered to disagree well, stay safe and stand up for others. This enriches everyone's lives and creates a culture where everyone watches over each other. The school council encourages pupils to broaden their thinking and consider issues affecting those beyond their community.

Appreciation of diversity and difference is enriched through the school drawing on biblical teachings. It reflects on being strong and courageous and finding solace in knowing God. This results in pupils being shown how to be respectful and to take care of the environment. Sustained by the eco-council, pupils develop a sense of social justice. Staff actively promote pupils as catalysts for change, and empowers them to make a real difference. An excellent example is the pastoral role pupils undertake when visiting a local care home where they have befriended residents.

Memorable, highly valued worship is excellent. It is central to school life as it sustains the community and addresses their needs and aspirations. It provides multi-faceted opportunities for reflective responses, stillness and prayer, enhancing their spiritual development. Its impact is so significant that, in class, a time of deeply meaningful contemplation and reflection always follows. This promotes personal, often significant, age-appropriate responses. The worship council, working alongside the director of church distinctiveness, confidently support inspiring, inviting and inclusive worship. Meticulously planned, it innovatively weaves the church calendar and current affairs into the Christian ethos it embeds. Leaders, clergy and staff collaborate to produce exceptionally creative and biblically based worship. Pupils lead elements of praise, seeing it as a privilege and resulting in everyone being respectful, responsive and reflective. Pupils evaluate and record responses thoughtfully and instantly during worship. These are published daily on the school website to enable conversations outside of school, making impact of worship exceptional. Spontaneous prayer is a key characteristic of worship. Adults and pupils share in leading whole-school prayer. They value the opportunity to openly respond, which creates a compassionate Christian community.

Central to the curriculum is inspiring RE that engages and empowers. Pupils are proud of their work and enjoy the many opportunities to learn more about faith. Consideration of big questions provides them with profound moments of critical reflection which extends understanding. Pupils excel in RE. They make deep, meaningful responses and enjoy lively debate. The RE leadership team facilitate staff development to ensure teaching and learning of the highest quality. Careful assessment means that pupils understand their work and are motivated in their learning. Pupils feel that learning about world religions in RE is important. The curriculum enriches pupils' appreciation of religious diversity and worldviews.

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Information			
School	Bourne Abbey CofE Primary Academy	Inspection date	19 May 2023
URN	136354	VC/VA/ Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Lincoln	Pupils on roll	707
MAT/Federation	2044 Abbey Academies Trust		
Executive Head	Sarah Moore		
Chair of Governors	Stephen Haigh		
Inspector	Christopher Allen	No.	847

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