

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

## Bardney Church of England and Methodist Primary School

### Vision

As a caring Church School, we want to help equip every member of our school community to 'live life to the full' (John 10:10). We aim to give everyone a rich and varied range of opportunities to develop a sense of confidence, delight and wonder. Our ethos is driven by our Christian values of forgiveness, fairness, trust, honesty, compassion, friendship and respect. We value the uniqueness of everyone and work hard to nurture their individual character and talents.

### Strengths

- The Christian vision is deeply embedded in the life of the school. Consequently, there is a highly inclusive culture where pupils and adults feel valued and special.
- Pupils and adults are treated with compassion and respect, with particular emphasis on supporting pupils considered vulnerable. Equally, pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), benefit from the provision of personalised learning opportunities.
- Collective worship provides varied, meaningful experiences, contributing to the spiritual development of both pupils and staff.
- Guided by the Christian vision, leaders and staff place a strong emphasis on the wellbeing of pupils and their families. Staff feel equally cared for in their professional and personal development.
- Religious education (RE) provision is of high-quality, extremely valued and very well led. Consequently, the balanced RE curriculum ensures that pupils have a good understanding of a range of worldviews and religions, including Christianity.

### Development Points

- Strengthen pupils' understanding of how they develop their sense of responsibility through challenging injustice. This is to increase awareness of the positive impact their actions have within and beyond the school community.
- Expand the development of a shared language for spirituality across the school community. This is to extend the impact of opportunities for spiritual flourishing on pupils and adults.



## Inspection Findings

Bardney Church of England and Methodist Primary School is a haven of compassion and nurture. The Christian vision powerfully shapes the caring culture of school life. It is integral in the decision-making process of leaders, ensuring that pupils receive the best possible education. The commitment to fostering a sense of belonging and shared purpose is clear. Staff ensure that pupils are cared for as unique individuals and they go above and beyond to demonstrate the vision and values in their daily actions. Staff act as role models for mutual respect and friendship and this impacts positively on the caring way pupils and adults treat each other. Governors are actively involved in the life of the school and are a key part of its success. Through regular monitoring and engagement with the school's vision, they provide strong leadership and are effective in holding the school to account. The connection between the school and its two associated churches is strong, with a separate Church school governor committee enhancing these links. This relationship is further enriched by close collaboration with the diocese, ensuring that professional development for staff remains a priority.

The school's curriculum is broad, inclusive, and infused with opportunities for creativity and challenge. Pupils enjoy a range of activities, with forest school being particularly popular. This outdoor learning experience fosters collaboration, reflection, and spiritual growth as pupils work together to build dens or safely manage fires. While spiritual development is embedded in the curriculum, the school does not have a common language around spirituality. Consequently, the way that pupils and staff can describe the spiritual growth they experience is less developed. Leaders prioritise the inclusion of all pupils. A range of tailored interventions, both pastoral and academic, ensures that each child is given the opportunity to succeed. This is reflected in the care and attention given to pupils who have SEND, where support is meticulously designed to meet their individual needs. The school's newly established nurture room provides a space of stability and enrichment. Leaders are keen to emphasise that learning for all pupils is never narrowed, but is adapted carefully to meet individual needs. This means that alongside access to the full curriculum, pupils are encouraged to work collaboratively and kindly.

Collective worship is a valued part of the daily routine, offering a time of calm and reflection for the entire school community. The lighting of the candle at the start of worship symbolises a moment of united reverence, with pupils and staff engaging fully in the experience. Pupils play an active role in leading worship, which strengthens their sense of ownership and participation in this important aspect of school life. Prayer is both invitational and inspirational. Governors share in worship both as participants and leaders. Parents are invited to join weekly celebration worship, where they enjoy the warm and inclusive atmosphere that defines the school. Consequently this is a time of high importance, where strong partnerships are reinforced.

Mental health and wellbeing of both staff and pupils is a key priority at this school. Leaders are committed to creating a nurturing environment where everyone feels supported, allowing them to fully live out the school's vision. There is a holistic approach to wellbeing, whereby staff report feeling extremely well cared for, both personally and professionally. The positive interactions with senior leaders result in an atmosphere of strong mutual respect which permeates every relationship within the school. Parents are passionate about the school. They speak of the high levels of compassion to both the individual needs of the pupils and of them as a family. The school employs a counsellor as well as a very effective pastoral lead, whose work has often been transformative for the lives of families. Pupils are proud of their school and its ethos of inclusivity and care. They are clear about the significance of the open door on the school's logo, which symbolises the welcoming nature of the school. This ethos extends beyond the school gates, with strong links to the local community. For example, the school's involvement with the local Open Door Café and food bank reflects its commitment to assisting those in need. Young carers at the school are also supported through regular outings to the café. This highlights the school's steadfastness to making a positive difference in the lives of its pupils and their families.



Pupils are passionate about making a difference through their sense of responsibility to the world they live in. A variety of charities are well supported as a result of creative fundraising activities. Pupils have a strong awareness of global issues, such as endangered animals and ocean pollution. They are eager to express how they could modify their own lives as part of their contributions to such issues. However, the extent to which their clear enthusiasm is put into actions to challenge injustice is less developed.

RE is well-structured and carefully thought out. It is sequential and builds on prior learning to gain a fully rounded knowledge and understanding for pupils. The curriculum is designed to facilitate the formation of deep thinking about world religions, including Christianity. Consequently, it is a highly relevant subject and reflects the school's commitment to fostering respect for all people. A well-informed and committed leader ensures the importance of RE, and training takes a high priority alongside constant engagement with diocesan updates. These are cascaded to all staff, who regard RE with high enthusiasm and consideration. Careful monitoring means that the curriculum is adapted on a regular basis and this is reflected in the good progress made by pupils.

## Information

Address	Bardney Church of England and Methodist Primary School Henry Lane, Bardney, Lincoln, LN3 5XJ		
Date	15 October 2024	URN	120589
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	191
Diocese and Methodist district	Lincoln/Mid-Lincolnshire		
Federation	The Limewoods Federation		
Headteacher	Garth Hicks		
Chair of Governors	Catherine Lee		
Inspector	Kerrie Clowes		