



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Ruskington Chestnut Street Church of England Academy	
Address	Chestnut Street, Ruskington, Sleaford, NG34 9DL
School vision	
<p style="text-align: center;">Care, Believe, Grow</p> <p>We believe that our school is the ‘garden’ where our children will grow and flourish like the mustard tree in the kingdom of heaven. We have the passion to enable every child to achieve anything in their life journey. As part of the Christian family, we follow Jesus’ examples and teachings, we believe, care, guide and support our children and their families.</p> <p>"What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, it is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." Mark 4:30-32.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults and pupils thrive at Chestnut Street as a result of its aspirational Christian vision. It changes lives and equips people to care, believe and grow. • Pupils succeed because adaptations are made to their curriculum, so they can be the best they can be. This is supported through a broad range of activities that are ambitious and extend learning into the wider world. • Collective worship reflects the deep Christian roots of the school and is central to its daily life. Through invitational prayer, rich biblical teachings and person-centred reflection, pupils and adults flourish spiritually. • Positive relationships underpin this school and are enriched by reciprocal partnerships within the community. Consequently, a culture of openness and generosity pervades the school and its work in the local area. • Religious education (RE) is well planned and promotes enquiry which drives the whole approach to learning. It has a high profile and enables pupils to appreciate a range of beliefs leading to a better understanding of diversity. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the shared understanding of spiritual development across the curriculum, so pupils can maximise opportunities to reflect and question. • Extend opportunities for pupils to explore injustice and inequality in the wider world. This is to support them to make informed decisions when leading social action projects. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>The Christian vision is aspirational for Chestnut Street Church of England Primary Academy. It has been carefully thought through by leaders. It is clearly expressed through the embedding of the schools’ three core values of care, believe and grow. This leads to a school where pupils and adults are nurtured for who they are. Leaders draw on the vision as a filter for decision making. Staff are</p>	



inspired by the biblical example of the story of the mustard seed. They think of the needs of pupils in a holistic way, prioritising what is right for them to grow. A bedrock of the vision is to build strong relationships so that staff are enabled to diligently serve every pupil. Staff have a visible and welcoming presence in school. Parents find it easy to speak to them, and trust them, as they know their child as an individual. Staff particularly champion pupils who are disadvantaged or who have special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND). They are exceptionally attentive to their range of needs, providing in-school specialist provision. Consequently, pupils with SEND thrive because they are recognised, supported and celebrated. The school shines out as an inclusive school because it builds relationships of trust with its parents. Staff are supported by leaders who invest in them. The Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust (LAAT) provides extensive training and collaboration opportunities. Wellbeing is a priority for both school and LAAT, enabling staff to be effective in their work because they are valued. Committed governors provide support and take pride in the school's Christian character. They regularly evaluate the impact of the vision, fulfilling their delegated duties. This leads to a strengthening of the strategic work of this Church school.

The curriculum encourages pupils to flourish in their learning and to use knowledge wisely. It offers rich learning opportunities that grow young pupils' awareness of the world. The school has developed a shared understanding of spirituality. It has begun to map out the range of spiritual development opportunities within its curriculum. This leads to pupils developing as critical thinkers. However, only a limited number of these opportunities are used to support pupils to reflect and question. Chestnut Street encourages pupils to grow their interests through a range of extracurricular clubs and enrichment activities. These widen their interests of living a full life. Through LAAT pupils engage in a range of sporting, wellbeing and learning events. Any pupil can represent the school, creating a genuine culture of celebrating and including everyone. Pupils who have SEND access the full curriculum offer through adapted learning. A good example is the development of the 'Sensory Space.' Here, physical movement helps regulate and develop positive learning behaviours in pupils. This results in them being confident and appreciative of themselves as unique individuals.

Collective worship is a joyful and engaging experience. It provides ideal conditions for spiritual development. Leaders plan worship so the school community can explore its Christian vision and values. Creative weaving of biblical texts into each session helps everyone to understand the vision's roots in Christian teaching. This is enhanced by the links with the local church, who offer dramatized storytelling in school worship. The school leads regular services in church that follow the rhythm of the church year. Everyone is warmly welcomed to engage in these; however, nobody is obliged to take part. Pupils regularly lead aspects of worship, as a result they value it. They see it as a chance to share their thoughts with God. Others, simply enjoy the calm and quiet time to think. Pupils are encouraged to lead spontaneous prayer, adding their voice and thoughts to this special time. Person-centred contemplation is continued outside of collective worship, using carefully constructed spaces around the school to reflect or pray. Pupils who have SEND experience worship in ways appropriate for them. This ensures they have daily opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth.

Chestnut Street deeply values good mental health and wellbeing. This is supported by regular monitoring by LAAT who act on their findings. One outcome is the enhanced pastoral support developed in the school through 'The Nest.' Here pupils receive bespoke help to respond to their needs. Transformational acts happen because relationships are grown by living the Christian values of forgiveness and reconciliation. The staff successfully work with pupils who find school challenging. Highly trained adults constantly respond to the wide range of needs and adapt their practice in response. They work closely as a team and recognise one another's strengths. Each staff member displays real Christian compassion and care. As a result, pupils fully access the curriculum, remain happy in school and feel included. Consequently, pupils are known, and their needs are

understood, resulting in a school full of the richness of life.

Pupils live out the school's vision of serving others through roles of responsibility and leadership. This includes house captains, reading champions and worship leaders. Some pupils regularly support the elderly in a neighbouring care home through intergenerational work. Pupils have formed close bonds with residents and thrive on the social activities they undertake with them. The school choir is inclusive of a wide range of pupils' needs. Choir members proudly represent the school in concerts. Pupils regularly organise events to raise funds for the academy trust charity leading to a greater understanding around disadvantage. They serve their peers by being members of the school council. They work with the local Rotary Club to develop their leadership skills and are recognised as Rotary Stars for their work in the community. This supports pupils understanding of democracy as they see their ideas valued. The curriculum provides fewer opportunities for pupils to make informed choices. Subsequently, pupils' decision making is limited when leading social action projects in the wider community.

The RE curriculum is constructed to provide accurate knowledge and understanding about a range of religions and worldviews including Christianity. It has a high status and meets the requirements expected of a Church school. RE challenges pupils to learn, question and critically think. Pupils respond thoughtfully and creatively to their learning. Core concepts are built on over time. These enable pupils to develop sophisticated ideas about beliefs. Leaders support teachers to improve their knowledge of the subject, enabling them to be confident about what they teach. The school accesses training from the diocese to ensure teachers are up to date with the subject's developments. Because of well-chosen teaching resources, pupils have a good understanding of important Christian ideas. Pupils explore lived Christian practices from around the world to consider diversity. This has developed pupils' understanding of Christianity as a worldwide and multicultural faith.

The inspection findings indicate that Ruskington Chestnut Street Church of England Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	14 June 2024	URN	138324
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	156
Diocese	Lincoln		
MAT/Federation	Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust		
Executive Headteacher	George Trafford		
Chair	Russell Coulter		
Inspector	Christopher Allen	No.	847