

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Lostock Gramam Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Vision

Children are at the heart of everything that we do and Christ is the light that guides us (John 8:12).

Strengths

- The Christian vision has been carefully chosen to meet the context and needs of the school. It drives leaders' decisions and actions. As a result, pupils and adults are 'shining lights' in the community.
- The wide variety of rich learning experiences are shaped by the Christian vision. Specially planned opportunities allow pupils to appreciate the awe and wonder of the world and to discover ways to protect it. These have promoted pupils' strong awareness of issues within and beyond their locality.
- Wellbeing is a high priority. Staff, pupils and families know that they are well looked after and feel valued. The deep understanding of the vision and values enhances these positive relationships. Consequently, Lostock Gramam is a welcoming haven of Christian love.
- Collective worship and spiritual reflection are at the centre of the life of the school. Leaders ensure that everyone is invited and welcomed. Many different avenues to spiritual understanding are explored. Thus, worship is an inspiring and often transformative experience.
- Pupils are given a strong voice and have many opportunities to discuss their beliefs and opinions. The Christian vision and associated values give them confidence to challenge injustice. Because of this, pupils make a positive difference to their community and beyond.

Development Points

- Deepen learning opportunities that explore the national and global diversity of Christian practice. This is so that pupils understand the range and variety of ways this faith is experienced.



Inspection Findings

Lostock Gralam's Christian vision can be seen, heard and felt in every part of the school. Pupils are at its heart and are challenged to be like sunflowers, turning to the light of God. As a result, Christian love radiates outwards into the community to provide a safe haven. Therefore, this is a place where worries are shared and help is found, a place where the love of God shines. The Christian vision drives the school forward and so policies, routines and learning activities all reflect its ambitions. Leaders are passionate in ensuring the very best for their pupils and staff. They live by the motto 'we are never done'. Therefore, they are constantly evaluating the impact of their decisions and making changes to improve. They seek advice and inspiration from many sources. The successful partnerships with Chester Diocese and the local church enrich the school. Robust monitoring provided by governors ensures challenge and support. As a result, the school stands firm in its Church foundations and serves its community with ambition and compassion.

Staff have crafted a rich and varied curriculum to meet the needs of pupils. Targeted interventions help those needing extra support, giving pupils, including vulnerable and disadvantaged learners, the very best chance to achieve. Throughout the curriculum, the vision and values inspire teaching activities. For example, forgiveness, friendship and courage are investigated through topics in history, English, and RE. Thus, deepening the understanding of how the Christian vision and values apply to all aspects of life. A wide range of extra-curricular activities give pupils additional opportunities to expand their interests and discover their talents. The spiritual development of adults and pupils is of high priority. Searching questions, times for reflection and for stillness are interlinked with learning activities. Reflection areas in each class, together with the reflection garden, provide inspiration for those moments. These, together with a shared and well understood vocabulary, aid the exploration of spirituality. Therefore, pupils and adults are confident in discussing their thoughts and beliefs, so strengthening their spiritual awareness.

Collective worship is valued as a time where everyone is invited to come and share in the joys and sorrows of life. It is meticulously planned to ensure the vision and Christian values are explored, deepening the understanding of these. Leaders ensure times of song, prayer, reflection and discussion, thus offering different approaches to worship. The analogy of windows, mirrors and doors encourages looking inwards and outwards. So, creating a pathway to discover a sense of self and one's place in the world. The close partnership with the local church enhances spiritual experiences further. There is regular shared worship in church where staff, pupils and the community come together. It also hosts the school's celebrations of Christian festivals such as Christmas, harvest and Easter. Parish volunteers also run weekly Open the Book activities in the school. These popular occasions bring the Bible to life, strengthening the understanding of its stories in a modern-day context. As a result of these diverse opportunities, worship enriches the spiritual life of the school community.

The Christian vision and associated values challenge the school community to make the world a better place. Pupils are encouraged to live by the school's Christian values and to take responsibility for their own actions. Therefore, there is a solid understanding of how to create positive relationships. Opportunities are woven throughout the curriculum to explore issues such as conflict, conservation and poverty. The after-school gardening club strengthens an appreciation of God's creation and the need to care for it. Partnerships with local charities, such as Chester Zoo, further enhance learning experiences. The annual whole school projects deepen knowledge of how the vision and values extend beyond the immediate environment. They link together the Christian values, Global Goals, and the school's challenge to 'Make a Change'. The study of inspirational people instills a belief that anyone can make a difference. As a result, many pupils are driven to independently take action outside of school. Therefore, pupils have a strong awareness of injustice and firmly believe that small actions can bring about big changes.



Wellbeing is a high priority at Lostock Gralam. The Christian vision and values provide guidance in creating positive relationships throughout the school community. Staff recognise the demands of their roles and feel supported by leaders and each other. A positive life outside of school is promoted, with time being given for family priorities. Therefore, they feel valued and cared for. The Christian vision ensures pupils' wellbeing is at the heart of school decisions. There is a strong belief that pupils cannot thrive if their families are suffering. Therefore, help is offered to parents and carers whenever needed. This means, pupils, including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged are cared for in a sensitive and dignified manner. The behaviour policy, reflective of the Christian vision, secures time for pupils to be heard. Meaningful, restorative discussions help them form positive relationships. There are many opportunities for pupils to hold positions of responsibility and they do so with pride. Therefore, they feel valued and know that their opinions matter. The adoption of 'No Outsiders', together with the Christian vision and values, helps create an atmosphere of acceptance and respect for all. Consequently, this is a place where love and friendships thrive.

Religious Education (RE) has high priority at the school. A new syllabus has recently been adopted and is being implemented by staff with support from leaders and Chester Diocese. There is a careful sequence of knowledge, skills and concepts to secure a growing understanding. Leaders ensure that the curriculum is well balanced. There are opportunities to learn about holy scriptures, including Bible stories, and the impact they have on the daily lives of followers. Thus, ensuring an exploration of the relevance of faith in modern society. Concepts relating to ethical and moral issues are explored through big questions. These give pupils the opportunity to explore viewpoints different to their own. The study of a broad range of world religions and worldviews are also planned into the curriculum. However, the opportunities to discover the wide range of ways Christians from around the globe practice their faith are limited. Leaders regularly monitor the provision which ensures that RE challenges while building on prior knowledge. They provide staff training and support when and where necessary. As a result, the RE curriculum is effective.

Information

Address	School Lane, Lostock Gralam, Cheshire, CW9 7PT		
Date	7 October 2024	URN	111289
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	192
Diocese/District	Chester		
Headteacher	Jo Powell		
Chair of Governors	Jon Barker		
Inspector	Lesley Montgomery		