

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

St Botolph's Church of England Primary School	
Address	Loughborough Road, Shepshed, LE12 9DN

### School vision

New Day...Endless possibilities  
 "I have come that they may have LIFE, and have it to the full" (John 10:10)  
 Jesus didn't come to just give us life, but life to the fullest, or abundant life. The best quality life.

We promote aspirational, independent children who are happy, respectful and have self-belief. We want children to become creative, active and reflective learners, enabling them to respond positively to the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Our Christian values underpin and drive our vision alongside our motto, "New day, endless possibilities." We build a community of learners with an excellent attitude to learning. Children shine at St. Botolph's and have fun.

### School strengths

- St Botolph's wholeheartedly lives out its Christian vision, transforming the lives of many. Leaders have an astute awareness of the needs of the community in which it serves.
- There is a rich sense of compassion and forgiveness rooted in a vision where possibilities are endless. This school family is nurtured and cared for by a staff team who always give over and above normal expectations. This is particularly evident in support for the most vulnerable.
- Leaders and governors passionately support the school's Christian foundation. As a result, they ensure that the vision remains a focus in discussions and business decisions. Such actions enable everyone to experience rich opportunities to live life in all its fullness.
- Well planned collective worship contributes to the deepening spiritual flourishing of both pupils and adults. All are invited to share in this inspirational and special time, shaped by the school's vision and values.
- The curriculum for religious education (RE) is effective and makes a valuable contribution in enabling pupils to ask challenging questions of meaning and purpose. RE is helping pupils appreciate a diversity of religions and worldviews, helping them understand communities beyond their own locality.

### Areas for development

- For all leaders to widen the scope of processes to include explicit monitoring of the impact of the Christian vision. This is to further strengthen St. Botolph's as a Church school and to ensure that pupils and adults continue to flourish.
- To deepen awareness of the Christian vision by increasing its prominence and visibility within the new school environment.
- To further develop opportunities for self-reflection and prayer around the school to enhance pupils' deepening spiritual awareness.

## Inspection findings

Immersed in a culture of forgiveness and deep Christian love, the whole school community at St. Botolph's starts every day afresh. Leaders have overcome many challenges to continue to serve their community during a demanding transition period. They are now on a journey to ensure that everyone continues to live life in all its fullness and experiences the best quality of life.

The strapline of 'New day... Endless possibilities' is deeply embedded and is empowering all to flourish at St. Botolph's. 'Tomorrow is a new day' resonates throughout this school community where forgiveness takes precedence. More recently, leaders decided on a theological underpinning of the school's vision statement. High aspirations and rich learning experiences reflect a deep awareness of the Bible verse found in John 10:10. All are flourishing because of the understanding they can start again every day. Six Christian values and the school's 'ABC behaviour charter' support the embedding of the overarching vision. Just over a year ago, the school moved from its long-established location into the site of a former secondary school. This has been a complex process. Due to the focus on the move into a new building, the renewed vision currently lacks visible prominence. This absence is limiting further opportunities for the community to regularly reflect and focus on the school's Christian vision.

Governors and leaders ensure that the Christian vision is at the forefront of plans and decision making. Governors are aware of current priorities in Church school education. This is because they regularly access diocesan training. Leaders at all levels know that RE and collective worship are enabling pupils to flourish. This is because their monitoring of these areas is regular and effective. However, they are less well informed of how the revitalised vision is enabling people to flourish in other aspects of school life. A very effective partnership with other local primary schools is of reciprocal benefit and particularly contributes to staff development.

The belief that everyone should live life to the full and flourish is deeply embedded and entrenched in learning opportunities at St. Botolph's. Staff are increasingly aware of how the Christian vision supports spiritual development across the curriculum. Pupils are beginning to articulate their 'ow, wow and now' moments giving a deeper meaning to their experiences. Leaders have already identified spiritual development as an area of focus this year. As a result of wholeheartedly living out its vision, St. Botolph's attracts a significant number of pupils with needs (SEND). There is a rich culture of forgiveness and loving care. Those who have previously been non-attendees in other settings run into school eager to learn. Vulnerable pupils, of which the school has many, experience creative, personalised support such as sensory opportunities to foster calm. Every pupil has the best quality of life because leaders are relentless in accessing assessments and funds to ensure their needs are met.

Inclusive collective worship is highly valued and contributes to the deepening spiritual flourishing of both pupils and adults. The objects of a candle, cross and Bible are revealed from a worship box, adding to a deepening understanding of Christian worship. All are invited to join in with familiar responses. Adults particularly display a deepening sense of spirituality and are visibly moved as the school community sings together. Each classroom has a reflection area for class worship. However, further opportunities for personal spiritual reflection have yet to be identified. Church partnerships are strong. St. Botolph's church does not have the capacity for the whole school to attend special services together. These events are live-streamed back into school allowing all to share and celebrate as one. Other church congregations make meaningful contributions inspiring pupils and enabling them to experience a diversity of Christian traditions. A group of pupils are working collaboratively with others in the 'BeSkilled' partnership to plan and lead worship.

There is a palpable sense of forgiveness and new beginnings. The vision is influencing family life at home. St. Botolph's is described as a 'magical place to be' and where lives are turned around. Leaders and staff demonstrate great empathy, clearly knowing each child and their unique personalities. Pupils entering the school step into an atmosphere of care and compassion where relationships are positive and supportive. They are empowered to flourish, supported by constant reminders of the Christian values. Behaviour is very good. Staff address issues with a deep sense of understanding of circumstance and forgiveness. Opportunities provided, such as 'Mindful Mondays' and 'Tranquil Tuesdays' also contribute to the positive mental health of pupils. The high priority given to wellbeing has a positive impact on staff. They describe how working at the school has allowed them to make a 'new start.' The freedom to be who you were meant to be at St. Botolph's is a sentiment echoed by many.

Pupils are flourishing as global citizens because leaders fully understand the needs of their community. The vision enables the school family to see there are endless possibilities beyond their locality. Rich opportunities are given to raise awareness of the plight of others and the world around them. Geography leads the curriculum allowing pupils to study two different countries each year. The community is united and strengthened during difficult times. They rally together to ensure everyone can make a fresh start. Random acts of kindness, uniform giveaway and food bank support make a local impact. 'Rota Kids' and 'Eco Warriors' view themselves as agents of change. An increasing number of pupils from other cultures are joining the school, contributing to a developing, diversely aware school community. This is also enhanced as pupils begin to take part in the Global Neighbours programme.

The RE curriculum is effective. Pupils are given rich, regular learning opportunities to see and understand life and faith beyond their own locality. Pupils articulate how it is good to be different and respect different beliefs and worldviews. The school highly values RE as a core subject and as a consequence it is well-resourced. Staff receive relevant, regular training led by knowledgeable coordinators. Pupils experience a broad and comprehensive curriculum as a result of following the local RE syllabus. They study a range of faiths and worldviews. There is good progression building on prior knowledge because of comprehensive planning. Visitors and visits to places of worship contribute to a greater understanding of faiths. A developing multi-cultural link with a school in Leicester is also furthering tolerance and empathy.

The inspection findings indicate that St. Botolph's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	12 October 2023	URN	120159
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	330
Diocese	Leicester		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Emma Pepper		
Chair	Daniel Cook		
Inspector	Joy Hardy	No.	944