

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Swannington Church of England Primary School

Vision

Belong, Believe, Become

Enabling children to flourish and succeed

Swannington C of E Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- The Christian vision is at the centre of the school's work. Inspirational leaders have forged a deep sense of belonging within the school community, the wider village and Rise Multi Academy Trust (RISE). Pupils, staff and families care deeply about one another.
- Inspiring and inclusive collective worship creates a sense of togetherness and belonging. Pupils show their engagement and enjoyment through their inspired reflection, joyful singing and prayers.
- Religious education (RE) has a high profile and is well planned and ambitious. Children enjoy learning about the religious and secular beliefs of others. They use this knowledge effectively to begin to develop their own views.
- Based on the vision of 'Belong, Believe, Become,' meeting the needs of individual pupils is of vital importance to adults at the school. Effective adaptation and support enable all groups to thrive, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.
- There is a deep understanding of justice within the school. Children have the confidence to speak out when they perceive unfairness either within their community or in the wider world.

Development Points

- Embed the school's shared knowledge and understanding of spirituality across the curriculum so that pupils are enabled to understand and articulate their growing spiritual awareness.
- Develop pupils' and adults' understanding of Christianity as a multicultural world faith, enabling pupils to appreciate a diversity of approaches to different faiths.



Inspection Findings

The school's embedded vision, 'Belong, Believe, Become,' is based on biblical texts. The vision guides the actions and decisions of leaders. Pupils and staff, regardless of faith or belief, feel welcome in this inclusive and joyous school. They know they belong in their school community, the wider village and in RISE. Effective communication through personal greetings and events both in school and at the local church, make this a very inclusive community. Living out the Christian values of friendship, enjoyment, respect, and forgiveness enables adults and pupils to blossom and succeed. One Bible quotation supporting the Christian vision is, 'I can do all things through him who strengthens me' Philippians 4:13. This encourages pupils and staff to develop self-belief which supports them to have courage for their futures. The close working relationship with RISE brings a range of benefits to the school. These include professional development for staff and exciting learning opportunities for pupils.

The ambitious curriculum has been designed to engage learners. The school's vision of 'Believe' is based on the Bible passage 'Everything is possible for one who believes' Mark 9:23. This encourages staff to support pupils to grow in confidence in both learning and behaviour. Pupils, including those new to the school, express their love for learning here. Subject schemes have been devised to align with the school's vision and values. Knowledge organisers and scaffolded learning support the school's determination to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. Parents welcome the support and challenge pupils receive in their learning. Leaders collaborate with other local schools to ensure that enrichment experiences, such as visits from inspiring speakers and residential trips, are available to all learners. Staff work tirelessly to provide learning opportunities for pupils to be successful and make a positive impact on God's world. For example, the singing performed at Bright Hope charity gave pupils the opportunity to connect with God through song. The language of 'looking in, looking out, looking up,' to describe spirituality, is beginning to be used across the curriculum. However, this is not yet embedded and therefore learning opportunities for spiritual growth are limited.

Worship is highly valued by pupils and adults. As the whole school community meets together there is a tangible sense of togetherness and belonging. Pupils share their reflections and prayers showing respect for others. Careful explanation of the meaning of the songs the pupils sing, deepens their understanding of the Christian significance of the words. The collective worship programme is designed around the school's vision and values. Pupils make connections to Bible stories and reflect on the impact these have on their lives. They explain how the story of Zacchaeus helps them to understand the importance of the value of forgiveness. The supportive clergy and volunteers from the local parish enrich provision by leading regular acts of worship. The plans for worship encourage pupils to recognise similarities and differences between world faiths. This promotes respect and tolerance. The Christian ethos team has developed pop-up prayer spaces and outdoor reflection areas. These provide welcome opportunities for pupils to explore prayer and engage in creative reflective activities, developing their spirituality.

In line with the vision, the school has a caring and inclusive culture. Mental health provision and wellbeing are a priority. The school has a senior mental health lead for pupils and a designated wellbeing lead for staff. The detailed knowledge staff have of the needs of each child and of their family is exemplary. All pupils have a specific adult to champion their needs. Pupils appreciate the tailored wellbeing support given by trained members of the staff team. Living the Christian vision, adults feel valued and respected. They are confident that leaders and the trust will support them both professionally and personally. They also support each other. As a result, adults and pupils feel secure and cherished exemplifying the school's vision, 'I am safe and secure' John 10:27-30.



Pupils acknowledge a culture of justice in school and appreciate the clarity of the school's behaviour policy. The impact of the policy is that the school is calm and purposeful. Pupils explain how their understanding of the school's Christian values helps them to reflect on their behaviour and to forgive others. Pupils have numerous leadership opportunities. These include the Junior Leadership Team and Ethos Committee which give them the opportunities to bring about positive change. School leaders value and implement pupils' ideas. Examples include the recent development of a prayer garden as an area for reflection during social times. Pupils live out the school vision through their work with local charities. They recognise that they are helping to shape and make positive changes in the school and further afield. Charitable giving is decided upon democratically and pupils understand the importance of listening to all opinions. They express their views confidently when they think the actions of others are unfair. They have a secure understanding of justice and equity exemplified through their knowledge of historical figures such as Rosa Parks.

RE has a high profile within the school and is a priority for leaders. The RE curriculum is thought-provoking and ambitious. Careful sequencing enables pupils to successfully build on their prior learning. Staff receive high quality training and support, which enables them to develop secure skills and confidence. The diocesan syllabus and other published resources are effectively utilised. Pupils make thoughtful connections between the school's vision and their learning across the curriculum. For example, they explain how Christians and Humanists live harmoniously together in the same community. They have a deep and secure knowledge of Bible stories, enabling them to articulate core Christian beliefs. They know the actions of the Good Samaritan demonstrate the need to show kindness to all in their community. Based on their learning, pupils begin to develop their own views on both religious and secular beliefs. Pupils demonstrate a deep understanding of worldviews and the diversity across world religions. However, their understanding of Christianity as a multicultural world faith is limited. Younger pupils can meaningfully use religious language, such as discussing the significance of prayer mats in Islam. Older pupils are encouraged to think deeply and ask theological questions, for example, during their learning on the Derby faith trail. This experience helps them to foster tolerance and respect. The school is a community of great warmth and mutual care, committed to enabling all to grow and thrive.

Information

Address	Swannington Church of England Primary School, Main Street, Swannington, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 8QJ		
Date	16 th January 2025	URN	144310
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	67
Diocese	Leicester		
MAT	RISE Multi Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Hayley Ryder-Smith		
Chair of Governors	Chris Ball		
Inspector	Gillian Paterson		