

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Barrowby Church of England (VC) Primary School	
Address	Church Street, Grantham, NG32 1BX
School vision	
<p>“Make your light shine so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16</p> <p>As a Church school family, we strive for excellence, ensuring that we all feel happy, valued, and loved. We aim to provide an exciting, innovative, and relevant curriculum that enables all to “shine” and develop as creative, respectful, and independent citizens. We seek to promote equal opportunities for all so that each individual is encouraged to achieve their full potential and become lifelong learners who can make a positive contribution to society.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deeply embedded vision at Barrowby Church of England Primary School, results in a powerful sense of community. Pupils, staff and families are happy, valued, and loved and as a result they flourish. • Leadership is strong and nurturing. The wellbeing of the whole community is a priority. This culture is exemplified by positive interactions throughout the school environment. Pastoral support is a strength. • A clear, shared understanding of spirituality pervades school life. This is enhanced by the provision in collective worship and the school environment. • Collective worship is a much anticipated daily highlight, creating a strong sense of a unified worshipping community. The focus of worship encourages “all to shine”. It is central to the life of the school. This is supported by the relationships with local churches. • Religious Education (RE) is a strength of the school. It is well led with sequential planning and support for teachers. This ensures pupils talk with confidence, showing a breadth of understanding about worldviews and religions including Christianity. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To extend further partnerships across all aspects of school life. This is so that all members of the school family can continue to grow and flourish. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Barrowby Church of England Primary School emanates care and love. Leaders, alongside a long serving staff team, know the community well. They are highly committed to meeting the needs of pupils and families. The Christian vision is central to this.</p>	

The vision “to make your light shine” is well-established and lived out across the school day. It is central to leaders’ convictions that all are cared for at Barrowby. Everyone is seen as significant to God and there is an assurance that he has a purpose for their God given talents. This belief is fundamental in decision making, ensuring the needs of pupils and adults are met. As a result, staff, pupils, and families are supported to flourish and “shine.” Governors know the school well and are committed to ensuring the best for everyone. Through their monitoring they guarantee that the school continues to evolve. Leaders investigated why the attainment of some vulnerable groups of pupils did not reflect their work in lessons. As a result, methods of assessments were adjusted to allow pupils to share their knowledge and understanding clearly.

Passionate leaders ensure curriculum provision that is motivating, accessible and supports the development of pupils as independent learners. The curriculum reflects Barrowby’s Christian vision of encouraging pupils to achieve their potential. This develops creative and respectful pupils. Pupils have a thirst for knowledge. They express enjoyment at having opportunities to discover and find out new learning for themselves. Developments to the outdoor environment have contributed to make this happen. There are many areas outside including a pond, forest, and a reading den. Pupils can reflect, develop their knowledge and show respect for others’ opinions. They are supported in this as they develop skills of sharing their views and questioning the views of others. Pupil’s work is highly valued. Every pupil has a piece of work on display. The embedded Christian vision supports the schools’ work with those pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those who are vulnerable. High levels of individualised support are given to these pupils both academically and socially.

Collective worship is a highly valued and dedicated time for staff and pupils to meet and reflect. It is inclusive and invitational and reflects the school’s Christian vision and values. Leaders have prioritised it as a daily act for everyone. As a result, pupils and staff recognise worship as a special time. A Year 6 pupil acknowledged the significance of collective worship for her. It is the aspect of life at Barrowby she will miss the most. During worship the whole school community is invited to stop, take notice and connect. They are encouraged to reflect on stories and make connections to their own lives. As a result, worship inspires them to take care of one another and the environment. They are supported “to shine” in all they do. The shared understanding of spirituality to stop, take notice and connect, continues throughout the school day and across the curriculum. Whether in the school building, or outside all are encouraged to pause and reflect. This enhances and develops experiences of collective worship. The school’s Church foundations are reflected through prayer, Bible stories and uplifting singing. The links with the local churches contribute to the spiritual flourishing of many at Barrowby. The Open the Book Team bring Bible stories to life for pupils. Other regular visitors also contribute to the rich experiences on offer to staff and pupils.

The school is a place of calm and care. The Pastoral Team are well led and well trained, they meet regularly. They develop the school’s approach to ensure that the mental health and wellbeing of staff and pupils is supported. All are encouraged to take time for their mental health and wellbeing. Leaders prioritise support they give for this to happen. Through feedback from staff, leaders have implemented changes to support their wellbeing. The clear and separate work and social areas being an example of this. Wellbeing spaces around the building have been created for pupils to pause, think and regulate their behaviour. They appreciate these areas. Parents value the individual support given by leaders and teachers to their children. The outside space is continually being enhanced. As a result, playtimes have active, happy, and engaged pupils. Legacy projects, led by Year 6 pupils, have contributed an outside gym, a treehouse and many other facilities. The significance leaders place on wellbeing has helped to make it the school of choice for many.

Staff emphasise to pupils the importance of responsibility and compassion. This means that pupils take on leadership roles within the school community. Leadership is actively promoted, and

opportunities are accessible to all. Teams of pupils lead on areas including eco issues, sports, fundraising, as well as a school council. As a result, pupils are enthusiastic about leadership and take the roles very seriously. They are encouraged to develop creativity, respect, and independence as leaders of lunchtime clubs. Discussion and planning of these enables them to deliver extra-curricular clubs for younger pupils. Leaders ensure they are given the same importance as clubs led by adults. Grounded in the belief that all are significant to God is the realisation that there is also a responsibility towards each other. Staff ensure that pupils have a thorough understanding of the protected characteristics, for example age, disability, race or religion. Pupils are enthusiastic to discuss and act on issues of injustice. Pupils have raised awareness of those suffering from war. They have, in their own time, raised funds to highlight the issue and support the work of other agencies. This ensured that the issue was profiled for the community. The Eco Team lead on initiatives to raise awareness of caring for God's creation. These include new recycling points for pens and litter picking. Pupils are therefore empowered to become positive agents of change.

RE at Barrowby has high priority and is a strength of the school. Strong leadership extends to other schools through partnering with the diocese. The quality of the school's work in RE and its strong leadership, are acknowledged in the award of a national gold quality mark for RE. A well-sequenced curriculum deepens pupils' knowledge of a range of religions. This is because they are supported to explore concepts in depth. Pupils articulate how RE lessons 'make them think' because they are challenged. Confident and well-trained teachers enable this. Regular training and support lead them to develop their own understanding. Pupils understand the importance of RE in helping them converse and interact with people from a range of religions and world views. There are regular visits to places of worship. These real-life opportunities enrich pupils' experiences.

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

Information			
School	Barrowby Church of England VC Primary School	Inspection date	24 June 2024
URN	120513	VC/VA/Academy	VC
Diocese/District	Lincoln	Pupils on roll	239
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Len Batey		
Chair of Governors/ Trust Board	Stephen Clark		
Inspector	Elizabeth Seymour	No.	c23/24