Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Selston Church of England Infant and Nursery School

Vision

Opening hearts and minds through the grace and love of God
(taken from the Gospel of John)

This Mission Statement lies at the heart of our schools' aims. It is the philosophical basis for all of the school's policies and through these, for everything that happens in and around the school. Our aspiration is for everyone at Selston to:

- feel happy, secure, safe and valued at school and pre-school
- develop a growing awareness of their own inner self and spirituality, and of the power of the Christian faith to transform lives
- develop healthy relationships based on care, trust, compassion and forgiveness
- show acceptance for and understanding of others who may have different beliefs or needs
- strive for the highest standards of achievement, developing the confidence and skills to be independent, motivated and self-disciplined learners
- have a positive approach to life, contributing to the well-being of the community and building hope for the future

Strengths

- Driven by the vision, strong leadership ensures, the distinctively Christian vision is understood by adults and pupils. Consequently, pupils and adults flourish at this school.
- Collective worship is open and accessible to everyone. This provides valued time for the school family to connect together, enriching individual's spiritual growth and relationships.
- Pupils and adults are nurtured and known as individuals. Pupils and adults live out the vision and values through their care for each other.
- Religious education (RE) is carefully planned and as a result pupils' knowledge of Christianity is strong
- Collaboration and support are a strong feature of the school's inclusive and caring nature. Consequently, pupils and adults are flourishing through key partnerships.

Development Points

- Embed and empower pupil led groups to actively pursue their concerns and interests. This is to promote knowledge of shared responsibility and social justice within school, the community and further afield.
- Develop a shared understanding of spirituality. To ensure that spirituality is planned for and woven through the curriculum.

Inspection Findings

There is a real sense of Christian love and fellowship as you enter Selston Church of England Infant and Nursery School. It is intrinsic and in every aspect of the life of the school. The school has a clear understanding of the biblical roots of their vision. It guides decisions and actions. It resonates with the vision of the multi-academy trust (MAT). This is an inclusive and caring community where pupils are valued and treated with respect, dignity and kindness. Leaders ensure that the vision is promoted in school life, thus meaning adults and pupils are treated equally. Pupils and staff alike know, because of the vision, they are provided with positive life choices. Consequently, they open their minds and hearts and show love to one another. Strong partnerships exist with the diocese. This enables leaders and those responsible for governance, to be well supported in their development of the school as a church school. As a result, the vision is rigorously and robustly applied, monitored and evaluated.

The curriculum is broad and courageous in its design, thinking about what pupils need to succeed and flourish. The school's vision and values are evident in all subjects where treating others well, are consistent themes. In pupil led learning, care is given to show pupils how to look after each other. Through personal, social, health education (PSHE) they consider the importance of respect and empathy. Pupils describe looking through windows and doors to experience the world around them. As a result, this allows pupils to appreciate awe and wonder moments. The recently introduced ways of reflecting for pupils, are highlighting personal growth and some spiritual development. However, pupils and adults do not have a shared understanding of spirituality. Consequently, opportunities for spiritual flourishing are underdeveloped.

Selston is an inclusive school. Relationships are warm, nurturing and rooted in the school vision and its associated values of love, service, forgiveness, truth and endurance. Staff work with a wide range of agencies to access and obtain specialist support and additional funding. The consequence of this proactive approach is that pupils are treated equitably. Pupils flourish because they are known as unique individuals. Through the vision they are cared for by staff. As a result, this Church school has a strong sense of belonging. The nurturing aspect of the vision is reinforced each morning as staff welcome pupils with warmth. They are known as individuals and therefore, receive discreet and personalised care right from the start of their school day. Relationships are enriched with a sense of fellowship and care. Staff are well supported by leaders in school and in the wider trust. They feel part of a family at Selston in which they are valued. This has a positive impact upon staff morale. Leaders and staff benefit from trust training and the opportunity to share ideas with colleagues within school and across the trust. Leaders are mindful of staff workload, as a result of this staff flourish. Staffing at the school is, therefore, stable. As a consequence, staff, pupils and their families feel practically, socially and emotionally supported and cared for. Pastoral support for pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those considered vulnerable is a priority of the school. Staff live out the school's vision of 'opening hearts and minds' through their consistent and loving approaches to pupils. Leaders proactively identify those who require additional support. Interventions are numerous and bespoke to individual needs. Selston is a place where pupils needs are prioritised allowing them to flourish and succeed. Leaders have developed a range of skills that are shared through the MAT. This enables further fruitful and reciprocal relationships. Leaders in school work alongside colleagues in the Southwell and Nottingham multi academy trust (MAT) to develop Church school distinctiveness. This supports staff development and leads to greater flourishing

The importance of kindness and respect are central to the schools' Christian vision. Pupils' opportunities for leadership are developing. They take on roles across the school. Playground buddies spot pupils who live out the values throughout the school day and help younger children play games. Pupils are passionate that caring for younger children is important. Playtime is joyful and inclusive and this creates a sense of belonging within the wider school community. Pupils' leadership opportunities help prepare them to open their hearts and minds to others. As a result, they know the power of their voice to care for others. However, much of the work has been focused on the immediate locality. Pupils are not routinely given opportunities to explore and act upon issues that they see are unjust. Therefore, pupils' understanding of what they can do to make positive changes locally and further afield is underdeveloped. Pupils' understanding of social injustice and how they can bring about positive change to people's lives is also underdeveloped.

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Rich, engaging worship is pivotal to the daily life of this school. Without compulsion, it invites all to grow in understanding, appreciation and engagement with Christianity as a living faith. At its heart is an understanding that everyone is unique and different. This carefully enhances the way worship provides pupils and staff with the opportunity to grow in God's love and gather in fellowship. Time is given for personal reflection. Invitational language is used throughout. As a result of this inclusive approach pupils speak positively of how worship makes them feel welcomed and safe. The school community enjoys the opportunity of gathering and reflecting on something beyond the self. Pupils and staff participate in a calm, peaceful and reflective atmosphere of respect and response. Through partnerships with, and visitors from, the local church, worship is enhanced. Worshipping at church allows the school to deepen community connections, allowing the vision to live beyond the immediate school walls.

RE is enhanced through the confident and effective way in which it is led. Lessons are well-planned, and pupils are encouraged to ask questions and think deeply. Leaders ensure the subject is well resourced. RE training from the diocese is valued. This strengthens the depth of staff knowledge that enhances the richness of the curriculum. Staff speak with enthusiasm about the relevance of RE. Pupils engage with a range of worldviews and faiths, including Christianity. This increases their understanding of different points of view, extending the way pupils become knowledgeable and respect others. As part of the relevant and inspiring curriculum, the school visits places of worship. Pupils openly share the significant impact this has on their understanding of the importance of faith and belief for themselves and others.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

Information Selston Church of England Infant and Nursery School

Address	Nottingham Road Selston, Nottingham, NG16 6DH		
Date	10 October 2024	URN	149417
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	49 in main school (EYFS and KS1) 46 in nursery
Diocese	Diocese Of Southwell and Nottingham		
MAT	Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Multi-Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Lynette Hardwick		
Chair of Governors	Lee Gordon Phil Blinston		
Inspector	Becky Dolby-Molson		