



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

The St Lawrence Academy, Scunthorpe	
Address	Doncaster Road, Scunthorpe, DN15 7DF
School vision	
<p style="text-align: center;">'Treasuring Everyone, Transforming Community'</p> <p>The Christian vision is rooted in the story of St Lawrence, who was a famous Martyr of Rome that lived in the second century. He was one of seven deacons who were in charge of giving help to the poor and needy.</p> <p>St Lawrence is integral to our identity and the role we play in serving our local community in Scunthorpe. We are very proud of our academy community which is rich in cultural diversity and celebrate this. We pride ourselves on creating a community where everybody is shown and receives respect, where the truth is encouraged, generosity is the norm, forgiveness is practised and justice taught.</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision has been carefully crafted to reflect the needs of the school's community. It underpins all decisions that are made. As a result, all students, including those with special education needs and disabilities (SEND), are able to flourish. • Pastoral care is exceptional and permeates out into the local community. Consequently, students and adults really are treasured and lives are transformed. • Diversity is truly embraced and celebrated. This makes the school an extremely harmonious place where students and adults live well together. • Collective worship is very inclusive and inspires students to reflect on their own beliefs and actions. It provides rich opportunities for meaningful reflection and spiritual flourishing. • Religious education (RE) is a valued part of the curriculum where students feel safe to express their views. A balanced and well structured curriculum allows students to progress well in their learning. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the whole school language of spirituality is understood by all. This is to support students to embrace opportunities for spiritual growth more effectively. • Further develop governors' understanding of their role in the evaluation of the school as a Church school. This is to support the school in its drive for excellence. • Implement plans to extend the range of qualifications offered in religious education (RE). This is in order to fully promote the achievements of every student. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>Rooted in the story of St Lawrence, the Christian vision underpins every aspect of school life. It has been thoughtfully developed to meet the needs of the wonderfully diverse school community. This makes it welcoming for all. Leaders, including governors, describe students and adults as 'treasures'.</p>	



This inspires them to find ways to unlock the gifts and talents of each unique individual. The carefully considered values of respect, truth, generosity, forgiveness and justice support the vision to be lived out daily. There is a natural synergy between the visions of the St Lawrence Academies Trust and the school. As a result, they work collaboratively to support students to flourish. Governors are thoroughly committed to the Christian vision and are a regular presence in the school. They conscientiously monitor the effectiveness of the school as a Church school but are less confident in evaluating the impact of this.

The curriculum, driven by the Christian vision, provides a well-rounded educational experience. Effective adaptations ensure that all students, including those with SEND make progress in their learning. An onsite alternative provision enables individuals who require an adapted learning environment to remain 'treasures' of the school. An array of enrichment opportunities, including rock band and culture club, extend learning beyond the classroom. Consequently, students articulate how the curriculum equips them for the future. The multi-academy trust (MAT) has led training on spiritual flourishing. Planned for, and spontaneous, opportunities for spiritual development are interwoven across the curriculum. They are described by teachers as 'awe and wonder' moments. This shared language of spiritual development is not used confidently by all students.

Character education is carefully planned for to ensure it meets the needs of the current school community. The school seizes opportunities to work with outside agencies. The school's mental health partner ensures students receive specialist knowledge, support and guidance. An employability programme helps to develop resilience and there are a vast range of opportunities for students to grow as leaders. Raising aspiration days provide opportunities for students to encounter workplaces, universities and colleges. Consequently, students are well prepared for life beyond school, including the next stages of their education. The vision of 'transforming communities' has inspired the establishment of a Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and community café. Students thoroughly embrace the challenging and new opportunities the vibrant and thriving CCF provides. The café welcomes local faith leaders to enhance community cohesion and support the understanding of different beliefs. Local families have been supported through difficult times with food parcels, extending the vision of 'treasuring everyone' beyond the school walls. Students are encouraged to bring about positive change. They speak enthusiastically about standing up against injustice. They regularly lead litter collections, make donations to the food bank and raise money for the local hospice. As a result, the school really is central to the community it serves.

Students receive exceptional pastoral care. Individuals are cared for as unique children of God. The dedicated nurture provision supports students through challenging times and provides a safe place for them to grow. As a result, lives really are transformed. Students, and their families, who speak English as an additional language benefit from bespoke induction programmes. They receive welcome videos in their native language. The school celebrates their heritage with them and supports them to flourish as part of the wider school community. Wellbeing for all is at the heart of the school. Staff appreciate initiatives such as Friday breakfast. They are supported to develop professionally through bespoke development programmes. Consequently, staff retention is high. Relationships at all levels are built upon mutual respect. Student peer mentors both model this and support others to achieve it. Diversity is celebrated on a daily basis as a natural part of school life. During inter-faith week, students and adults enjoy wearing their traditional cultural dress. Forgiveness and justice are central to the behaviour policy of the school. As a result, adults and students live incredibly well together in a harmonious learning environment.

Collective worship is a valued part of the day. It is innovatively planned to ensure it is fully inclusive to all. Both Christian and Islamic greetings are used. Well trained and enthusiastic student leaders support the planning and delivery of daily reflections. This ensures they remain relevant and

inspirational for all. Big questions regularly form part of collective worship, encouraging deep thinking. This supports the spiritual flourishing of all. Students explain how collective worship encourages them to reflect on their own beliefs and actions. Prayer is a natural and invitational part of school life. The multi-faith reflections room provides a space for private and group prayer. There are very strong links with St Lawrence's Church where the whole school attend services. Working together, the church and school run a weekly Youth Emmaus Group. This allows students to explore the Christian faith at a deeper level. Collective worship is regularly evaluated and leads to refined practice, such as the Easter services moving to the church building.

The RE curriculum is well planned and provides a balance of theology, philosophy and social sciences. It has been carefully crafted with diocesan support and reflects the context of the school. It allows students to continually develop their knowledge of a range of religions and worldviews, including Christianity. Consequently, students have a deep understanding of similarities and differences both within and between different faiths. RE provides an incredibly safe space where students confidently ask questions and freely discuss their own beliefs. This enables students to develop both in their academic study of religion and spiritually. Highly skilled teachers make appropriate adaptations to ensure all students, including those with SEND, can flourish in their learning. Effective assessment systems inform the planning of future lessons and provide students with opportunities to reflect on their learning. As a result, students make good progress in RE. Impressive student leaders support the good practice in RE to be shared across local schools. Teachers embrace opportunities to develop professionally. They work closely with both the diocese and MAT. Training in the use of religious texts is now embedded in the curriculum. RE is effectively monitored as part of the whole school self-evaluation process. This has informed a review of the range of qualifications that are offered at the end of Year 11.

The inspection findings indicate that The St Lawrence Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	24 January 2024 - 25 January 2024	URN	135674
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	799
Diocese	Lincoln		
MAT/Federation	St Lawrence Academies Trust		
Headteacher	Matt Hire		
Chair	Phillip Brent		
Inspector	Kelly Wall	No.	951