Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

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| **Swinderby All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School** | High Street  Swinderby  Lincoln  LN6 9LU | |
| **Current SIAMS inspection grade** | **Good** | |
| **Diocese** | **Lincoln** | |
| Previous SIAMS inspection grade: | Satisfactory | |
| Local authority | Lincolnshire | |
| Date of inspection | 22 September 2016 | |
| Date of last inspection | 30 November 2012 | |
| School’s unique reference number | 120539 | |
| Headteacher | Jeffrey Day | |
| Inspector’s name and number | Roger Moore | 353 |

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| **School context**  Swinderby Primary School serves the village of Swinderby and the neighbouring area. There are 94 pupils on roll, who are almost all from a white British background. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is about average. The proportion of pupils who have special education needs is below average. The parish church is next door to the school. The church does not currently have a vicar. During the current vacancy at the church, the school is maintaining strong links with the church community. |
| **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Swinderby All Saints as a Church of England school are good**   * Pupils are confident, independent learners equipped with skills for life by embracing the ethos of the school which is based on the school’s Christian values. * The headteacher provides a safe and secure environment where pupils blossom and learn. His successful approach is based on the teachings and beliefs of the Christian faith. * The strong relationships within the school and the wider community make this a purposeful and happy school whether or not they belong to the local Christian community. * The Christian vision and dedication is shared by the headteacher, staff, governors, pupils and parents. This is valued by everyone and ensures the Christian character of the school permeates all school life. |
| **Areas to improve**   * Deepen pupils’ understanding of Christianity as a world-wide faith so that it enriches their learning and experience of worship and builds knowledge of other faiths. * Ensure the governing body develops their role and responsibilities as governors of a church school to enable them to more effectively evaluate aspects of Christian distinctiveness on teaching and learning and respond to findings from the recently created development plan. |

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| **The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners**  Swinderby School is a welcoming and inclusive family community, whose pupils and parents enjoy a strong sense of belonging and shared identity. Relationships between staff and pupils are strong. Care and nurture are at the heart of the school’s daily provision. The Christian vision is so well-embedded that everyone accepts how it is without overtly celebrating its strong Christian foundation. Its foundation is built upon twelve core values, which include love, peace, forgiveness and friendship within a spirit of ‘working together’. Parents speak highly of the sense of being a family and belonging. Parents expressed their gratitude to the school for the way it prepares the pupils for the next stage of education. All pupils learn within an environment of high expectation. They are challenged to focus on learning behaviours which embrace respect, tolerance and understanding of the needs of others. The school helps pupils increasingly to take responsibility for their own learning; building confidence and self-belief. In order to secure attainment as well as progress for the varied social and emotional needs of the pupils, the school has a stimulating curriculum meeting the needs and interests of everyone. Pupils are provided with guided intervention and support to help them manage their learning. Attendance is good and there have been no exclusions. This is because pupils enjoy school in a safe environment where trust, tolerance and forgiveness are very much part of the culture and embedded Christian ethos. Pupils across both key stages show high attainment and are on track to make good progress, given their starting points. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural [SMSC] development is very strong and is built into the day to day experiences of the pupils. Parents also cite the respectful behaviour pupils demonstrate when representing the school and on trips. A range of achievement is valued, including pupils’ musical prowess. Consequently, pupils are able to take part in a range of out of school activities such as attending the annual church schools’ festival in Lincoln Cathedral. Parents testify to how well the school prepares their pupils ‘for life in general with a great set of values which makes them into better people and more caring adults. It gives them something to believe in’. Pupils at Swinderby show respect for different cultures and beliefs through their religious education (RE) and worship. These make a strong contribution to the school’s Christian character and to pupils’ SMSC development through exploring the beliefs and values of others. Pupils enjoy RE and show a very good level of religious knowledge, relating the Christian narrative well, especially the Christmas and Easter story. They often use art work and benefit from the use of the outside experiences such as the garden and quiet reflection areas provided to enhance their learning. The recently introduced development plan for collective worship and RE is based on moving the school to outstanding, with a focus on deepening the pupils’ understanding of Christianity as a world-wide faith. |
| **The impact of collective worship on the school community is good**  Worship at Swinderby Primary School involves pupils and is rooted in Christian values. All staff attend worship, which is recognised as an important part of the school day as it helps to build a community, living out its Christian values. Pupils and parents speak highly of worship, and are able to make links between Jesus’ teaching in the Bible and everyday situations. Pupils understand well how Jesus guides them, through His stories in the Bible, in how ‘we treat other people’. They speak of forgiveness as ‘saying sorry and we accept the apology’. Church worship takes place around the key Christian festivals, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter, for all pupils and parents. Such times in the parish church are much appreciated by pupils and parents alike. Pupils and parents say how much they value the continued links and use of the church despite a lack of support from clergy and during the current vacancy. Pupils are growing in their understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit The concept is introduced in the early years and pupils are constantly reminded as they progress through school. For example, in the collective worship observed the service commenced by lighting three candles. The pupils were then reminded that they represented the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The pupils fondly recall Bible stories they have heard in collective worship and in RE lessons. Pupils value times for personal prayer and using quiet spaces outdoors for quiet reflection. Through participating, planning and leading worship, pupils are developing their presentation skills in collective worship, class assemblies and church services. Class worship, church services and celebration assemblies are shared occasions which parents value and attend. Frequent informal reviews of worship take place and as part of the ongoing development. At present procedures to review and evaluate collective worship are not as good as they can be. Plans to develop a more formal monitoring process have been written that set out the intention to involve pupils, staff and governors to a greater extent. Governors recognise the importance of sharing their viewpoints as well as reviving and extending pupils’ experiences of leading worship. They understand that regular monitoring and review of the quality and integrity of worship ensures that pupils’ spiritual development and the school’s Christian ethos can be enhanced. |
| **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good**  The school’s Christian ethos underpins all aspects of school life. The headteacher is dedicated to the Christian vision of the school and lives this out through his excellent leadership and the example he sets. Leaders and governors clearly state and follow the school’s Christian vision and key values. The governing body understands its responsibilities in a church school. Progress and attainment is very much part of the governors’ cycle of review; further development of governors is planned for. Dedicated staff in this small school take on many responsibilities and work hard. Through the appointment of an RE and collective worship leader the staff and governors have a clearer understanding of the next steps required to move towards becoming an outstanding school. Such development helps all governors in their monitoring role and reminds them of their responsibilities to specifically evaluate the impact of Christian distinctiveness on teaching and learning. The next steps include building in regular visits and more formal monitoring of collective worship and RE. Religious education and collective worship are now being developed and well led by the subject leader. Staff are well supported by the subject leader and their teaching is enhanced by the co-ordinated support and access to a range of resources. The school values support from the diocese. The subject leader has worked with diocesan advisers to develop the collective worship and RE curriculum. The detailed plan to deepen pupils’ understanding of Christianity as a world-wide faith has come from guidance received during training from the diocesan adviser. There is a real sense of belonging, identity and involvement with members of the church, school and community working closely together. Community links with the village are strong, especially through many of the parents. Good examples include the Christingle service, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Day commemorations. Such events raise the school’s profile and shows how the school works hard to reflect its Christian foundation. Parents speak highly of their love for the school valuing the way that the teachers and pupils trust each other’ and how everyone is known and cared for. They testify to this consistent focus and the impact they see in their pupils’ lives. They have ‘nothing but praise’ for the school and the way in which it enables the pupils to become independent learners, suitably prepared for the next steps in life. Despite recent challenges, the school is committed to working in partnership with the church and village community and serving the families of Swinderby and surrounding area. All areas from the previous inspection have been addressed; and there are clear priorities for action set out in the development plan. The school’s provision ensures that collective worship and RE meet statutory requirements. |

SIAMS report September 2016 Swinderby All Saints CE VC Primary School, High Street, Lincoln LN6 9LU