Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

# Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

## Scole Church of England Primary Academy

## Vision

At Scole Church of England Primary Academy we are inclusive, offering a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum, which is relevant, inspiring our children's imaginations and focuses on ensuring high standards. Our core values of Resilience, Aspiration, Courage, Positivity and Respect encourage us to live life in all its fullness because we believe that we are all made in the image of God. We aim to provide a warm, caring and stimulating environment inspired by Christian values where individual talents are nurtured, developed and celebrated.

'You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' Colossians 3:12
'And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity.' Colossians 3:14

Scole Church of England Primary Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

## Notable Strengths

- Inspired by the vision, nurturing relationships enhance the wellbeing of pupils and adults. This creates a safe, inclusive and kind culture, where all have the opportunity to grow and flourish.
- Leaders, including governors, lead dedicated and enthusiastic staff. They are supported by both the partnership with Diss primary schools and through membership of the multi-academy trust (the trust). This allows pupils and adults to grow and flourish through experiences, responsibilities and joint working.
- The vision and values, including aspiration and respect, shape a stimulating, challenging and diverse curriculum in this rural Church school. This serves to ensure pupils grow and flourish.
- This compassionate Church school provides an inclusive environment where individual needs are met. Carefully considered provision ensures pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) can participate fully in school life.
- Religious education (RE) has a high profile across the school. It is well led and highly valued by staff and pupils. The RE curriculum is carefully adapted to suit the unique context of the school and needs of the pupils.

## Development Points

- Ensure that the planned opportunities for spirituality within the curriculum are embedded. This is to enable pupils to deepen and extend their spiritual development.
- Increase opportunities to celebrate Scole as a Church of England school. This is to strengthen its Christian foundation and help it further improve as a Church school.
- Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship. This is to help leaders understand the effectiveness of collective worship in promoting spiritual flourishing.

# Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

This small Church school offers warmth, aspiration and a kind ethos inspired by its vision and values. Its inclusive approach and commitment to the values of kindness and compassion means pupils and adults are cherished and can thrive. A nurturing culture enables pupils, including those who need additional support, access to every facet of school life. Scole is part of St Benet's Academy Trust, with its aligned vision of 'immeasurably more than we can imagine'. Within the trust, Scole works in the Diss Primary Academy Partnership, sharing its executive headteacher and Christian vision. The school benefits from a range of support, including training, services and resources inaccessible to most small schools. Major benefits include shared staff and specialist expertise as well as improved educational opportunities for pupils. However, Scole does not celebrate or promote itself effectively as a Church school and opportunities to strengthen its Christian foundation are missed. This also means that the fact that Scole is a thriving school with a Christian character is not obvious to the community. Leaders model Christian values consistently. They carefully identify key priorities for school improvement and curriculum development with reference to the vision. These developments improve the aspiration and self-confidence of pupils who are able to access a wide range of opportunities and experiences.

Vision and Curriculum

Supported by the vision, staff equip pupils to be thoughtful, curious and enjoy their learning. Membership of the trust and Diss partnership facilitates the leadership model of executive headteacher and head of school. This benefits Scole, building mutual support, developing leadership opportunities and sharing expertise. All classrooms have areas for calm reflection. A definition of spirituality is agreed and subject leaders plan for it across the curriculum. However, these experiences are not effectively embedded and consequently this limits the impact on the spiritual development of pupils and adults. Leaders appreciate the isolated nature of this rural village school and adapt their curriculum to encourage interest and diversity. Topics on the history of the Middle East or Black history promote discussion and reflection. The new minibus facilitates a range of enrichment activities between schools, including for sport and theatre trips. The diverse curriculum encourages curiosity and is designed to strengthen learning in mixed-age classes, so pupils develop wisdom, knowledge and skills for life. Pupils of all abilities are interested in their learning, respond positively when encouraged to look beyond themselves, and flourish. Adults accept and embrace needs and difference and, 'cloaked in kindness', compassionately support pupils to achieve their best.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is a valued and special time of the school day, and has a positive impact on pupils and staff. Carefully planned around Christian values including compassion and hope, it includes events from the Christian calendar and is relevant to everyday life. Pupils benefit from regular visitors from local churches and Christian groups, and therefore feel part of the wider Christian community. Parents and carers, quite correctly, value their inclusion in church and school services. Worship is carefully structured to include opportunities for pupils to lead, and they are proud of their roles and responsibility. However routine monitoring and feedback from leaders and pupils is not in place to ensure collective worship is effective and enhanced. Anglican wording is used and symbolic items such as a Bible, candle and cross are included on the worship table. The Lord's Prayer is regularly recited and there are opportunities for stillness and reflection. Visits to the local church and consistent contributions from clergy and ministers enrich the delivery of worship and its spiritual impact. Worship is inclusive and as a result, helps to guide the actions of all, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Vision and School Culture

Pupils and adults are respected and cared for in this warm and welcoming school. The nurturing culture enables those who are considered vulnerable to access every aspect of school life. Leaders demonstrate kindness and compassion and families feel they are listened to. Relationships throughout the school are respectful and older

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pupils are allowed opportunities to guide younger ones. Explaining the positive impact of Christian values, one pupil commented, 'Kindness is free, so why not spread it?' A behaviour policy based on restorative conversations underpins the work of the school. Effective transition arrangements ensure new pupils settle into school well and develop the self-confidence to move onto their next school positively. Leaders promote good mental health. A supportive mental health leader and the strong coaching ethos of the school ensure staff flourish. The new outdoor 'prayer cubby' gives pupils space for reflection and prayer. Regular activities supported by the trust's chaplaincy project give pupils strategies to deal with worries and concerns. The partnership, trust and diocese promote professional development opportunities and enable shared expertise. As a result, staff are well trained and enjoy increased opportunities which enhance their confidence and wellbeing.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils live out the Christian vision through responsibility and leadership offered to them. This is shown by Scole achieving the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award. School councillors and peer mediators take their roles thoughtfully and seriously. Supported by staff, well-trained peer mediators successfully work with pupils to resolve problems at an early stage. Representatives on school council ensure that pupils' ideas are recognised and valued through regular meetings and discussion on the playground. A behaviour policy based on restorative justice underpins the work of the school. Pupils enthusiastically support acts of generosity, including national and local good causes such as the foodbank. A recent cake sale brought many groups from the local community together to raise funds for charity. Parents appreciate that pupils are encouraged to 'look beyond yourself, beyond Scole' through enrichment activities and educational visits, including to London. Through planned curriculum opportunities, such as a topic on conflict, pupils gain an understanding of injustice and thoughtfully discuss important issues. Valuing everyone has shaped a culture where all are treated with dignity and respect.

Religious Education

RE has a high status, is led effectively, and teachers are enthusiastic about teaching it. Pupils of all ages value it as an important subject and are led to 'understand different people better'. It is well planned and balances the teaching of global Christianity with different world faiths. This enriches pupils' understanding of and respect for diverse beliefs, cultures and worldwide celebrations such as Diwali. Leaders appreciate the support of the diocese, which provides effective training to ensure good practice and knowledge is widely shared. The RE curriculum supports pupils to flourish and encourages debate, reflection and creativity. Learning is structured around questions that encourage curiosity and deep thinking. The curriculum takes account of the context of this small rural school. It builds knowledge and understanding of worldviews and religions as pupils move through the school in mixed-age classes. Pupils are encouraged to debate and to use subject vocabulary appropriately. Class books demonstrate the value placed on a range of creative responses from all children. A topic on Baptism, brought to life through local clergy enacting the ceremony in church, makes learning memorable and impactful.

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National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Methodist Schools

## Information

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| Address | Norwich Road, Scole, Diss, Norfolk, IP21 4ED | | |
| Date | 21 October 2025 | URN | 149502 |
| Type of school | Academy | No. of pupils | 39 |
| Diocese | Norwich | | |
| MAT | Diocese of Norwich St Benet's Multi-Academy Trust | | |
| MAT Chair | Paul Dunning | | |
| Headteacher | Jo Cerullo | | |
| Chair of Governors | Bruce Gordon | | |
| Inspector | Lynne Golding | | |