

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

### Magnus Church of England Academy

#### Vision

The promise of 'life in all its fullness' sits at the heart of our school vision to:

"Develop people of good character, who achieve excellence and make a positive contribution to their communities." Threaded throughout our vision are three key strands:

Character, Excellence and Community

These underpin all that we do at Magnus and which, we believe, are essential to having a full, happy, healthy and successful life.

We believe this vision can be delivered through the principle of love as outlined in 1 Corinthians 13, which informs our whole school values. This passage reminds us to be a community rooted in love, to persevere and never give up. These qualities shape the way we live and learn together.

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

#### Notable Strengths

- The motto of 'Character, Excellence and Community' is lived out through the school's Christian teachings. This provides a clear purpose to the work of this church school.
- The highly inclusive culture within the school, which stems from the Christian vision, has changed lives. Consequently, students thrive as they discover their God-given uniqueness.
- Daily inclusive and inspirational opportunities for worship both within and beyond the school day enables students to think deeply and find space.
- The school is a beacon radiating hope within the wider community. This unique relationship between the school and wider community is transformational.
- The quality of the religious education (RE) curriculum is exceptional. As a result, the well-embedded religious and worldviews approach ensures that students take an informed approach to issues of faith and morality.

#### Development Points

- Embed the shared language of spirituality across the curriculum. This is so students reflect on the personal impact of worship and deepen their understanding and use of spiritual language.
- Enhance students' understanding of justice. This is in order to enable them to recognise how they can make a positive difference to the lives of others.



## Inspection Findings

### Vision and Leadership

The Magnus vision, deeply rooted in bible teachings, drives the school's unwavering commitment to transformational acts that shape lives and inspire purpose for the school community. For example, through the school's firm belief in everyone's ability to have a fresh start and flourish through perseverance. Even in times of challenge, leaders are guided by their shared purpose to be a community rooted in love. Barriers such as disadvantage are carefully considered and addressed, ensuring that students can flourish. Strong partnerships with faith groups and community organisations enrich students' lives and provide exceptional support. Acts of love, kindness, and respect are not only routine but celebrated as central to the school's ethos. Magnus focuses on the whole person, created in God's image. Governors are heavily involved in the life of the school and monitor the effectiveness of the school vision. Magnus strengthens its own practice by extending its service beyond its walls. As part of the trust and supported by dedicated governors, the school draws on shared expertise to enhance its vision. This deepens its identity as a Church school.

### Vision and Curriculum

Living life to the full provides a central focus for the school's curriculum. Leaders are committed to delivering a curriculum that broadens and enriches students' experiences. Careful adjustments are made for learners considered vulnerable and for a diverse community. A clear emphasis on calm classrooms and respectful behaviour benefits students at all levels. Conscious decisions, such as providing alternative pathways for some learners, bear fruit in improved life outcomes. Support for students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is carefully tailored, while maintaining high expectations. Restorative discussions and targeted interventions give students considered as vulnerable a fresh start and the chance to make amends when things go wrong. Purposeful decisions, such as lengthening the school day, create opportunities for enrichment activities accessible for students. A wide range of activities is available to students beyond the regular timetable. Crochet, mindfulness and library time provide opportunities to learn new skills and have space within a busy day. The school is alive with music, arts, sport, and leadership opportunities. The impact of these activities is evident in former students and adults who, having built their own lives, return to contribute positively to the next generation. This outward-facing school nurtures a culture of possibility, enabling individuals to flourish.

### Worship and Spirituality

Worship is central to life at Magnus, rooting the school community in its shared vision. Students find worship a time for peace and reflection. It is inspiring and fosters a sense of unity and purpose. Final-year students discovered inner strength through worship focused on God's greatness and staying strong during challenges. This positively impacted their mental wellbeing. Carefully planned worship provides space for contemplation and a call to action. Students and staff live out the Gospel in daily life by persevering with their studies and achieving their aspirations. Varied opportunities for invitational prayer and worship act as a heartbeat to school life both within and beyond the school day. These opportunities add breadth and depth to the school's spiritual life, reflecting the dynamic work of the chaplaincy team and local faith leaders. Parents appreciate the strong sense of community fostered throughout the year through shared worship experiences. Spirituality is embedded across the curriculum through the 'Magnus Way', giving students a common language to articulate spiritual moments in their lives. While students speak confidently about worship and show an understanding of what spirituality means to them, they are less clear on its personal impact. The school's outward-facing approach means it is a beacon of hope within its community, a place to share worship in many forms.

### Religious Education

RE is highly valued at Magnus, evident in leadership focusing on subject improvement and the priority it is given in the school. A bespoke curriculum, sensitive to the diverse community, is well planned and enables students to develop a respectful understanding of religions and worldviews. Students think deeply and demonstrate strong knowledge of religion, philosophy, and ethics. Debating, critical thinking, and text interpretation enrich learning experiences. As a result, students display a depth of knowledge and understanding about a diverse range of religions. A highly committed team of specialist staff bring energy and expertise, weaving in themes such as



crime and punishment to challenge students to consider morality. As students' progress, their understanding of philosophy deepens, and they carry critical thinking skills beyond RE into wider life. This intellectual engagement reflects the subject's strength and its impact on students' personal development.

#### Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The school fosters a culture of care, where supporting and standing up for others is central. Through the Eco-Club, students drive meaningful environmental change. The cadet service empowers them to lead and serve their community. Leaders at Magnus are deeply committed to supporting students within the school while continually looking outward. One example is through a link with a local care home which encourages students to consider those in need of support. Partnerships with Mattersey college, which supports adults who may be in need of a fresh start, enriches lives of students at Magnus. Adult role models who have been supported by the college in turn shape students' future through their own experiences. Issues of justice are considered within the curriculum, and students are encouraged to reflect on how they can shape their own futures. Pupils demonstrate their sense of personal responsibility to others through acts of love and care. However, their understanding of justice is less well developed. As a result, students do not always recognise practical ways they can positively impact the lives of others.

#### Vision and School Culture

An unwavering commitment to the vision, enabling members of the school community to live life to the full, guides the school's purpose. Students and staff recognise the difference Magnus has made to their lives. This is evident through returning students who are keen to support current students in their service to others. Students and staff feel genuinely valued through the vision instilling an ethos of making a difference to others. They share how, during deeply challenging personal times, they found comfort and strength in the unwavering support of their team. The presence of a chaplain within a wider pastoral team is highly valued. A warm welcome begins with a bagel at the funded breakfast club. This is the first step in a wider network of support that removes barriers and helps students thrive. Cadets and uniform provision, to name a few, enrich opportunities for students who might otherwise miss out on these experiences. Guided by the school's Christian vision, to persevere through love, the Magnus community turns this principle into action. In this way, it creates a culture where resilience and compassion transform lives.

## Information

Address	Earp Avenue, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 4AB		
Date	19 November 2025	URN	140549
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	692
Diocese	Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham		
MAT/Federation	Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Multi Academy Trust		
MAT Chair	Chris Moodie		
Headteacher	Anna Martin		
Chair of Governors	Martin O'Connell		
Inspector	George Trafford		