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Sarah Godbold
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Dear Sarah

Congratulations on the outcome of the SIAMS inspection which took place at Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy on 19 March 2025. It articulates how you and the school community are living out the school's Christian vision and 'learning for life within a Christian family school'. Well done and keep letting every light shine!

There are many wonderful comments in the report making it a challenge to pick out highlights in this short letter beyond what are documented as the school's strengths – which are a great read! However, I will take the risk of reflecting on some that struck me and apologise if I've missed your favourite quote:

- Pupils are at the heart of all you do and are 'drivers rather than passengers on their educational journey.'
- There is a shared sense of purpose in school and within the trust and this partnership working means all are comfortable to seek support whilst giving generously of their own expertise in the pursuit of excellence. Such great ambition!
- Pupils are curious and take ownership of their own learning knowing that 'marvellous mistakes' lead to building resilience too.
- I love the concept of 'Leafy Learning' outdoors bringing pupils closer to God's creation.
- Pupils with SEND thrive and have a voice in the 'hands up for hot chocolate' sessions.
- I loved reading the whole paragraph about collective worship. It enables a sense of joy and 'strengthens the bonds of Christian love that underpin the school community.' Children and adults share their thoughts which builds awareness and confidence as pupils learn to express their growing spirituality. Fantastic!
- Staff act as effective role models as they express gratitude to their colleagues and learn to accept compliments.
- Taking responsibility for one's own actions lies at the heart of the school. Pupils have confidence to admit their mistakes.

- Parents value the opportunity to engage in further discussion about the school's Christian values at home as part of their children's moral development.
- In RE 'pupils learn to think deeply and develop the skills of religious literacy from the earliest years.' Questions such as 'What does it mean to be a good person?' challenge thinking and develop pupils' ability to reason.
- Through participation in diocesan initiatives including research, leaders are contributing to the strengthening of RE provision across Norfolk and beyond.

It is clear that leaders, staff, governors and the Trust are working effectively to ensure that Gooderstone Primary is living up to its foundation as a church school. The one area for development identified will help you continue this journey, and I know you will already be working on how this can be addressed.

This is a splendid report, please pass on my congratulations and thanks to your team and governors.

God bless,



Paul Dunning

Diocesan Director of Education

Cc Tracy Warner (DNEAT AGEP)

Michael Cross (Chair of LGB)

Paul Henery (DSSO)