

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Halton St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School

Address	Pennystone Road, Halton, Lancaster LA2 6QE		
Date of inspection	31 January 2019	Status of school	Voluntary Aided Primary
Diocese	Blackburn	URN	119529

Overall Judgement	Grade	Excellent
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?		
Additional Judgements		
The impact of collective worship	Grade	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Grade	Excellent

School context

St. Wilfrid's is a primary school with 249 pupils on roll. The school has a very low level of religious and cultural diversity and very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is below national averages.

The school's Christian vision

'Let all that you do be done in love.' 1 Corinthians 16:14

Our distinctive Christian vision is to follow Jesus' teaching, enabling all members of the school family to live and love fully. We aim for everything we do to be clearly reflected in our mission statement: 'Love God, Love each other, Love learning'.

Key findings

- Highly committed, skilled leadership has created a vibrant, deeply Christian learning community in which every member flourishes. Dedicated staff and highly skilled governors share the inclusive, deeply embedded Christian vision which inspires and directs every aspect of school improvement.
- Pupils' excellent behaviour and extremely positive attitudes to life and learning reflect their understanding and application of the school's well-established core Christian values of love, respect and trust.
- Extremely strong, mutually beneficial links with the church contribute significantly to the school's distinctive Christian character. They impact positively on the spiritual life of all members of the school family.
- Pupils' outstanding spiritual and personal development results from the experiences provided through the creative curriculum, excellent religious education (RE) and outstanding collective worship.
- Remarkably strong, nurturing relationships, based on Christian compassion, support all members of the school family. These sustain pupils and adults at times of personal need, supporting their mental health and emotional wellbeing extremely well.

Areas for development

- Extend pupils' knowledge of diversity within Christianity so that they can more fully appreciate the world-wide multi-cultural nature of the Christian faith.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

St. Wilfrid's deeply embedded Christian vision is founded upon well-established Christian values and rooted in gospel teaching. It is aspirational and inclusive. This ensures that everyone can make the most of their God-given talents. As a result, pupils develop a deep love of learning and respect for all in God's world. Leaders are totally committed to continuous improvement. The extremely thorough cycle of self-evaluation engages all members of the school community. It ensures that the school's Christian vision and values are at the heart of all decision making. All strive to provide the best possible learning environment and educational practice. Senior leaders have created a unified, harmonious staff team. Morale is high because staff know that they are supported personally and professionally, at all levels. A governor stated, 'We are upheld completely and utterly by the school at times of personal crisis.' In reviewing the marking policy it was amended to reduce work load and improve the quality of feedback for pupils, thereby supporting the wellbeing of all. The love and concern of staff and governors for pupils and their families is palpable. It shines through the calm, purposeful working atmosphere which is immediately sensed by visitors. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of everything provided by the school. 'It feels like one big family. We lift each other's spirits and our children learn that God's love extends to everyone.' All staff benefit from well-targeted professional development opportunities, some of which have been instrumental in supporting middle leadership and preparing future church school leaders. Highly effective partnerships with other local church schools, the diocese and the Lancaster and Morecambe district cluster support collective worship, assessment and curriculum development. St. Wilfrid's expertise and innovative practice is shared with other schools to support their development and performance.

Governors know the school extremely well. Through regular monitoring visits and meetings with staff and pupils, they have a very clear idea of school performance, achievement and the way in which the vision is being lived out. Their excellent practice ensures that the needs of all pupils are met through highly effective use of human and financial resources. For example, the provision of a learning mentor supports vulnerable pupils and their families. Leaders have secured outstanding leadership of RE and collective worship. As a result, both make substantial contributions to the school's Christian distinctiveness and performance. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation systems ensure that pupil progress is tracked and individual needs identified and supported. As a result, all aspects of school improvement are successfully driven by the shared Christian vision.

The school's impressive standards of attainment are the result of consistently high quality teaching targeted to meet the needs of all pupils. All pupils are very well-supported. Disadvantaged pupils and those with special needs and/or disabilities make remarkably good, often rapid progress. Standards of attainment are consistently above those achieved nationally. Pupils strive to meet the high expectations of their teachers, whom they respect and trust implicitly. They thoroughly enjoy all that the school offers, benefiting from a tailored curriculum designed to develop key skills and foster creativity.

Provision for pupils' spiritual development and emotional wellbeing is extremely well-considered. Pupils have repeated, high quality experiences through outdoor learning, visits and visitors. RE and collective worship make very substantial contributions to pupils' spiritual growth. Pupils are eager learners because they are excited and inspired by their learning. They are confident and mature, able to articulate their thoughts clearly, so that they disagree well. Reflection is integral to learning across the curriculum, through which Christian values are threaded seamlessly. Pupils express their ideas creatively through art, prose, drama and prayer. The outstanding quality and depth of their personal responses can be seen in vibrant displays and in the RE and collective worship classbooks. Debates around questions such as whether the world would be the same without Jesus demonstrate the depth of pupils' thinking as well as the freedom they have to express their own ideas. As a result, pupils are well-prepared, resilient and understanding of the needs of others. Teachers are adept at questioning. This deepens pupils' thinking because they are frequently asked to explain or consider why such a belief is expressed. Pupils make a very clear link between Jesus' teaching, Christian values and their own actions, such as supporting charitable causes and recognising injustice. Through their eco and fair trade work, pupils respond to the needs of others, recognising that everyone can do something to make a difference. The link with a culturally diverse school in Preston has had a very positive impact on pupils' understanding of diverse cultures and beliefs. The regular community teas and other events provide meaningful opportunities to share time and talents with older members of the community. Parents agree that their children grow spiritually and personally, gaining self-confidence as a result of their curricular and extra-curricular experiences. Behaviour is exemplary because all pupils strive to use the Christian values of friendship, forgiveness and compassion in their relationships and everyday life.

Collective worship is the heartbeat of the school community. Pupils' attitudes are extremely positive because

they feel included and involved. Worship is a joyful and participatory experience. Pupils frequently take part, helping to act out stories and answer questions. The extent to which they are engaged in planning, leading and evaluating worship is exemplary. Many varied groups take responsibility for delivering worship. Thorough planning, based on the Bible and the life and teaching of Jesus, explores Christian values and themes imaginatively, so that worship constantly refers to the school's vision and values. The Rector supports planning across the schools within the benefice so that they share ideas and resources. She is a frequent visitor, leading worship in school and church and supporting teaching in RE. Pupils experience a range of different worship styles and settings in school and church led by staff, clergy and visitors such as Northern Inter Schools Christian Union (NISCU). However, their understanding of Christianity as a world-wide, multi-cultural faith is not as well developed. Older pupils have experience of the Eucharist. They explain its importance to Christians making the link to the Jewish feast of Passover and the Last Supper. The strong link with the church actively supports the worship, prayer and spiritual life of the school. Pupils' awareness of the Christian concept of the Trinity is well-developed. Prayer and reflection are key features of daily worship. Pupils offer their own prayers freely and spontaneously, demonstrating a clear understanding of the nature and purpose of prayer. They write and use their own prayers for public and personal use and are familiar with traditional prayers and graces, such as the Lord's Prayer. Their understanding of God as a loving, forgiving father is clearly evident through their prayers. The monitoring and evaluation of worship is exemplary. Pupils provide daily feedback. Staff and governors monitor the impact worship is having on the school community half termly. This ensures that worship continues to have a very positive impact on everyone's spiritual growth.

All members of St. Wilfrid's vibrant, distinctly Christian learning community are united in the belief that the school's Christian vision and values are lived out daily. The vision makes a powerful, exemplary and truly transformational difference to the lives of pupils and adults.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

Consistently outstanding teaching challenges and supports pupils' exploration of religious belief and practices. Pupils are inspired and challenged by their learning, through which they develop the key skills of enquiry and analysis. RE supports pupils' knowledge and understanding of diversity and difference remarkably well. Leadership of the highest quality ensures that staff are knowledgeable and skilled. Highly effective assessment procedures ensure that all pupils, including the disadvantaged and those with special needs and/or disabilities, make good, often rapid progress. As a result, standards of attainment for all pupils are high, being well above national expectations.

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Inspector's name and number	Anne B. Woodcock 445