

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Wilson's Endowed Church of England Primary School				
Address	School Lane, Over Kellet, Carnforth, Lancashire LA6 1BN			
Date of inspection	02 May 2019	Status of school	VA primary	
Diocese	Blackburn	URN	119614	

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

School context

Wilson's Endowed Church of England Primary School has 131 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. No 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 is well below national averages. Since Autumn 2018 there have been teaching staff changes in three out of the five classes. This is due to staff moving on and maternity leave.

The school's Christian vision

Know, Grow, Show

In knowing God, we grow as He intended.

We show His love for others as we go through school and life with Christ by our side.

'I can do all this through Christ who gives me strength' (Philippians 4:13)

Key findings

- The clear, unambiguous and uncompromising Christian vision motivates, inspires and gives a purpose to everyone in and around the school family.
- Collective worship is sincere, varied and inclusive and enables exceptional spiritual growth in both pupils and adults.
- Extremely strong and mutually beneficial links with the parish church make a significant contribution to the school's distinctively Christian character.
- Religious education (RE) is of a very high standard. As a result of some highly innovative practice in the use of ICT, pupils are excited about the subject. This results in a deep understanding of the subject and exceptionally high levels of religious literacy.
- The school is relentless in seeking experiences that inspire pupils. This has led to the school being recognised as a centre of excellence for its collaborative work across The Lune Valley cluster.

Area for development

- Sustain and extend the current innovative and collaborative practice in the area of global citizenship in order to share more widely the remarkable work being undertaken in this field.

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

Wilson's Endowed Church of England Primary School is an exemplary Christian school. It is highly thought of by the community it serves. Its vision of 'Know, Grow, Show' is grounded in a Christian narrative. Leaders prayerfully considered a number of appropriate Bible verses that encapsulate their vision before agreeing on Philippians 4:13. The vision in conjunction with the Bible verse is the driving force behind all that the school does. As a result, pupils and adults articulate confidently the impact it has on transforming their lives. The school offers a warm inclusive welcome that truly reflects its vision. Consequently, it is the first choice school for the vast majority of parents. Many families travel past several other good schools in order to bring their children to Wilson's Endowed. One pupil who had moved to the school states, 'When I started I found the school to be very welcoming. I will never forget that I felt so happy, it's because God's here.' Pupils are impressive in their ability to use biblical references relating to their school's vision. This results in pupils who can theologically argue why they help so many charities. One pupil stated, 'helping others is what it means to be part of God's family.' As a result of living out the vision and related values, pupils' relationships in school, their behaviour and their attitude to academic work are excellent. Consequently, academic standards in all subjects are very high and attainment regularly exceeds national averages for all groups of pupils.

School leaders, including governors, are determined to align the vision to all their decision-making and improvement plans. Governors are fully involved in the life of the school, showing high levels of commitment. They speak with great passion and understanding about the school and how they help the school to continuously evaluate its Christian character. The school ensures that all staff have appropriate development training that enables them to fully understand Church school education. As a result, the school prepares future leaders of Church schools very successfully. The school works closely with the diocese and the mutual support is beneficial to both.

The school's Christian vision superbly supports the character and moral development of pupils. This enables them to flourish in all areas of life, academically, socially and spiritually. Each week pupils and staff consider an aspect of global citizenship as part of their worship. The Go Global Monday worship is pioneering and exciting. It is always linked to the question, 'How should we respond as Christians?' This has led to the pupils being outstanding ambassadors for the tackling of injustice around the world. They argue passionately, giving strong reasons why they support a wide range of charities and can identify unfairness in society both here and abroad. The pupils write many letters to a wide range of leaders in society asking them to justify some of their decisions. These range from local MP's on the subject of fracking in Lancashire to executives of supermarkets, challenging them on the use of palm oil in their products. As a result, Wilson's Endowed was the first school in the country to achieve the national Global Neighbours Award. This excellent work has been shared with their local network of schools and the school is now very keen to share this wider afield.

Collective worship acts as a daily reminder that God is with us. It is the impetus behind the living out of the school's vision. It allows pupils and adults to learn more about God and grow in their own personal faith. One pupil commented that, 'God is always here, even if my friends are not.' All members of the school community are excited by worship resulting in full and active engagement. As one pupil said, 'Our worship is very energetic.' Anglican liturgy is embedded across the variety of worship opportunities. Pupils embrace it and lead worship in a confident but sensitive way. As a result, pupils talk with confidence about Jesus Christ as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Worship is planned around the school's vision. This provides a cohesiveness that allows the vision to be focussed on at the beginning of every day. A member of staff commented that, 'My own spirituality is helped through the school's collective worship.' Pupils engage regularly with the Eucharist. The centrality of prayer in worship is clear and pupils impressively lead spontaneous prayer. They know that prayer helps them.

Relationships in school are outstanding. One pupil described the school as 'amazingly amazing' when talking about how they all work well together. This is due to the school's Christian vision being at the centre of all policies and practice. Diversity is embraced and celebrated across the school and staff are well-trained and committed in the support of all pupils. The positive approach to equality and valuing difference means that everyone in the school

community is treated with dignity and respect. Governors ensure that those pupils who have additional needs have access to the most appropriate support. This has often meant having to make bold budgetary decisions to allow this to happen.

The school has, for many years, enjoyed strong and mutually beneficial relationships with the community. The partnership with the local parish church is exemplary. One recent expression of this was that the church members developed a resource for the school. Through a variety of stations in the church, pupils and adults were helped to explore the 'I am' statements of Jesus found in John's Gospel. Initiatives such as this have led to more families attending the monthly all age services. This has been a great encouragement to the community.

Pupils engage confidently and positively with religious texts. In Year 6, pupils navigate their way through the Bible very effectively. Staff ensure that challenging questions and experiences for open discussion contribute to the development of mind and spirit. The inventive use of technology in RE encourages pupils to explore some of life's big questions outside of the classroom environment. This excites and motivates them and is a clear factor in their outstanding spiritual development. The recently revised diocesan syllabus, which incorporates the 'Understanding Christianity' resource, is used extremely successfully. Within lessons, pupils are constantly encouraged to question how they would respond to given situations because of their beliefs and to empathise with others. As a result, pupils have a very good understanding of Christianity as a faith that needs to be lived out if it is to be authentic. A good understanding of diverse faiths results from carefully planned visits to places of worship and visitors coming into school.



The effectiveness of RE is Excellent

The quality of RE teaching, throughout the school, is consistently strong. It is taught as a discrete subject and is the one subject safeguarded in the weekly timetable. This demonstrates the importance placed on it by the school. School leaders are examining ways of how best they can use assessment information to ensure that there is even greater breadth of key concepts covered. This work is being led by the school within their local schools' cluster. Assessment, and their RE work, demonstrates that pupils make excellent progress in RE and that it contributes significantly to their spiritual development. As a subject, standards are often higher than in the other core subjects.

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Inspector's name and number	David Thorpe 461