

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Grappenhall St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School

Address	Church Lane, Grappenhall, Warrington WA4 3EP		
Date of inspection	04 April 2019	Status of school	Voluntary aided
Diocese	Chester	URN	111315

Overall Judgement	Grade	Good
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	Good
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Grade	Good

School context

St Wilfrid's is a primary school with 412 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. 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 is below national averages. The school is in a semi-rural setting and has close links with the parish church.

The school's Christian vision (Matthew 5:14-15)

We foster a happy, caring environment where children flourish and fulfil their God-given potential. We explore our faith to become tolerant, respectful individuals and are all unique in the eyes of God. Through wisdom, hope, community and dignity we become resilient learners exemplified by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Key findings

- The whole school community, inspired by exemplary school leaders, has recently developed a fresh, highly inclusive Christian vision, based on the light of Jesus, where children are nurtured to be the best that they can be.
- Worship and prayer are integral to the Christian ethos of the school and contribute significantly to high aspirations and the good all-round development of pupils academically and spiritually.
- Pupils enjoy creative learning in religious education (RE) through detailed, imaginative planning which results in a good level of pupil understanding and respect for Christianity and different religions and world views.
- Relationships in school are distinctly loving and supportive based on the teachings of Christ, which leads to a harmonious community where pupils and adults flourish.
- Governors provide strong support and clear Christian leadership, challenging the school robustly in a timely and constructive manner.

Areas for development

- Invest in the professional development of leaders at all levels to give opportunities for study and reflection to broaden their horizons of church school education, thereby enabling them to further shape the school's distinctive Christian character.
- Nurture and cultivate the ethos group, so that it can inspire all pupils to enhance their understanding and experience of worship, leading to a deeper level of spirituality.

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

The headteacher and senior leaders provide strong Christian leadership in this vibrant, highly inclusive school. It is a large school, housed in two buildings, but its compelling Christian vision embodies a warm, tangible, welcoming, family ethos. The atmosphere is captured perfectly in the school motto, 'fun, faith and friendship'. At every level of school life biblical text is the source of inspiration for policies and decisions. The behaviour policy encourages tolerance and respect by quoting from 1 Corinthians chapter 13, 'love is kind, it does not insist on its own way'. Consequently, behaviour, relationships and attendance are all very good. Any rare cases of unacceptable conduct are swiftly dealt with by staff applying principles of forgiveness and reconciliation.

The whole school community was involved in selecting a new Christian vision based on the Gospel of Matthew about Jesus as the 'light of the world'. Time invested in discussion resulted in staff, governors and parents developing a greater understanding of the distinctiveness of a Church school. Leaders also sought wider inspiration from current thinking through theological accounts in Church of England education documents. School leaders are keen to develop their knowledge further and plan in the near future to participate in a regional diocesan leaders' development qualification. The environment creatively immerses pupils in the vision and associated chosen values. Consequently, pupils can eloquently articulate the positive impact the vision has on their relationships, aspirations and spiritual development. In a discussion about forgiveness one pupil perceptively commented that, 'when you forgive, you can move on'.

The vision for inclusivity underpins all relationships, resulting in a loving, affable community where all flourish as children of God. Adults model Christian values in their interactions, so children learn to consider the needs of others before themselves. One child in reception put this succinctly, 'when someone comes to your house to play, you might have to sacrifice what you want to do, to do what they want'. Both adults and pupils are confident that if they express their views they are actively listened to. The headteacher is a trained mental health first aider, and together with the governing body, reviews and encourages a good work-life balance. School residentials foster character development and resilience. Resources such as the listening room promote a healthy mindset alongside activities such as 'Relax Kids'.

Governors are highly committed and very astute in ensuring that a robust self-evaluation process is embedded. They constructively challenge the headteacher through committees, learning walks and termly reports. They know pupils are making significant progress through looking at books. They regularly observe first-hand pupils' critical thinking and learning. They are passionate about their role and proud that the school and church are at the heart of Grappenhall village. One governor commented that 'the school vision wraps itself around the community'. Governors have ensured that issues from the previous SIAMS inspection have been successfully addressed.

Pupils are enthused by lively collective worship led by the rector. Worship is an important part of the school day when adults and children gather to be still and reflective. Pupils say prayer helps them to focus on God and feel calm. Worship is highly inclusive and comfortable for all to be present, whether they have a different faith or none. It provides a meaningful opportunity simply to reflect on the school's values. Using Anglican responses, worship includes a variety of creative elements, including music and silence, to ensure it is meaningful and relevant. Pupils possess an age appropriate understanding of the trinitarian nature of God demonstrated through discussions and creative work in their books. RE lessons facilitate a safe space to explore a thoughtful exchange of ideas infused with Christian values of compassion and consideration.

The new, enthusiastic ethos group is very keen to develop an enhanced role within worship. They are eager to inspire their peers to develop a deeper level of spirituality. The ethos group is using feedback from its recent pupil survey to develop and enrich worship. The close relationship between church and school provides the opportunity for pupils, if they so wish, to undertake confirmation. This enables them to become part of the wider worshipping community. By prioritising worship, the school is helping pupils to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world. It is also equipping them with resilience, high aspirations and a strong moral purpose for their future lives. School agree that they have more to do in enabling pupils to think globally to understand Christianity as a living, diverse, world faith.

A convincing Christian vision shapes the development of the school's broad and exciting curriculum. RE makes strong links with the social, moral, spiritual and cultural curriculum by promoting dignity and respect. External visits enhance the teaching of Christianity and different faiths. Pupils also enjoy the freedom to learn about Christianity by frequent visits to St Wilfrid's Church. Pupils are inquisitive, independent learners who make good progress in all subjects, especially RE. The vast array of extra-curricular provision facilitates the implementation of the Christian vision and enables pupils to flourish physically, academically and spiritually. For example, the

Archbishop of York's Award resulted in pupils enhancing their village through planting a new flower bed. A strong sense of pride and belonging is fostered as pupils actively make a positive difference to their local community. The sincerity of the Christian vision inspires pupils to be proactive on behalf of those who are disadvantaged. They think beyond themselves and engage in generous support for charities such as the Warrington Food Bank, Alder Hey Children's Hospital and Christian Aid.

The school's Christian vision promotes a culture of hope, dignity, tolerance and respect in which every child and adult is cherished. Leaders are united in the belief that the school 'welcomes, accepts and serves all people in the name of Jesus' and that this enables them to thrive.



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The effectiveness of RE is Good

RE is regarded as a core subject and is well resourced. The recently-introduced 'Understanding Christianity' resource enables teachers to construct stimulating learning opportunities to which pupils are responding with deeper levels of discussion and critical thinking. The school leaders for RE have regular opportunities to disseminate new ideas to ensure all staff teach with confidence and to a high standard. The rector, with her background in RE education, is also able to provide additional expertise to staff and pupils which is highly valued by all. RE teaching and learning is consistently graded good through regular school monitoring by the joint curriculum leaders. All pupils enjoy RE and are making good progress flourishing academically. Statutory obligations are met and the subject fulfils the expectations of the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for RE in a Church school.

Headteacher

Glenda Davies

Inspector's name and number

Ann Lock 919