



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Standish, St Wilfrid's C of E Aided Primary School

Rectory Lane
Standish
Wigan
WN6 0XB

Diocese: Blackburn

Local authority: Wigan
Dates of inspection: 13th June 2013
Date of last inspection: 13th September 2007
School's unique reference number: 196467
Headteacher: Mrs Janet Kneale
Inspector's name and number: Mr Stephen Paul Adnitt 590

School context

St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School is a larger than average primary school with currently 481 pupils on roll including nursery. It is spread across four separate buildings. Children come predominantly from the surrounding area which is a mix of social and private housing with an increasing number of children in private rented accommodation. About 3% of pupils are from ethnic minorities. The percentage of pupils on the register of SEN and eligible for free school meals are below the national average.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Wilfrid's as a Church of England school are outstanding

St Wilfrid's School is a vibrant church school with Christian values at its heart. The distinctive Christian ethos permeates all aspects of school life and has an outstanding impact on pupils' personal development. There is an exemplary partnership with the church community. The school's Christian ethos and values are evident in the excellent and positive relationships between pupils, staff, governors and parents.

Established strengths

- The focus on Christian values which leads to outstanding spiritual, moral and academic development of all pupils
- The outstanding relationships within the school family, based on Christian love and care for each individual
- The quality of relationships with parents and the positive Christian impact the school has in the wider community
- The Christ-centred vision and outstanding leadership provided by the headteacher
- The school's procedures for evaluating its effectiveness as a church school
- The excellent and vibrant quality of worship which makes a significant impact on pupils' spiritual development

Focus for development

- Ensure that all parents are aware of what makes the school distinctly Christian and that they understand the impact of the Christian ethos on pupils' spiritual development

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners

The school's Christian character nourishes, encourages and challenges the spiritual and cultural development of the whole community. Distinctively Christian values, such as forgiveness, hope, fairness and trust, are made explicit and are deeply embedded in the daily life of the school. These Christian values have an outstanding impact on pupils' spiritual and moral development and are demonstrated in the outstanding quality of relationships within the school. Both the staff and governors expound these core gospel values by example in the daily life of the school, through worship, and in lessons. Staff work hard to develop pupils' self-confidence and to inspire and motivate pupils. The quality of relationships between all members of the school community is excellent and this, together with the emphasis on caring for others, makes an exceptional contribution to the pupils' social and moral development. Older pupils are excellent role models for the younger children. From an early age children learn how to value each other and their surroundings. Pupils have positive attitudes to their learning and they know they are valued and respected by staff. All pupils feel safe and special. The pupils are proud of their school and speak confidently about why it is special to them. One pupil commented, 'Because we are a Christian school God is part of us and our school' The distinctive Christian character of the school has a positive impact on the outstanding academic standards achieved, as evidenced in the Data Dashboard information provided by Ofsted, and on the pupils' excellent personal and social development. Pupils' awareness of current local and global needs motivates them to help the wider community. They relate this action to Christian teachings such as loving and respecting one another, which has a positive effect on pupils' moral and spiritual development. The school environment has a significant impact on the spiritual development of pupils and others. The excellence of the displays, many of which are centred on worship and RE, draws pupils, staff and visitors into times of reflection. These displays are very prominent, bright and interactive and give excellent support to children's spiritual and moral development.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Outstanding collective worship is at the heart of school life and all staff and pupils participate with enthusiasm. It is inspirational and inclusive and of the highest standard. The impact on pupils and the whole school community is outstanding. The daily act of worship enhances the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith including a clear understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pupils are confident when discussing the Trinity and demonstrate significant levels of spiritual maturity. Pupils make use of the opportunities provided for reflection and prayer. Worship is a valuable experience for everyone in the school family and makes a positive impact on their spiritual development. Pupils respond through songs, drama, role play and discussion. Christian values are strongly promoted in worship and are clearly understood by the pupils, who enjoy worship and speak enthusiastically about the value of worship in their lives. A member of the school council commented, 'Worship is special, because in this school you really are in God's home.' Pupils show respect and enjoy the many opportunities given to plan and lead worship. They value these opportunities and speak about their contributions proudly. The worship observed, planned and led by year six pupils, was outstanding. Worship also enables pupils to recognise their responsibilities to others and to reflect on community and personal values. Teachers successfully develop pupil interaction, discussion and reflection. Collective worship is led by every teacher and by the rector and other members of the parish team. There are regular year group and staff Eucharist services. Pupils come into the presence of God respectfully. Worship is very well planned by the RE and Worship team working closely with the rector. It is evaluated effectively and includes contributions from pupils to inform further developments. There are excellent relationships with the parish church and community.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Religious education lies at the very heart of the school curriculum. The teaching of RE is outstanding and has a significant impact on pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development. Planning of RE is excellent. The RE/worship co-ordinators monitor lessons, scrutinize plans and pupils' work and talk to learners frequently. Lessons observed showed excellent subject knowledge, interactive learning, independent learning, excellent use of ICT and challenging

activities. Achievement and progression are outstanding and in line with other core subjects. Pupils enjoy RE and demonstrate a clear understanding of what it means to be a Christian. One pupil remarked, 'As Christians we follow Jesus and the New Testament shows us what Jesus did and we can follow him. It tells you how to live.' They demonstrate clearly the impact of RE on their lives and the life of the school. Outstanding teaching ensures that pupils are able to demonstrate a high level of spiritual maturity and knowledge. Older pupils apply their learning to possible scenarios in their own lives. They are actively encouraged and supported in this reflection. The pupils are keen to discuss their feelings and experiences in RE, and this, together with the high standard of teaching, has a positive impact on pupils' spiritual, moral and social development. RE promotes cultural identity, diversity and understanding through well planned lessons on major world faiths and by regular visits of pupils to other local faith centres. St Wilfrid's church is used well and creatively for teaching and learning activities, clearly evidenced by the school "Living Church Days." These activities are led by members of the clergy and leading members of the church.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding

The headteacher, assisted by senior management, provides outstanding Christian leadership. Leadership of the school is based on strong and effective Christian values. The Christian ethos is the starting point in helping the leaders and managers formulate a clear vision for the school. The outstanding church school self-evaluation document is used very effectively to clarify the present position of St Wilfrid's and to inform continuous improvement. The headteacher, senior leadership and the governing body are relentless in their drive to improve the school further. The governors are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities and are highly supportive of the school's leadership and Christian vision. Parents and pupils speak highly of the school, though some parents did not understand what it means to be a Christian school. Parents say that the school listens to their views and problems are dealt with quickly and sensitively. There are excellent links between church and school, and this is a really positive feature of the school. The work of the school council and Eco-Warriors is acknowledged. They have had considerable success with a number of projects. The school is a very effective Christian witness in the local community. One governor summed up the essential heart of this very effective church school. She commented, 'We learn together as a community in Christ.' The school is truly a model for the way inspirational leadership and outstanding management can secure consistent excellence.

SIAMS report June 2013 St Wilfrid's C E VA Primary School, Standish WN6 0XB