

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School

Vision

Working together as one. With God ALL things are possible.

We desire to reduce and remove barriers for all, ensuring that all individuals have the opportunity to thrive and flourish, personally, academically, professionally and spiritually, whilst also contributing to our community as a whole. Where barriers are removed, and opportunities provided, with God's guidance and clear Christian values, aspiration holds no bounds.

This is rooted in Matthew 19:26.

St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- The school's Christian vision closely reflects the context and needs of the school community. Strong Christian leadership, including governance, relentlessly drives the vision and values forward, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.
- The school curriculum is shaped by the Christian vision and ensures barriers to learning are swiftly identified. As a result, pupils flourish academically and spiritually, gaining hope and aspiration for the future.
- Collective worship is a focal and valued part of the school day. The established link with the local church community enhances the development of worship and spirituality.
- The commitment to ensuring the vision is a living reality creates a culture where pupils and adults feel safe, valued and challenged. As result, relationships on all levels are a joy to see.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum is very effective. It gives pupils an impressive knowledge of a range of world faiths, including Christianity.

Development Points

- Enhance the depth of understanding of different non-religious worldviews. This will ensure that the RE curriculum continues to be well balanced and diverse.
- Increase the involvement of adults in school with the development and leadership of worship. This will ensure that all have the opportunity for deep spiritual enrichment.



Inspection Findings

St Wilfrid's offers a warm and happy welcome to all who enter. This sets the tone for the experience pupils and adults have in this school. The school's Christian vision is uncompromising in its aspirations for the school community. It meets both the unique needs of pupils and the context of the community in which the school sits. As a result, there are high expectations in all areas of school life. Pupils develop in a climate which allows them to thrive and succeed. The biblical roots of the vision are an expression of hope and thread through the life of the school. They reinforce the commitment to working collaboratively and supporting each other 'together as one.' Leaders drive and monitor the vision with rigour. Parents notice the way the school's values encourage pupils to think about how to be a 'better person and help their friends.' For example, they see pupils demonstrate the value of perseverance during sporting activities outside the school day. As a result of the vision and underlying values, pupils are offered a wonderful environment in which to learn. The school offers pupils many opportunities to explore their spirituality and flourish.

The broad curriculum is crafted to the needs of pupils. From point of entry until transition to high school, pupils gain a wealth of skills and knowledge. The curriculum is enriched by real-life learning experiences. Educational visits deepen pupils' understanding of history, culture and society. The school residential, to an outdoor centre, helps build character and resilience. Leaders are passionate about breaking down obstacles to learning and giving all an equal chance of success. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) benefit from individualised support. Because of the school's work, parents are better equipped to understand their children's needs and help them at home. Opportunities for spiritual development enable pupils to become aware of God, one another, the world around them and themselves. For example, the visit to a nearby reservoir stimulates wonder at the beauty of the natural world. Consequently, pupils speak with clarity about their own spirituality. One described it as 'questions that can't be answered - it's a belief in God or no belief, but there's something out there'.

Strong subject leadership and an active partnership with the diocese result in an effective and creative RE curriculum. This reflects the commitment of leaders to the value of RE in the school. The curriculum is well-structured, balancing the study of Christianity with learning about a broader range of faiths. Pupils develop a depth of understanding of Bible stories and their meanings, making links with the Christian life in practice. For example, very young children consider how Rosa Parks lived out the same courage shown in the Bible by David against Goliath. Teachers' confident use of creative teaching techniques enables pupils to access complex religious ideas. For example, older pupils use drama to explore darkness and light in the creation stories. Because of the support given for staff professional development, pupils benefit in their understanding of core Christian theological concepts. In their learning about faiths other than Christianity, pupils show interest and enthusiasm. They build sound knowledge, enhanced by visits and speakers from differing religious perspectives. Through this they learn about the diversity and similarities within and between all faiths. This enhances their appreciation of, and respect for, difference. However, teaching about non-religious worldviews is at an early stage of development.

Collective worship is a daily expression of the vision. Inspirational leadership guides an exploration of core values, which seamlessly infiltrate the life of the school and pupils' lives. The pupil worship committee confidently explores questions about life's meaning and purpose with younger pupils. This results in a gradual deepening of spirituality. The local church community supports the development and delivery of collective worship. Events, including the Harvest Supper and leavers' service, strengthen the relationship with the church community. Pupils have opportunities for prayer and reflection during worship and throughout the school day. As a result, they speak about the personal value of prayer, for example, during a time of bereavement. The



calmness of prayer and reflection is beautifully balanced by uplifting singing at the culmination of worship. Pupils say it makes them feel joyful. However, not all adults in school have opportunity to be involved in the experience or development of worship. This means that opportunities for deep spiritual enrichment are not available to the whole of the school community.

The vision and values ensure the school promotes a culture where all are treated well and valued as unique. Parents describe the school as 'one big family' and highlight strong relationships as a strength. This acknowledges how staff give their time generously, going 'above and beyond' to help in times of need. Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. They are proud of the way they work together, help each other and demonstrate respect. The high level of pastoral support available impacts positively on pupils' attendance rates. Wellbeing is a high priority and the school invests in resources to support this. Targeted interventions from a learning mentor and a sensory room support emotional health and provide a calm space to reflect. The Forest School project enhances mental and spiritual wellbeing. It promotes self-esteem by encouraging pupils to take risks, build confidence and appreciate the wonder of their natural environment. The partnership with a local football club means pupils benefit from workshops promoting positive mental health and mentoring. Staff feel supported by leaders with their own wellbeing. They are happy and proud to work at the school.

Pupils gain a sound understanding of justice and responsibility. They say they have a voice and are heard. They explore the concept of persecution and relate this to minority groups, including refugees. They express their views with poise and clarity, giving examples of standing up to injustice. A poster designed by a pupil states, 'Don't be bully, be a buddy.' As a result, pupils are wonderful role models to their peers and the ethos around the school is courteous and respectful. They have opportunities to develop a sense of responsibility by taking on leadership roles, for example, as school councillors. Engagement in discussion and debate equips pupils with essential skills. These inspire them to become thoughtful and effective citizens. In response to learning about poverty, pupils appeal to retailers and receive uniform for those in need. Pupils demonstrate compassion as they are moved to support children's cancer charities. They express their developing environmental awareness as they litter pick and re-distribute surplus food to avoid waste. The vision ensures the local community is included in social action projects. For example, pupils make Christmas cards for senior citizens and sing at a local nursing home at Easter.

Information

Address	Mabel Street, Manchester, M40 1GB		
Date	20 November 2024	URN	105946
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	232
Diocese	Manchester		
Headteacher	Sarah Brereton		
Chair of Governors	Jane Belton		
Inspector	Anne Barker		