



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### Wilbarston Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Lane  
Wilbarston  
Market Harborough  
Leicestershire  
LE16 8QN

**Previous SIAMS grade: Good**

**Current inspection grade: Good**

**Diocese: Peterborough**

Local authority: N/A

Date of inspection: 12 March 2015

Date of last inspection: 19 March 2010

School's unique reference number: 122004

Headteacher: Andrea Green

Inspector's name and number: Kathy Orchard 640

#### School context

This is a smaller than average primary school. It converted to an academy and became part of a multi academy trust in September 2014. Most pupils are White British with the percentage of pupils with special education needs and those who qualify for pupil premium funding below the national average.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Wilbarston CE Primary school as a Church of England school are good

- The headteacher has a passionately held Christian commitment which drives the agenda of continuous school improvement with the active support of parents, staff and governors.
- Christian values permeate all aspects of school life and have a significant impact on the lives of the pupils.
- There are positive relationships, respect and care between all members of the school community which ensures a nurturing family environment, inclusive of all, within a Christian setting.
- Good standards of teaching and learning in religious education (RE) make a positive contribution to the school's Christian character.

#### Areas to improve

- Develop the monitoring and evaluation of the school's work as a church school so that it is more systematic and rigorous involving active participation by pupils, parents, governors and staff.
- Revisit the aims, vision and mission statement to reflect the Church school distinctiveness and ensure the school's website shares the explicit Christian ethos.
- Involve pupils in planning and leading acts of worship rather than as a response to adult plans.

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

The centrality of the very strong, shared Christian ethos that permeates the whole school is evident from all aspects of school life. This is evident from discussions with all stakeholders, documentation and displays, and the very positive relationships that pervade throughout the school community. Distinct Christian values underpin the life and work of this school and have a major impact on the outstanding personal and spiritual development of the pupils. Pupils readily articulate their positive impact on their lives. Parents reinforce this view saying that the care children show for one another is exemplary and that behaviour is good. All members of the school community, including governors, are readily embracing the school's involvement in the What If Learning programme that is enhancing the Christian ethos of the school by making Christian values more explicit in the classroom. High levels of expectation, care and respect is evident and leads to high attendance, no exclusions, and happy children, who love to come to school and enjoy learning. This results in good levels of progress and levels of achievement which are above or in line with national averages. The pupils say that RE lessons are fun and they learn at the same time, this was evident in the lessons observed. They particularly enjoy more in-depth learning about the values and the life of Jesus. Standards in RE are above the national average and the subject is given the same status as other core subjects. Spiritual moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development is good and there are many opportunities to promote this including through collective worship and RE. Pupils show respect for the diverse community they belong to, enriched by visits to other places of worship including a Buddhist centre and a gurdwara, and also to the holocaust centre in Newark. Children's SMSC development is further supported through sponsoring a child in India through the charity Action Aid. Pupils raise money for and communicate with this child. Pupils say that they have ample time and places to be reflective, and they say prayers several times a day, including their own prayers.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is good**

Worship has a positive impact on the spiritual development of the school community through its focus on the teachings of Jesus, and the many opportunities for discussion and reflection. It plays an important part in the life of the school community with pupils and staff recognising the value of this special time together. A Christian values programme is the structure around which the themes for collective worship are planned. In addition the major Christian festivals are celebrated and the use of liturgical colours on the worship table enhances this. Overall planning is undertaken by the headteacher, in her role as collective worship coordinator, in discussion with staff and clergy. Pupils enjoy collective worship and see it as a time to 'think and reflect about everyday life'. There are numerous leaders of worship, including all teaching staff and various members of the clergy. This results in a variety of styles and delivery which contributes to the pupils' engagement in worship and understanding of Anglican traditions. Strong links to the Bible ensure worship is distinctively Christian. Pupils are able to talk about their understanding of the life of Jesus, the church year and traditions, and the Holy Trinity. They have opportunities to participate in worship in a variety of ways including reading their own prayers. Currently some pupils have opportunities to lead worship and plans are in place to develop this further. Pupils regularly evaluate acts of worship and parents are able to comment in a dedicated book. It is also monitored and evaluated by the collective worship coordinator. Governors attend worship regularly and give verbal feedback on its impact, but their involvement is on an informal basis. Although a focus for development from the previous inspection about planning and evaluation has been addressed, this is not yet systematic and rigorous enough, and now needs consolidation. There are regular acts of worship at the parish church, All Saints, Wilbarston, to which all members of the community are invited. Parents value these services and say they are very well attended maintaining strong links with the local community.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good**

The headteacher and governors effectively promote the school's church status and Christian vision based on Christian values. They have, however identified the need to review the vision and aims to ensure the Christian character is more explicit and reflected on the school's website. The distinctiveness is visible as you enter the building with a beautiful piece of artwork by children, blessed by the Bishop of Brixworth. There is also a large cross made up of smaller crosses each one individually created by all pupils, members of staff and governors. This, together with high quality wall displays throughout the school creates the impression of being in a special place, and addresses a focus for development from the previous inspection. This vision is shared by all stakeholders and has a positive impact on academic standards, behaviour and attendance. It is evident from discussions with parents, governors, and the headteacher, and from observation of activities, that Christian values pervade the school. For instance in the kindness of the children towards each other and the absence of bullying. The older pupils are particularly proud of the buddy system which pairs them up with a reception child. The headteacher provides clear and determined leadership with supportive staff and governors. The governors have a positive attitude towards the school as a whole and the church school status in particular. They feel that this gives the school its ethos exemplified in the positive behaviour of the children which results in kindness to one another. The schools self-evaluation is accurate. Governors monitor aspects of the school as a church school informally. However, they are beginning to develop more formal systems of monitoring and evaluation through the formation of a sub-committee, to address church school issues, and more formal monitoring visits. Statutory requirements for collective worship and RE are met. The RE coordinator leads the subject with knowledge and enthusiasm, and attends training offered by the diocese that is valuable for networking with other subject leaders and to ensure her own skills are kept up to date. The conversion to an academy as part of a multi academy trust is providing opportunities for staff development, at all levels. In addition to in-house and external training access to diocesan training opportunities ensures succession for the future is strong. The local vicar is a regular and supportive member of the governing body who also leads worship on a weekly basis. These important links with All Saints church and community are kept open and developed by holding regular services and visits in the church. Parents value these services which they say are very well supported.

SIAMS report March 2015 Wilbarston Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Leics LE16 8QN