



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Grappenhall St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School

Church Lane
Grappenhall
Warrington
WA4 3EP

Diocese: Chester

Local authority: Warrington

Dates of inspection: 10 March 2014

Date of last inspection: 8 January 2009

School's unique reference number: 111315

Headteacher: Glenda Davies

Inspector's name and number: Ian Newton 273

School context

St Wilfrid's is a larger than average sized primary school with 397 pupils on roll. Grappenhall is semi-rural in nature and is situated on the outskirts of Warrington. Pupils are almost all of white British heritage. Few children are entitled to free school meals and the number with special educational needs and disabilities is low. Children attending the school come from the its immediate locality and the wider Warrington Borough Council area.

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

- Christian values underpin and inspire all the school does. This vision and commitment, led by the head teacher and supported by staff and governors, ensure that these permeate all aspects of school life.
- Outstanding relationships amongst all members of the school community are based on trust, respect and Christian love. Children's behaviour and the quality of their relationships strongly reflect this.
- The excellent relationships within the community draw school, church and families together. The contribution of the incumbent is recognised and appreciated by families and the school.
- It is a place where the pupil voice matters, is listened to and acted upon. Children respond well to the good opportunities they have to shape the life of their school.

Areas to improve

- Whilst the majority of teaching is outstanding in Religious Education, greater clarity about the aims and purposes of some lessons is required.

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

St Wilfrid's is a school that enjoys strong parental support for its Christian foundation and the values it promotes. Whether they are church goers or not, parents believe that what the school is providing gives children a very good foundation for how they should live their lives. Relationships in this school at all levels are outstanding and are an expression of trust, respect and Christian love. The school is welcoming, warm and supportive, a place where problems are resolved speedily by very effective staff, where pupils can have fun and enjoyment and where parents have confidence their children are safe. The school nurtures its learners and puts them at the heart of everything it does. As a result children are high achievers making good progress, especially when compared with similar schools. Whilst close monitoring of pupils' progress is undertaken to ensure that all cohorts and abilities are working to potential, governors are adamant that the school is not a slave to statistics. They are firmly of the view that the evidence of children being able to get along with one another, being able to show love, compassion and tolerance underpinned by strong religious and moral values contribute to their positive achievement. Children have confidence to take risks, thus learning from their life experiences. All academic and wider achievements are valued and celebrated. Throughout the school it is evident that its Christian character supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of learners. All classes use their area featuring Christian symbols and prayers. There are many displays linked with Christian values, including a very colourful triptych in the school hall illustrating the school motto, 'Achieving through Fun, Faith and Friendship.' The inspection took place in Lent, when children were working through the "Love Life, Live Lent" booklet and responding by helping others in practical ways. In addition, they participate in charitable fundraising for a number of causes, including the Shoe Box Appeal and Christian Aid. St Wilfrid's link with its partner school in South Africa helps raise awareness of the conditions in which some people live. Parent volunteers have helped to give insights to the children from their own traditions, for example Chinese New Year.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is central to school life and very much valued and enjoyed by the children. Great importance is attached to the whole school gathering for worship on a weekly basis when the incumbent plans and leads it. A worship group composed of Year 6 pupils has been established which has provided valuable feedback leading to collective worship being a more interactive experience. Children are confident with aspects of Anglican practice. In response to the previous inspection a wider variety of Christian greetings, responses and prayers has been introduced to the children. They are used both in school and church and provide them and their families with familiarity in their worship. In this large school a range of worship formats has been adopted which successfully caters for the needs of the school community. During the school week, in addition to weekly whole school worship, children worship in key stage groups, have opportunities to learn new hymns and celebrate achievement. During the course of the school year each class leads an act of worship in the church for their year group, parents and others. This is helping to develop their leadership skills and understanding of worship. Parents support the school's approach to worship. They spoke of their children being able to talk about religious issues and matters of faith without embarrassment and of them singing worship songs in the street after leaving church on Ash Wednesday! Evaluation of collective worship was a further issue from the previous inspection, but it is now undertaken at all levels by the school community to identify impact and inform planning. Parents share their views, as do children, governors and members of staff. Feedback, especially from the children has contributed to collective worship being a far more relevant experience for all. Much credit can be given to the close relationship that has been developed since the appointment of the current rector. She has taken on board children's concerns, raised the profile of Anglican practice and got children actively involved with planning and leadership. The act of worship that was observed was characterised by enthusiastic participation. Traditional

Anglican greetings and prayers, including the Lord's Prayer and a blessing, were used, a lit candle provided a suitable focus during reflection and the theme was Biblically based on the story of the Good Samaritan. Links were made to the deprivation that many people experience and the need for charitable giving. Collective worship contributes significantly to children's spiritual development and underpins the values for which this school stands.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

The school's scheme of work is based on the guidelines from Chester Diocesan Board of Education, thus ensuring that a good range of topics is covered. Children have a good understanding of a variety of Biblical stories from both the Old and New Testaments and can relate these to their own lives. Aspects of other major world religions are studied which includes visits to places of worship when this is feasible. This is strengthening the children's understanding of different faiths. In this high achieving school standards in religious education (RE) are similar to those in other curriculum areas. Constructive marking of children's work helps them make good progress. RE is led well by two teachers who share the role. They have a good overview of the subject and what the next steps should be. Review and planning are underway to identify how RE can be linked with other subject areas in readiness for the new primary curriculum. They undertake lesson observations, obtain the views of children and scrutinise work. In addition to children's own books, each class has an RE diary which also provides a record of work covered over the children's time in school. An RE improvement plan is in place and a budget allocated for resources. The school's close relationship with the incumbent and parish enables good use of the church building to be made as an RE resource. The incumbent also gives good support to the RE teaching programme often in very practical ways, for example, the school had its own "Royal Baptism" and some classes explored liturgical colours through vestments. In Year 6 there are opportunities for preparation for confirmation within curriculum time. In a lesson that was observed children exhibited outstanding behaviour, engaged well with the subject, made very good use of language. However, the learning objective could have been more clearly stated although links were made with that day's act of collective worship.

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

The school is very well led and managed with Christian values underpinning all its work. The school's motto together with its Mission Statement, was devised within the last eighteen months. Staff and governors involved pupils and parents in the revision, thus ensuring ownership by the vast majority of families. Self-evaluation of the denominational aspects of this church school is very secure. Governors know the school well and both challenge and support the leadership team. Several work on a regular voluntary basis with children, assisting with educational visits, supporting small groups in mathematics, reading and science. Opportunities to focus on a particular area of school life are also undertaken with findings linking into school improvement plans. All are linked with a class and a curriculum leader, ensuring that they are well placed to fulfil their role. There have been several changes of staff in the last year with those leaving moving to promoted posts in other schools. Opportunities for the development of staff and governors are taken both through professional training and assuming greater responsibilities. Development opportunities provided by the local authority and the Diocesan Board of Education are utilised to good effect. There is strong parental support. Parents spoke with high regard of the head teacher and staff and what they are striving to achieve. The excellent and mutually beneficial links with the local church are strongly evident. Coordination of events organised by the "Friends of the School" and the parish contributes to a strong sense of community. Good links also exist with local charities, for example, collections of food from the Harvest service were sent to Warrington food bank. The school fully meets the legal requirements in respect of the daily act of collective worship and the teaching of religious education.

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SIAMS report March 2014 Grappenhall St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School, Warrington,
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