

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Wilfrid's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary

Main Street, Calverton, Nottingham, NG14 6FG

Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese	Southwell and Nottingham
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Local authority	Nottinghamshire
Date of inspection	26 April 2017
Date of last inspection	11 June 2012
Type of school and unique reference number	Voluntary Controlled 122752
Headteacher	Ian Bullock
Inspector's name and number	David Shannon 617

School context

In this average sized primary school most pupils are from White British backgrounds. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is well below average, as is the number from minority ethnic backgrounds. The proportion of pupils supported by pupil premium funding or with a statement of special educational needs, is well below average. In 2016 the school met the current floor standards, set by the government. The school has close links with the Anglican and Baptist churches in the village and with the Riverside church in Southwell. The headteacher is well-established, in his eleventh year at the school.

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

- The values of the school are recognised as Christian values by all pupils. Pupils readily connect them with the scripture passage from which they emanate and display them in their daily lives.
- Pupils participate with great enthusiasm to well organised collective worship, contributing to the organisation and planning, so that they feel shared ownership.
- There are strong links between the school and its local Christian places of worship and the village, so that its distinctiveness brings love and light into its community.
- Strong positive relationships at every level are a strength of the school, which empowers its members to see the potential of every person as made in God's image.
- The leadership of the school is exceptional at all levels, successfully sharing a Christian vision for the school's development with the wider Calverton community.

Areas to improve

- Develop the 'we own worship' group so that pupils lead, evaluate and plan their own worship, adding to the richness and variety of the existing programme.
- Increase the active involvement of governors in monitoring, evaluating and sharing the planning of school worship, thereby nurturing the Christian distinctiveness of this church school.

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

This school is up front about its Christian values. They are clearly displayed in every classroom, so that all children know and observe the 'great commandment' to do to others as you would they do to you. This motto drives forward all the work of the school. It enables all children to see themselves as unique, made in God's image. It is

amplified by the values from Galatians of 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, gentleness and self-control'. These values are awarded through levels of commendation leading to the 'golden box', which is unveiled in collective worship by the headteacher. Pupils therefore strive both with work and play, relishing the commendations which they and their fellow pupils receive. These values also characterise relationships between staff and pupils, and pupils with their peers. Strong positive relationships are thus a strength of the school, resulting in pupils seeing themselves as of great worth and with significant potential. It also creates a climate for learning in which all pupils make good progress against national data, rarely miss school and where exclusion is unnecessary. The school prides itself in accepting children with significant mobility difficulties, and inclusion strategies ensure they are never left out. Sports activities on Sports Day are amended so able pupils and those with a disability can compete together. Day visits and residentials are open to everyone, and offered throughout the school, such as visits to youth hostels, the Wye Valley and to Whitby. The school's Christian distinctiveness contributes strongly to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) learning of every pupil. All pupils can articulate how learning in SMSC has identified needs which they have sought to meet, as part of their Christian duty. Examples include discussion of health topics led to a 'yellow day' collecting for Marie Curie Cancer Research. A discussion of different cultures has prompted one class to collect 50 pences for a goat for a community in India. World book day led to an appreciation of talents of reading, writing and performing; this was reflected in a talent show where many pupils surprised their peers with performance arts. Pupils put on a show based on the life of 'Jonah' in the autumn, and provided singers and musicians to a play based on 'Noah' in the local church. Daily collective worship, and religious education (RE) enable pupils to make informed decisions concerning their health, welfare and happiness. All recognise the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation, so that disputes are rare and bullying quickly sorted, thoughtfully and with respect. The RE curriculum emphasises the richness of Christian faith communities and also teaches about the major world religions of Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. Pupils learn about customs and festivals in other faiths, so that they are well prepared for the cultural differences in modern Britain. Visits are made to synagogues and temples, so that pupils are fully aware of how different groups worship. They are aware of their role as global citizens with Christian brothers and sisters in every continent. RE is taught in an engaging and dynamic way, encouraging an appreciation of both symbols and reflection, enabling pupils to make their own responses and refine their own beliefs. Pupils in Y5 and Y6 had understood the story of the Holocaust and had written movingly about it, including their own original prayers, for patience, kindness and forgiveness. It makes a significant contribution to the Christian character of the school and to pupils' SMSC development. St. Wilfrid's is an outstanding church school because it nurtures the God given talents of each child, but 'goes the extra mile' to draw out potential.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

At the core of collective worship is the principle that everyone associated with the school is made in the image of God and is to be loved. The programme is enthusiastically planned and delivered, offering a diverse programme in whole school, key stage and individual class worship. Hence all pupils know their Bible stories and can differentiate New Testament from Old. They can tell the stories of Joseph, Moses, King David, St. Paul, St. Wilfrid and modern saints such as Theresa and Martin Luther King. Pupils appreciate the impact of each saint's example in their daily lives. Jesus' special significance to Christians is recognised. Worship is led by the staff, or visitors from the local Anglican, Baptist or evangelical churches, so that pupils experience the diversity of Christian worship. Informal evaluation is carried out by the head and the RE coordinator, but this needs formalising, and the input of all stakeholders. Pupils can recall past worship, and describe how it has altered their behaviour, or their view of life. Pupils are comfortable with leading worship, but the 'we own worship' group has begun to also plan, prepare and evaluate pupil led worship. As yet this initiative is just beginning, but it has given them a sense of ownership of worship, which will benefit the whole school. Pupils welcome the opportunity to attend St. Wilfrid's Church and can describe the parts of the church and what they symbolise. Parental involvement in worship is frequent and fills the church, bringing home and school together. Older pupils have a clear understanding of the various types of service, contrasting the Eucharist with a baptismal or confirmation service. They may take bread and wine as pre-confirmation participants in the Eucharist and understand they are part of the body of Christ. They are able to describe the Trinity, and how God's spirit might work through them. All pupils understand the centrality of prayer in Christian worship, and are used to making prayer requests or writing prayers, some of which are displayed in the reflection areas. These reflection areas have been introduced, and their use is much in evidence, since the last SIAMS inspection. They certainly have a positive impact on pupils' spiritual development. Pupils pray irrespective of whether or not they come from a church background, and many encourage their parents to pray with them at home. Singing is recognised as a great contributor to worship. School choirs sing both in worship and in social activities, enabling the school to project its profile into its community. The school choir travelled to the 'Big Sing', organised by the Diocese, where they realised the power of singing together in worship. Pupils can name a favourite Christian song, and explain its impact upon their own pilgrimage though life. Y6, at the time of the inspection, were enjoying a four week workshop with choristers from Southwell Minster, their cathedral church.

The Anglican incumbent has just retired, but she was active in linking school and church as a governor and assisting in leading school worship and RE activities. Many pupils visit the churches for 'messy church', a youth club or to participate in fairs and fund raising activities, in addition to school worship.

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

Leaders actively promote Christian values, which are understood by the whole school community and ensure children feel both loved and safe in school. Self-evaluation is systematic and rigorous, not least in RE, where a new assessment system is showing that progress in this vital subject is good. The Christian distinctiveness of the school is a key factor in ensuring progress for all pupils is good across the curriculum. All staff share leadership of RE and worship, and are being encouraged and developed to take up leadership roles, in time, themselves. The school have met the action points suggested by the last inspection, and now are building on this foundation. They have welcomed community groups into the school such as the British Legion, RNLI and the allotment holders, as well as developing excellent links with other Christian leaders in Calverton and Southwell. They have developed an excellent rapport with parents, who share a sense of purpose with the school whether they are church-going families or not. The school leaders' dedication to inclusivity is admired, and shared at all levels. As one mother said, 'Without each member of staff our son would never have blossomed into the determined youngster with an enthusiastic sense of humour that he is today'. School leaders ensure all staff treat each pupil as of inestimable value. Another mother said, 'Staff couldn't have done any more to help reduce his anxieties and make him feel safe and secure in his new environment'. The leaders have made great strides in offering the school's participation in community events, ensuring their Christian service is demonstrated as much by carol concerts for senior citizens as by litter picking every Spring. The governors challenge and support with equal enthusiasm, but as yet their responsibility to promote Christian distinctiveness has been through some governors rather than through all. They are aware of the need for all to be active in helping the new incumbent to settle in at St. Wilfrid's church. They act as an effective bridge between the school, the Diocese and the community, providing opportunities for pupils to take their school's values into the village. Governors also resource support from the Diocese in developing Christian values in school. Thus every adult on site reflects the school's motto of 'doing unto others'. This school fully meets the statutory requirements for RE and collective worship and is acting effectively to shine the light of Christ into the lives of many.

SIAMS report April 2017 St Wilfrid's CE VC Primary School, Calverton NG14 6FG