



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

William Westley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Mill Lane
Whittlesford
CB22 4NE

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Ely

Local authority: Cambridgeshire

Dates of inspection: 17 March 2016

Date of last inspection: 9 March 2011

School's unique reference number: 110795

Headteacher: Paul Bryant

Inspector's name and number: Philip Knowles 795

School context

This is a smaller than average primary school. 48% of pupils currently attend from out of catchment. The majority of pupils are from white British heritage. 5.5% of pupils are known to be eligible for free school meals, which is lower than the national average. 3% of pupils are registered as having special educational needs, which is also lower than average. The school has benefited from effective and stable leadership from the current headteacher for nineteen years. Following a two-year period of interregnum, two new ministers have been appointed to the local Anglican and URC churches and both are supporting the school well. The school was graded 'Good' by OfSTED during its January 2016 inspection.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of William Westley VC as a Church of England school are outstanding

- A clearly defined and distinctive set of Christian values are explicitly linked to learning and very effectively underpin and permeate the school's work
- There is a mutually respectful environment where everyone is valued, where staff are nurtured and encouraged to embrace leadership opportunities with a view to future succession planning
- Collective worship of consistently high quality reflects the Anglican tradition and contributes meaningfully to the depth of spiritual and moral reflection in school

Areas to improve

- Ensure regular pupil involvement in planning, leading and evaluating the whole school worship programme to further enhance the excellent provision already on offer
- Continue to enhance the school's Christian ethos and drive the effectiveness of religious education (RE) in supporting the Christian character of the school by further developing the regular monitoring that already exists.

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

At William Westley, the school's central vision that every pupil is treasured and treated as an individual is understood by all stakeholders and more importantly, as one parent stated: 'It is actively signed up to by everyone.' This vision is consistently attributed to the school's Christian foundation by all stakeholders as are the core values that underpin and inform all that happens at the school.

A clear emphasis is placed upon the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) via mechanisms such as the School Council and Eco Council, both of which ensure that pupil voice is heard. The OfSTED inspection of 2011 judged the SMSC development of pupils as outstanding. The recent OfSTED of January 2016 agreed with the previous judgement, saying that the school's strongly child-centred approach has been maintained.

The school encourages its children to grow in the 'Fruits of the Spirit; joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. These particular values feature in the book of Galatians rather than being the Christian values that are adopted by many church schools. The values are exceptionally well embedded and children readily recognise their importance to them. One child said: 'This is the most important time in our lives where we need to learn how to be people and how to get on with other people. The values are kind of stuck in our minds. We use them if we are stuck emotionally or socially. We think of our values and think what would Jesus do?'

Similarly, the children understand how important it is that they are encouraged to play a meaningful and responsible role within their local community as well as the world community through their charitable work and especially through their well established links with the SOS Children's Charity in Tlokweng, Botswana, which supports vulnerable children and their families.

The school's adopted values work seamlessly with its mission statement, its 'core values,' the teaching of RE, SMSC and citizenship, the current theme in collective worship and through the practical work that the school does in ensuring smooth transition as children move from one phase of their education to the next. All of these factors contribute to the careful nurturing of each individual child, a feature which is recognised and strongly appreciated by parents.

Children talk enthusiastically about their RE lessons. They say that learning about world religions, including Christianity, is important because it teaches them to 'respect those other religions through our lives because equality is one of the key things in life.'

The school is justifiably proud of the creative curriculum that it offers whilst still maintaining high standards in the core subjects of English and Mathematics. Consistently good teaching ensures that progress is improving year on year. In the cases where the progress of vulnerable pupils does not match their peers, the school implements effective interventions which are regularly reviewed.

The children say that they particularly appreciate the opportunities that they are given to be creative. The high quality, colourful displays throughout the school testify to the high standards achieved in this regard.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is valued by all and seen as central to the school day. Worship is planned and led by members of the staff team. Children lead prayers, take part in acting out Bible stories and

assist with the organisation of worship. There is an excellent relationship between the recently appointed local Anglican and URC ministers, their churches and the school. The Incumbent leads worship each week. Her involvement in the school is growing and is already having a significant impact, including her focus on the Trinity in collective worship which is developing in the children a knowledge of the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The focus wall, which incorporates the worship table, holds a central place in the main hall. It features the cross, a Bible and a candle and provides a focus for the children during worship. This, along with the format used for worship, serves to encourage in pupils an awareness of the Anglican tradition.

The use of the local church at Christian festival times enhances the worship programme significantly. Children and adults readily engage with worship that is deeply spiritual and offers experiences that are meaningful, inspirational and engaging. High quality opportunities for prayer, reflection, singing and a focus upon the values demand an atmosphere of calm, anticipation and a genuine sense of reverence. Teachers ensure that this teaching is reinforced throughout the day using appropriate opportunities as they arise.

Foundation governors regularly monitor collective worship and report their observations to the wider governing body as part of their ongoing work to develop the school's Christian ethos.

Questionnaires are used to take the children's views into account.

Children are conscious of the consistently high quality and of the relevance of the worship experience that is on offer to them at school and it is this that encourages them to want to be involved and to respond enthusiastically during times of prayer and discussion.

Children identify the importance of collective worship and appreciate that it affects them in their lives in a 'good way.' One child said: 'Everything we learn in collective worship has a lesson or moral.' Another said 'We learn about the values so we know what is expected of us and know what we should be doing before we do it.'

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

The Christian designation of William Westley VC is both understood and adopted by the whole school community. The clearly communicated Christian vision of this school is articulated by the headteacher and by the dedicated team of professionals that he has recruited. All school leaders can clearly articulate the impact that the Christian ethos has on standards of behaviour and achievement as well as the positive, mutually respectful relationships that such a vision encourages throughout the school. This is a school whose community can see the value and impact that its distinctive Christian character is having upon those within it.

William Westley VC's church school designation and strong Christian ethos are made clear to all prospective families, who are invited to attend collective worship before their children join the school. This helps them to recognise that it is this very ethos that drives the school to be the fully inclusive, successful and welcoming setting that it is.

Support for governors from the Diocese has resulted in rigorous self-evaluation and an increased understanding of their role in developing the school's Christian ethos. Governors are proactive in their monitoring and evaluation of the school's distinctiveness and are fully committed to developing it further through, for example, plans to monitor the consistency of RE provision and its impact on the Christian character of the school. They are currently exploring how they can provide further strategic leadership in the next phase of the life of the school. The newly appointed incumbent is already playing an important part in this process and the school's very effective and well established partnerships with both the Anglican and URC churches serve as a clear statement that the school, church, parents and wider community all work closely together to ensure that the school's Anglican foundation is both celebrated and preserved.

The headteacher's commitment to developing opportunities for leadership among the staff is both established and recognised. It further adds to the long-term sustainability of the school's vision that 'The Christian ethos underpins the school's aim to raise the achievement of all pupils so they can reach their full unique potential.'

Parents value the school's approach to offering a curriculum that is exciting and creative, yet challenging. They highlight this as a reason why their children are enthusiastic to come to school each day. It is this Christian vision for education that underpins the whole curriculum, incorporating collective worship and RE, both of which meet statutory requirements and are given a high status within the school.

SIAMS report March 2016 William Westley Voluntary Controlled Primary School CB22 4NE