

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School Northenden	
Address	Patterdale Road, Northenden, Manchester, M22 4NR
School vision	
<p>To grow a diverse and creative educational community where we encourage belonging and nurture believing; together becoming fulfilled and responsible members of God's world. This vision is rooted in The Parable of the Mustard Seed. Mark 4: 30-32</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated leaders have established a strong, clear Christian vision for St Wilfrid's. This is rooted in the Bible and highly appropriate for the school context. The vision is very effective in guiding and directing decisions. It creates a rich culture of care for all in which everyone is valued as unique and precious. • Because the vision is central, the school recognises the unique talents of all. Each person is welcomed and respected at St Wilfrid's and relationships are excellent. As a result, all have the opportunity to flourish. • Motivated by the vision, the school's many partnerships are exceptionally strong and mutually beneficial. Close working with the trust, local churches and families deeply enriches Church school life. This nourishes the curriculum and collective worship. • Inspired by the vision, leaders actively create a highly inclusive school culture. They ensure that there is good support for each person, including vulnerable pupils and those who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Consequently, this nurtures each individual, all of whom are clearly valued. The rich provision for learning, emotional and social needs are significant strengths. • Leaders of religious education (RE) have skilfully designed a well-balanced, engaging curriculum. This is underpinned by the vision and builds on prior knowledge. As a result, pupils demonstrate a deep understanding of Christianity, worldviews and religions. 	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to strengthen pupils' experience of spirituality throughout the curriculum. This is to extend and deepen their responses to spiritual questions and themes. • Ensure further opportunities for pupils to become agents of positive change. This is to support them in their understanding of responses to injustice. 	
Inspection findings	
<p>St Wilfrid's is a welcoming and highly inclusive Church school that serves a diverse community. Its deeply embedded Christian vision and underpinning Biblical values. These give drive, purpose and energy to all aspects of its work. Throughout the school, powerful images, illustrating The Parable of the Mustard Seed, reinforce the message of the vision. They help to inspire all, reminding them that they belong here and can believe in themselves. Each person is able to become the best they can be.</p>	

Committed leaders fully understand the changing needs of the school and local community. This ensures that the vision remains accessible and relevant. As a result, everybody is included and cherished. They all benefit from the the opportunity to grow, flourish and believe in themselves. Leaders and governors are inspired and motivated by the vision and values in all their work. They are clear about what it means to lead a Church school. Governors consistently build the vision into everything that is done. As a result, they ensure that policies, practice and resources strongly reflect it operating to enable everyone to succeed. Because governors and trustees are active in the school, monitoring and evaluating its work effectively, they know it well. Consequently, they offer appropriate support and challenge to leaders at all levels.

The Christian vision inspires leaders in their organisation and design of the curriculum. Much like the mustard seed parable that roots the vision, learning is centred around growth and development from small beginnings. There is a drive to ensure that all pupils are able to approach the curriculum effectively. This includes those who have English as an additional language and those with SEND. Care is taken to support and nurture every individual. This ensures that they access their learning and can thrive. Thus, pupils enjoy lessons, are motivated in their work, and behave excellently. An emphasis on personal development alongside academic achievement is supported by a wide range of exciting and extra-curricular opportunities. These enrich pupils' lives and experiences, opening new horizons for them. The school community's journey in developing its understanding of spirituality in lessons is making progress. Routine planning for this to be embedded in the curriculum is at an early stage.

Collective worship is at the heart of daily life at St Wilfrid's. It provides opportunities to explore the vision and values in a variety of ways. This helps to underpin the clear sense of belonging that permeates the school and helps to unite this diverse community. Opportunities for discussion, reflection and spiritual development ensure that these gathered times are meaningful. A carefully planned programme follows Christian festivals. The very strong links with the local church and clergy are used to enrich the worshipping life of the school. Worship is inclusive. It invites those of religious faith or none to engage with Bible stories, singing, readings and reflections. Prayer is an important element in daily life here. In addition to the school prayer and the Lord's Prayer, pupils' own prayers contribute to their' spiritual development. A number of pupils are keen to use these at home with their families. They gain confidence through their significant roles in planning and leadership. This is especially evident in the regular services based at the parish church. At these events, vibrant worship has a significant impact on families and the local community.

The vision contributes to the calm and purposeful environment of the school. There is a powerful sense of belonging and community where relationships are excellent at all levels. A strong sense of fairness and emotional wellbeing is evident throughout the school. On occasions when things go wrong, forgiveness, a new start, and the restoration of relationships happen effectively. Diversity and difference is positively embraced. Thus, all are welcomed, treated with dignity, and included as valued children of God. Leaders are unswerving in their determination to protect and support the mental health and wellbeing of all. Where needed, effective support is quickly given in recognising and responding to the needs of all. As a result, no-one who may be experiencing difficulties is left unnoticed or unsupported.

As a successful, active member of the trust, support and partnership work is generously given to other schools. This further enhances the impact of the Christian vision of both the school and trust. Other partnerships with the diocese, community groups and charities give breadth, depth and impact. Pupils are given significant leadership responsibilities. They have a strong commitment to succeed in what they undertake. This has a positive impact on worship, environment and fundraising. Pupils enthusiastically focus on living out school values through ambitious roles in the newly formed Courageous Advocacy Team. This brings together responsibilities that help to raise



awareness about local as well as news issues and support the school in its response. Through it, pupils are beginning to deepen their understanding about how people respond to matters of injustice. As they now learn to apply this, there are emerging opportunities enabling them to become agents for positive change.

The leadership of RE is strong, and thorough planning skilfully builds on pupils’ prior learning. It is underpinned by the school’s vision and values. RE meets requirements for the subject as a Church school. Careful monitoring by leaders and governors maintains an appropriate focus on this area. A supportive partnership with the diocese provides worthwhile guidance in all aspects of the subject. This helps to secure a curriculum for RE that is challenging, well-balanced and relevant. Skilful teaching by staff challenges pupils in their learning and means that they consistently make good progress in RE. Skilful, knowledgeable teachers create a safe, supportive environment for pupils to debate and explore big questions and ideas. As a result, they are confident in discussing their own views whilst respecting different viewpoints and beliefs. Teachers ensure that pupils take great pride in their written work and that their command of religious vocabulary is strong. The diversity of Christianity as a worldwide faith is understood. Pupils enjoy RE lessons. Consequently, they are enthusiastic in their learning and understanding about Christianity, a range of faiths and worldviews.

The inspection findings indicate that St Wilfrid’s Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	30 January 2024	URN	142936
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	320
Diocese	Manchester		
MAT/Federation	Thrive Church of England Academy Trust		
Executive Head	Helena Miller		
Chair	John Barrett		
Inspector	Peter Coates	No.	937