

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bishop Wilson Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Address 10 Craig Croft, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham, B37 7TR

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Overall grade **Good**

The impact of collective worship **Excellent**

The effectiveness of religious education (RE) **Good**

School's vision

'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.' 1 Peter 4:10.

The school's vision is one of Christian service: each of us using our skills and talents to support and serve one another. We extend this service to all, whatever their backgrounds or beliefs; both within the school itself, and the wider community. All are welcomed into our school family.

Key findings

- Together, the whole school community share a clear Christian vision. This vision, and associated values, underpin the whole life of the school. Bishop Wilson is a compassionate and caring community where each child is nurtured to become the person God created them to be.
- Bishop Wilson School is highly inclusive and meets the pupils' needs exceptionally well, with tangible care and compassion. It is characterised by exceptionally strong support for pupils and their families.
- Pupils confidently challenge injustice locally and globally, which impacts strongly on their social, emotional and spiritual development.
- Collective worship is highly valued and is developed and enriched by meaningful opportunities for pupil leadership. It significantly influences the lives of both pupils and staff, enabling them to flourish.
- A consistent whole school approach to the teaching of religious education (RE) gives pupils a good understanding of Christianity. However, pupils have insufficient opportunity to reflect on personal meaning and relevance. Pupils study many world views and religions, but this can lack depth and does not always build on previous learning.

Areas for development

- Review provision in RE to secure increased opportunities for reflection and deeper learning through interpretation and enquiry. Through this, empower the pupils to look beyond knowledge to explore their own and others' beliefs and convictions.
- Implement systems for monitoring the impact of spiritual development across school, including through the RE curriculum.
- Strengthen the partnership and links with the parish church so that the wider community can be better served through the school's Christian message of hope.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

At Bishop Wilson, the distinctively Christian vision is based on using God given gifts to serve others. This impacts profoundly on the life and work of the whole organisation. The school is highly inclusive, supportive and deeply rooted in its community. The outward looking vision is articulated with passion and theological understanding. As explained by the head teacher, 'Jesus met people where they were and that is what we seek to do in our community'. Consequently, the school vision and values are consistently lived out, helping change hopelessness to hope. When families and individuals go through challenging circumstances, the school works tirelessly with compassion to offer support and nurture. Senior leaders are passionate advocates for the pupils and speak out with conviction against injustice with a burning concern for the flourishing of all. As a parent noted, 'This is the kindest school I have ever known. I'm glad my kids are lucky enough to come here.'

Governors and senior leaders have a clear picture of the strengths and areas of development and work tirelessly to meet the needs of the school community effectively. The head teacher and his close-knit team live out the vision of service by proactively promoting mutually supportive partnerships. This includes building networks, supporting other church schools, sharing good practice and a strong relationship with the Diocese of Birmingham. The professional development of staff and governors is given high priority. This supports the whole school community in using and developing their gifts as an expression of the Christian vision. Staff are reflective, feel well supported and work together towards a shared purpose.

The highly aspirational curriculum at Bishop Wilson is one that nurtures self-belief and purpose so that all can flourish as valuable members of society. Staff make every effort to meet pupils' needs with rigour and compassion and have high expectations for the children in their care. All pupils, including the most vulnerable, are well supported, with highly effective intervention. Consequently, pupils achieve to the best of their ability and have strong attitudes to learning. This commitment to do the best for each pupil is understood by everyone as an explicit outworking of the Christian vision. Spiritual development is clearly understood and articulated as an opportunity for pupils to reflect on themselves and their decisions, interact with the world around them and discover 'something more'. However, this is not fully embedded and monitoring does little to assess the impact of spirituality across the curriculum.

The vision of using God's gifts to serve others has widened pupils' perspectives to consider the needs of others. The core belief that, 'no matter what you are going through, you are valuable and have something to give' has empowered pupils to make a positive impact. Pupils regularly engage in social action, identifying issues themselves where they want to make a difference. Through a focus on the United Nations rights of the child, pupils understand their place in the world. They are articulate advocates of change and are passionate about challenging injustice and inequality.

Relationships within and beyond school are firmly rooted in the Christian vision of service. As an outworking of the vision, a significant investment has been made in nurture. A skilled team give exceptionally strong, compassionate support to those in the most challenging circumstances. Staff care deeply and listen to pupils and their families. They have

consistently high expectations of behaviour, which enables pupils to enjoy a calm, empowering environment. Each day, staff demonstrate a conviction in children’s capacity for change through restorative justice, forgiveness and reconciliation. When difficulties arise, pupils are reminded, ‘you are worth more than this’.

Bishop Wilson school is highly inclusive and values all with dignity and respect. The vision of being, ‘faithful stewards of God’s grace’, drives a culture of equality through love and acceptance and is implicit in the way pupils and adults treat each other. This ensures that all pupils, regardless of background, disability, gender, identity, religion or sexual orientation, feel accepted as the person God made them to be. As one pupil said, ‘everyone has value and can choose who they are. We shouldn’t treat anyone differently.’ Pupils feel listened to and their viewpoints are treated with care and respect.

Collective worship is valued by the whole school community and flows naturally from the school’s Christian vision and values. Worship is a key driver of the school vision and impacts exceptionally strongly on the lives of everyone at Bishop Wilson and beyond. Pupils are responsive, respectful and engaged and feel their contributions are valued. Collective worship is inclusive and everyone’s involvement is welcomed, but without compulsion. Times of reflection support pupils’ biblical understanding and spiritual development. Creative and engaging opportunities for both prayer and reflection have made them integral to the life of the school. Pupils enjoy worship at St Andrew’s Church. However, because of a clergy vacancy, links with the church have not been able to develop as the school wishes. Worship councillors are regularly involved in planning, leading, evaluating and developing worship and are proud of the changes that they have facilitated. Pupils have helped set up worship areas in each classroom and in the hall, raising the profile of worship across the school.

RE at Bishop Wilson is led with a common approach across the school. Learning is heavily scaffolded, much of which is through quality questioning and based upon the school’s approach to shared writing. Pupils enjoy the lessons that are creative and enquiry-based. They have a secure understanding of Bible stories and Christian traditions and regularly study biblical texts. However, insufficient time is given for pupils to reflect on meaning and relevance for their own lives and opportunities for spiritual development can be missed. Pupils regularly reflect on what they know and what they would like to find out. Faith week and international week give pupils opportunities to look beyond themselves and their locality. The school RE curriculum is structured to facilitate the study of a large number of religions. Pupils enjoy and appreciate the importance of studying a breadth of world religions, but this sometimes lacks depth and does not always build on previous learning.



The effectiveness of RE is Good

The quality of teaching in RE is consistently good, shown through school monitoring and verified during inspection. Pupils enjoy RE, particularly when learning is more enquiry based, and respond with enthusiasm. Work in RE is well differentiated by activity. Whilst not always apparent in books, discussion with pupils shows that they generally make good progress. Individuals and groups who need support are quickly identified and appropriate provision put in place to ensure all pupils’ needs are met effectively.

Contextual information about the school

Date of inspection	21 March 2022	URN	104105
Date of previous inspection	5 March 2015		
School status	Voluntary aided Primary school	NOR	460
Name of MAT/Federation	n/a		
Diocese	Birmingham		
Headteacher	Desmond Ricketts		

Pupil profile	The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is above national averages.		
	The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is above national averages.		
Additional significant information (if needed)	Bishop Wilson serves a predominately White British community in an area of high unemployment. The school shares a site with key community teams and is located in the same building as St Andrew's Church.		
Inspector's name	John Clapham	No.	775