

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Wargrave Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	
Address	Bradlegh Rd, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 8QL

School vision
<p>I am... Truth - Friendship – Respect</p> <p>We build our school on strong Christian values, supporting our children and families as members of the Wargrave community and the wider world. We trust God to guide both children and adults to reach their full potential, in a nurturing, loving environment.</p>
School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refreshed and reinvigorated by new leadership, the school's Christian vision drives every aspect of school life. It is part of the everyday language of the community. As a result, adults and pupils have a clear understanding of the vision and are ambitious for their school and themselves. The Christian vision of 'I am...' shapes a thoughtful curriculum that is rooted within the school's local context. Rich extra-curricular activities meet the aspirational focus of the vision. As such, pupils with a diverse range of needs are supported inclusively and are actively included within the life of the school. In this nurturing and welcoming Church school, pupils and adults treat each other with love and mutual respect. Every pupil is cherished and valued, leading to a culture of aspiration. Collective worship is well-planned so that pupils and adults reflect and engage meaningfully. This deepens their spiritual life. The support of the local church community serves to reinforce pupils' understanding of Christianity as a living faith. The revitalised Religious Education (RE) curriculum is given high priority within the school. This broad, balanced and reflective curriculum results in pupils who value the subject. They grow confidently in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of world faiths and worldviews.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empower pupils to take actions to tackle ethical issues and social injustice, both in the local community and in the wider world. Ensure that the school's agreed aspects of spirituality are explicitly planned into the curriculum. This is so that pupils develop a rich and diverse appreciation of life's spiritual qualities.

Inspection findings

The inspirational Christian vision at Wargrave Church of England Primary School actively drives all aspects of school life. The language of 'I am...' is at the heart of decision making. It serves to allow pupils high aspirations and self-worth, guided by God. The new leadership team has reinvigorated and strengthened this, so that it is deeply embedded and lived out within the community. The clarity of the vision results in all adults and pupils having a strong sense of belonging within a flourishing school community. Leaders and governors have a shared and genuine understanding of how the vision is rooted in the Bible, through St John's Gospel. This motivates them to make bold decisions, centring all actions around the school's foundation as a Church school. For example, the school's core values of truth, friendship and respect underpin a dedicated partnership with families to support good school attendance.

The aspirational Christian vision, believing all can reach their potential, shapes a curriculum centred on the school's motto of 'I am...'. Ongoing and imaginative curriculum development ensures that it is relevant for pupils and rooted within the school's local context. For example, an engaging project, 'The Wonders of Wargrave', encourages pupils to appreciate their community and its history. The Christian vision inspires leaders and staff, who ensure that lessons meet the needs of all learners. They prioritise equality of opportunity for all pupils, including those educated in the local council's specialist provision for autism, based within the school. As such, pupils with a diverse range of needs are supported inclusively and are actively included within the life of the school. Extra-curricular opportunities support the aspirational focus of the vision. Key decisions ensure that these are rich, varied and inclusive. Working alongside subject leaders, governors monitor and evaluate the vision's impact on the curriculum effectively. Thus, the vision actively underpins curriculum development. A whole-school, shared approach to spirituality within the curriculum is in the early stages. Leaders and staff have developed an agreed understanding of spirituality, expressed through the four dimensions of Self, Others, Beauty and Beyond. Pupils experience awe and wonder in their learning and appreciate the nature around them. For example, through landscape photography, pupils are moved to reflect on the beauty of the natural world. However, planned, diverse opportunities, which encourage pupils to grow spiritually through deeper self-reflection, are limited.

Collective worship is highly valued and a central part of the school day. Worship leaders, including clergy, staff and pupils, plan and lead worship imaginatively. Engaging worship experiences inspire adults and pupils to be spiritually uplifted. One pupil commented, 'We start our day getting closer to God.' Through active engagement, they appreciate how the school's vision can help them in their daily lives. Partnerships with clergy are very strong and enrich worship. For example, meaningful worship opportunities, led by the local vicar, enable pupils to appreciate Christianity as a living faith. Worship is inclusive, with opportunities that are broad, rich and invitational. Pupils engage thoughtfully with creative, classroom reflection areas, which are sensitively adapted to meet the needs of all pupils. 'I like that I can pray in every way: silently, through prayer stations, aloud or physically,' shared one pupil. Working with students from a nearby Church high school, pupils have designed and created a well-loved spirituality corner. This collaboration has resulted in an invitational and popular quiet space within school, open to all and instilling a sense of tranquillity.

This nurturing Church school genuinely serves its community, through harnessing respectful and loving relationships. Leaders work hard to ensure that there is a culture of trust and openness, especially with families. As a result, parents and carers feel welcomed into the school building. Staff effectively nurture all pupils, including those who are most vulnerable. Pupils understand the Christian vision, using it to appreciate that individuals can learn differently and be different. They adore the 'Person Of The Day' activity, which ensures that every pupil experiences praise and affirmation. Care and respect thread through all school relationships. The vision, of everyone achieving their potential, shapes a focussed programme of staff training. Thus, adults know how to support and protect pupils effectively. Their calm and compassionate approach ensures that pupils reflect thoughtfully on their actions. As a result, pupils learn and play well together and feel safe.

Motivated by the vision of love, truth and friendship, adults and pupils understand their responsibility to others. For example, pupils consider and then choose a range of charities to support each year. This empowers pupils to make a heartfelt difference in supporting local causes. Leaders have established responsibilities for each year group to help their community. For example, older pupils serve afternoon tea in the local care home and younger pupils read to the residents. The developing relationships with community groups are highly valued. Leaders recognise how important these early steps are in empowering pupils to understand how they can be agents of change. However, opportunities for pupils to act on their own ideas, in making ethical choices and tackling social injustice, are underdeveloped. This limits the impact that they can have within their local community and in a wider context.

RE has a high priority in the Wargrave curriculum. Leaders make considered decisions, sequencing the curriculum to ensure the prominence of Christianity. Activities encourage pupils to revisit their school vision with an increasing depth of understanding. The study of other world religions and worldviews is well-planned across the year. Pupils learn effectively about a diverse range of religious beliefs and practices. High-quality training leads to lessons that are challenging and encourage pupils to reflect deeply using rich vocabulary. For example, older pupils consider thoughtfully what Christians believe makes Jesus divine, looking at His actions, teachings and life events. Lessons are carefully planned to ensure the diverse needs of pupils are met, including those who are most vulnerable. Key concepts in RE are systematically revisited in lessons. Consequently, pupils understand the journey of their learning as they move through the school. Engaging displays around the school reinforce and celebrate learning. As a result, pupils value and enjoy RE. They develop a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of other world religions and worldviews.

Wargrave Church of England Primary school is a centre of hope for its pupils, staff and community. Driven with passion by the new leadership team, the school's reinvigorated Christian vision is harnessing effective school development. This leads to a tangible and exciting sense of aspiration and promise that energises the whole community.

The inspection findings indicate that Wargrave Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	27 February 2024	URN	104787
VA/VC/Academy	VC	Pupils on roll	428
Diocese	Liverpool		
MAT/Federation			
Headteacher	Amanda Epstein		
Chair	Cheryl Cain		
Inspector	Rachel Jones	No.	C.23/24