

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Wenlock Church of England Academy	
Address	Beaconsfield Road, Luton, LU2 0RW
School vision	
<p>With God's love in our hearts, we are eager to reach our goals and stretch our limitless imaginations to build our futures and create aspiring leaders. Everyone is welcomed and respected for their unique contributions as we flourish and grow. Our Christian values help us to keep safe, go above and beyond to build the foundations that shape our school.</p> <p>'With God's love we are lights for the world'. Matthew 5 14-16</p>	
School strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christian vision of Wenlock Academy is inspiring and lived out by the school community. Every adult and pupil is encouraged to 'shine their light' in any way they can.</li> <li>• The Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust (the trust) provides effective support, enhancing the school's Christian foundation and rapid, transformational journey of improvement. The school's vision aligns seamlessly with that of the trust's 'to enable all to flourish, rooted in God's love'.</li> <li>• Leaders make bold decisions, based on the vision, leading to improvements that make a real difference. By changing lives and attitudes through an ethos of aspiration and self-belief, pupils flourish and grow.</li> <li>• Collective worship is well planned and organised, incorporating the school's values and vision. The 'shine ambassadors' make a significant impact on worship, thus contributing to spiritual flourishing.</li> <li>• The mutually beneficial partnership with the clergy and local church is thriving and brings the community closer together.</li> </ul>	
Areas for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the robustness of leaders' monitoring of the vision. This is to extend the way it enables all to flourish.</li> <li>• Develop the school's shared understanding of spirituality. This is to enable pupils and adults to talk about spirituality in all areas of the curriculum.</li> <li>• Embed the recently developed religious education (RE) curriculum and assessment systems. This is to strengthen pupils' knowledge of religions and worldviews, as well as enable teachers to gauge pupils' progress more effectively.</li> </ul>	
Inspection findings	
<p>There is an expectation that every member of the school community at Wenlock Academy will shine and succeed. In line with the vision, aspirations are high, enabling all to flourish. The school is on an upward trajectory after implementing a series of initiatives leading to significant improvements.</p>	

Guided by the vision and associated values, school leaders have led a period of substantial review and development of practice. Honest and reflective self-evaluation ensures that the uncompromising focus is on identifying and addressing areas of development expeditiously. For instance, a new reflective behaviour policy and curriculum have led to improved behaviour and better engagement by pupils. This is enabling them to thrive and build foundations for the future. The school benefits from support from the trust, including strategic direction, shared resources, collaboration with other schools and training. Their own vision resonates with that of the school's, while still preserving Wenlock's uniqueness. Staff work tirelessly in order to improve the life chances of every pupil. Leaders' monitoring of the vision is at an early stage.

The vision is reflected in the refreshed, reinvigorated curriculum that offers challenge and creativity. This encourages every pupil to shine and reach their goals. There are many varied learning opportunities to engage and stimulate pupils, so they flourish in their learning. Great care is taken to support and nurture those who may be vulnerable, ensuring that they, too, can thrive. Parents strongly value this support. Studying motivating figures inspires hope and ambition. Cultural events, inviting visiting authors and musicians, all enrich the curriculum further. A wide range of sports and music clubs, trips and residential are offered. These enable the school to fulfil the vision of 'going above and beyond' to enable pupils to flourish and grow. Opportunities for awe and wonder are factored into the planning. However, the impact of this is not always captured because there is not a clear, shared understanding of spirituality.

Daily collective worship is central to the Christian vision. As a focal point in the day, it is a highly valued aspect of school life, contributing to spiritual flourishing. Pupils and adults appreciate the time for calm and reflection. They consider how to apply the vision and values to their own lives, often motivated by Bible stories. For instance, pupils give numerous examples of how they show the school value of courage. These include facing up to difficult tasks in class or singing in the school choir in front of an audience. Performing at Wembley Arena is described as, 'the bravest thing I have ever done', by one pupil. Links with St Anne's and St Mary's churches are strong and mutually beneficial. Clergy play an important role in worship, as well as contributing to RE. Valued visitors such as the Open the Book team allow pupils to experience a range of worship styles. The shine ambassadors, older pupils who act as worship leaders, have a positive impact on worship. They contribute enthusiastically with prayers, readings and lighting the Trinity candle. This is an outworking of the vision that the school should create aspiring leaders.

Wenlock's vision to build futures is evident in the way pupils and adults are valued and treated with respect. Good mental health and wellbeing of the school community have high importance and are strongly promoted. The values of compassion, respect and forgiveness are actively promoted at the school. As a result, pupils encourage one another to be lights of the world. One pupil stated, 'I shine by being friendly and by helping people a lot'. All staff, whatever their role, speak of how the community helps their wellbeing. They particularly appreciate the way senior leaders support them in their professional development and allow for flexible working conditions. Team-building exercises, 'wellbeing baskets' and congratulations cards from the trust, all boost staff moral. Pastoral care at the school is of a high quality. There is strong outreach to families through supportive and approachable staff. These include a family worker and a play therapist. The Lighthouse, an on-site facility, provides valuable support for pupils at Wenlock and other schools, in managing emotions and regulating behaviour.

In line with the vision to respect pupils' unique contributions, the school provides many openings for pupils. Undertaking leadership roles allow them to be agents for good, resulting in raised awareness of justice and responsibility. One example is the way the school engages with the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award. Pupils are aware that their choices and attitudes can make a positive change. For example, the school council leads the school in deciding which charities to support and how

funds will be raised. The Luton Food Bank, the Shoe Box appeal and Comic Relief all benefit from fundraising at the school. The eco club is very active in promoting recycling and energy efficiency, thus highlighting the importance of sustainability. Evidence of their work is visible in care of the outdoor surroundings, where the allotment has been cleared and gardening takes place.

Leaders ensure that RE has a high profile at the school. It has a clear impact on the lives of pupils and their personal spirituality. This is seen in the natural way they discuss faith and the effect that religion has on people's lives. Recent changes ensure that all pupils have their own RE books to record their work. These show progression and are a source of pride. A revised curriculum has been implemented, combining two high quality resources. Early indications are that this is effective and pupils enjoy the challenge that this new programme of study brings. The RE programme is enriched by taking part in the Three Faiths Tour in Queen's Park, Bedford. Visitors from different faiths share their expertise to the benefit of all. Effective links with the diocese mean that training is bespoke to Wenlock Academy. This is helping staff to build a strong subject knowledge. Therefore, teaching is good, enabling pupils to flourish in RE. Monitoring activities, including workbook scrutiny, pupil voice and learning walks, are beginning to show the impact on pupils' learning. 'Big questions' stimulate thinking and discussion within lessons. For instance, 'Why is water used as a symbol in Christianity?' prompts meaningful and thoughtful responses. The new assessment procedures are at an early stage of development.

The inspection findings indicate that Wenlock Church of England Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	5 February 2024	URN	149542
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	353
Diocese	St Albans		
MAT/Federation	Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Olivia Burke		
Chair	Simon Salem		
Inspector	Jenny Earp	No.	288