



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Winwick Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Myddleton Lane
Winwick
Warrington
WA2 8LQ

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Liverpool

Local authority: Warrington

Dates of inspection: 15 June 2016

Date of last inspection: July 2011

School's unique reference number: 111365

Acting Headteacher: Zoe Jones

Inspector's name and number: Gail Fullbrook 530

School context

The school is a smaller than average sized primary school in the centre of the village of Winwick. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups, those with English as a second language and pupils eligible for pupil premium funding are all well below national averages. The substantive headteacher is on long term absence and the acting headteacher, formerly the deputy headteacher, is currently leading the school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Winwick school as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The Christian vision and drive of the acting headteacher, effectively supported by senior leaders, staff and governors, inspires all aspects of school life. It has a significant impact on the well-being and good achievement of the children.
- Inspiring and inclusive collective worship is central to the life of the school and effectively supports personal and spiritual development.
- Christian values are deeply embedded and make a significant contribution to the ways in which all members of the school community care for and support each other.

Areas to improve

- Develop procedures to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a church school that will support its future development.
- Review the school's approach to teaching about other faiths to widen the children's knowledge and understanding of the ways in which faith has impact on the lives of believers.

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

Winwick school is a highly caring and distinctively Christian school where children make good progress and achieve well. A shared understanding amongst all members of the school family of their mission statement, 'Learning, Loving, Living in the family of God,' underpins the school's success. The attention given to all aspects of school life, no matter how small and seemingly insignificant, ensures that barriers to learning and emotional well-being, are quickly addressed. Children work hard and show resilience in their attitudes to learning. One child summed up his commitment to working hard, saying that, 'Jesus wants us to be the best we can be.' Christian values are deeply embedded into the life of the school. Through exciting and challenging Religious Education (RE) lessons and thoughtful worship children are encouraged to apply their understanding of Christian values to situations in everyday life. Children readily make links between their behaviour, the stories of Jesus and the school's core Christian values. On rare occasions when behaviour becomes an issue, children talk of being encouraged to reflect on what God would want them to do. A child commented, 'Just like the prodigal son, we are always forgiven.' The school's approach to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development informs the broad and well-designed curriculum. The children's spiritual development is given priority and they are encouraged to make a personal response to issues of importance within many lessons. Displays around the school encourage children to reflect and respond. For example, a display poses the question, 'What would Jesus do?' and asks children to post their thoughts. A deeply held understanding of Christian giving is lived out in the children's enthusiasm to raise funds for causes important to them. It can also be seen in the support given by staff to families going through difficult times. Relationships are strong and effective and the sense of the school as a Christian community is important to parents and visitors. Children develop a good understanding of the diversity of the church and of Christianity through links with a school in Sierra Leone. Funds have been raised to build a new school there and in recognition of importance of the link between the two schools, Winwick school was awarded the Josephine Butler Award in 2016.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is deeply spiritual and is seen by worship leaders as being the foundation of how members of the school community interact with each other through the day. It begins with quiet music to help the children, 'to prepare their hearts to meet Jesus'. Worship is carefully planned and is led by a wide range of people including children, teachers and visitors from local Christian groups. Children find worship inspiring and thought provoking and share stories of worship that has, in some way, changed them. A child shared her wonder at the enormity of Jesus' love for Jairus, and in turn his love for her. Another reflected on the ways in which Jesus is the light in our world. Singing is an important part of worship and one child mentioned the way in which singing makes her feel uplifted. Worship is biblically based and children use a variety of traditional Anglican greetings and prayers. Themes are supported by the use of image and music, and links are made with Christian values. Time is given for reflection, both within worship and in lessons, and children and staff readily share their thoughts and responses. Prayer is integral to the life of the school. Candles are lit within worship to mark prayers spoken by individual children. Personal prayers are placed on the school prayer tree, in a prayer diary and around classroom reflection areas. Through regular times set aside where reciprocal prayer is offered by Winwick school and the Bread of Life school in Sierra Leone, the children's sense of serving each other for the benefit of all is nurtured. When asked about opportunities to pray, a child responded simply, 'We pray whenever we need to.' The children are familiar with the cycle of the church year and understand the teaching behind key festivals. Key Stage 2 classes take it in turns to attend the weekly parish Eucharist. Frequent references within worship to God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit contribute to the children's developing understanding of the Trinity. Children lead the evaluation of worship each half term and their responses are thoughtfully discussed by worship leaders and are used to inform future plans.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Children enjoy RE and standards are in line with national expectations for the vast majority. Thorough assessment procedures ensure that progress is good and that support is effectively targeted when appropriate. Children learn about Jesus from eye-witness accounts and enjoy identifying stories where Jesus changes people's lives for the better. They have a growing understanding of the importance of the ways in which Jesus asks his followers to live. Year 3 children respond sympathetically to dilemmas such as that of the rich young man when told to give his riches away. In a Year 1 class children learn about Paul's conversion. Children reflect on times when they too have had light bulb moments that led to changes in their lives. Christian values are an integral part of teaching in RE where understanding is deepened as children reflect on the stories they hear. Spiritual development is nurtured through the use of sensitive questioning and frequent opportunities are given for children to think things out for themselves. RE is well led and a range of strategies is in place to support its development. Learning walks, conversations with children and teachers, and the sampling workbooks, support the accuracy of judgements and provide direction for future staff development. Teaching is good and children develop a number of skills such as reflection and enquiry which support their learning. A wide range of teaching styles are used including drama, art and discussion. The majority of lessons focus on teaching about Christianity and the ways in which the Christian faith impacts on the lives of believers. The children's knowledge and understanding of other faiths is less secure.

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

The Christian vision of this vibrant church school informs all aspects of its life. There is a strong and widely held belief that the responsibility of educating and nurturing children is about prioritising SMSC development and well-being. In recognising the uniqueness of each child in the eyes of God, the school acknowledges that children learn best when worries and concerns are addressed. Staff know the children well. Supportive governors are involved in the life of the school and visit regularly. Through links with classes and the receipt of reports from the RE and worship coordinators, they are well informed about the ways in which the school promotes its Christian foundation. Since the last inspection they have overseen the key appointments of a deputy headteacher and RE coordinator who have further strengthened the Christian vision of the school. Focus points for development identified at inspection in 2011 have been addressed. Senior leaders and governors ensure that a wide range of people are invited to express their views about the distinctiveness of the school as a church school. The school does not follow any formal procedures for reviewing its distinctiveness. As a consequence, governors and school leaders are not always clear about the ways in which they can further enhance the Christian character of the school. The school recognises the importance of professional development and staff are encouraged to engage with Diocesan training and advice. The school enjoys effective and supportive links with St Oswald's church, Liverpool Diocese and with local Christian communities. The positive contributions children make to the life of the local community through events such as the harvest festival and carol singing, enhance their moral and social development. Children understand the importance of giving to others as a demonstration of Christian charity. Parents enjoy good partnerships with the school and recognise that their children gain from its Christian foundation and the close link with the church of St Oswald's.