



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### Wilson's Endowed Church of England (aided) Primary School Over Kellet

School Lane  
Over Kellet, Carnforth  
LA6 1BN

#### Diocese: Blackburn

Local authority: Lancashire

Dates of inspection: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

Date of last inspection: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2009

School's unique reference number: 119614

Headteacher: Mrs Jo Williams

Inspector's name and number: Mr Paul Adnitt 590

#### School context

Wilson's Endowed School is a very popular school which has had an increasing number on roll over the last decade and has currently 101 pupils. The socio-economic make up of the school is mixed. Over 60% of pupils come from outside the immediate catchment area. All pupils have English as their first language and the school is 100% white British. The school has a lower than average number of pupils with special educational needs.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Wilson's Endowed as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The school focuses on Christian values. The distinctive Christian ethos permeates all aspects of school life and has an outstanding impact on pupils' personal development
- Relationships are based on Christian love and care for each individual and are outstanding. The quality of relationships with parents and the parish provides a positive Christian impact in the wider community.
- The headteacher provides outstanding Christian leadership. She ensures that the school's Christian character constantly strives to make a difference to the pupils' academic achievement and spiritual development.
- Planning and evaluation of the Christian distinctiveness of the school by leaders and governors is extremely effective. It is based on accurate monitoring and feedback gathered from across the school community. All stakeholders feel that they have a valuable part to play in the life of this Christian school.
- Daily worship is excellent and vibrant and is central to the life of the school. This quality worship makes a significant impact on pupils' spiritual development.

#### Areas to improve

- Involve more pupils in planning and leading worship in order to deepen their spiritual awareness and understanding of worship and prayer.

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

The school's Christian character nourishes, encourages and challenges the spiritual and cultural development of the whole community. Distinctively Christian values are made explicit and are deeply embedded in the daily life of the school. The staff and governors demonstrate these core gospel values by example in the daily life of the school evidenced by the excellent quality of relationships between all members of the school community. This exemplification of core values, together with the emphasis on caring for others, makes an exceptional contribution to the pupils' social and moral development. All pupils feel safe and special and have positive attitudes to their learning, and they know they are valued and loved by staff. The pupils are proud of their school and speak confidently about why it is special to them. They know the importance of the school's Christian values and explain their significance in their lives and the life of the school. One pupil commented, 'The school brings us all together as a Christian community and links us to God through living our Christian values'. The distinctive Christian character of the school has a positive impact on the academic standards and progress achieved by the end of Key Stage 2 and on the pupils' excellent personal and social development. Older pupils are excellent role models for their younger peers. From an early age pupils learn how to value each other and their surroundings. Christian values clearly contribute to pupils' behaviour which is excellent. Interactive worship and religious education (RE) displays, both in classrooms and central areas, engage pupils and promote prayer, reflection and spirituality. They are a constant reminder that the school is a place where the Christian faith is nurtured. Outstanding outdoor facilities, with features such as the stone circle, are used imaginatively to stimulate spiritual development. The school's links with a school in Zimbabwe ensure pupils have a growing understanding and awareness of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Outstanding collective worship is at the heart of school life and all staff and pupils participate with enthusiasm. It is inspirational and inclusive and of the highest standard. The daily act of worship enhances the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith including their awareness of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pupils are confident when discussing their faith and demonstrate significant levels of spiritual maturity. Opportunities for reflection and prayer enhance pupils' spiritual awareness. Worship is a valuable experience for everyone in the school family and makes a positive impact on their spiritual development. The outstanding and impressive community worship witnessed on inspection day involved, and had a clear impact on, a wide range of participants from the wider school community. A worship table with a cross, candle and a Bible provides a clear and positive focus. Christian values are strongly promoted in worship and are clearly understood by the pupils. They enjoy worship and speak enthusiastically about the value of worship in their lives. A member of the school council commented, 'It's a time to talk to God, a time for reflection. We can ask God to strengthen us.' Pupils show respect and enjoy leading worship. A worship committee, made up of older volunteer pupils, is responsible for the day to day running of school worship and planning acts of worship. They also provide constructive feedback and support, reporting regularly to the governing body. The worship committee value these opportunities and speak with pride about their part in the worship life of the school. Such opportunities are not as yet as openly available to the wider school population. Worship also enables pupils to recognise their responsibilities towards others and to reflect on community and personal values. A wide range of leaders offer pupils a rich and varied experience of worship. The vicar in particular, who visits the school daily, is well liked and respected by all the school community. The pupils value his contribution to the life of the school. 'He helps us understand aspects of worship. He has a lot of stories about faith today', remarked one pupil. The vicar conducts worship regularly both in church and school. The major festivals are celebrated in church and governors and parents are very supportive. Monitoring, planning and evaluating are

outstanding and include contributions from pupils, staff and governors to inform future school worship.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding**

Religious education (RE) lies at the very heart of the school curriculum. The teaching of RE is outstanding and has a significant impact on pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development. The governors have adopted the Blackburn diocesan syllabus for RE which reflects the national framework. Planning of RE is excellent. By frequently monitoring lessons, scrutinizing plans and pupils' work and talking to learners the RE co-ordinator is able to ensure the continued high achievement of pupils in the subject and identify areas for continuing professional development. Lessons observed showed excellent subject knowledge, interactive learning, independent learning, excellent use of ICT and challenging activities. Attainment and progress are high and progress is rapid in developing an understanding of Christianity and other beliefs. Pupils enjoy RE and demonstrate a clear understanding of what it means to be a Christian. One pupil remarked, 'Christians know that Jesus went on the cross and took away all our sins and then came back to life so he could finish his work. He sent the Holy Spirit so that his disciples could tell everyone about Jesus.' Pupils demonstrate clearly the impact of RE on their lives and the life of the school. Outstanding teaching ensures that pupils are able to demonstrate a high level of spiritual maturity and knowledge. Older pupils apply their learning to possible scenarios in their own lives. They are actively encouraged and supported in this reflection. The pupils are keen to discuss their feelings and experiences in RE, and this, together with the high standard of teaching, has a positive impact on pupils' spiritual, moral and social development. RE promotes cultural identity and understanding of diversity through well planned lessons on major world faiths and by regular visits of other faith leaders to school. St Cuthbert's church is used well and creatively for teaching and learning activities, clearly evidenced by the class portfolios and memory books filled with photos and examples of pupils' work.

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

Leadership and management are both of excellent quality and strongly promote the school's Christian character and ethos. The headteacher is a dedicated Christian leader who takes all possible opportunities to promote Wilson's Endowed as a vibrant church school. Through accurate church school self-evaluation she is able to evaluate effectively the impact of the school's Christian values on pupils' achievements and well-being. Leadership of the school is positive and is rooted in strong and effective Christian values. Governors have a strong commitment to the school's Christian foundation. The leadership of the school ensures that the school's Christian values and ethos are at the forefront of all new initiatives. It also ensures that appropriate support, encouragement and challenge are given to the RE and worship co-ordinator. Continuing professional development of all staff and governors is a high priority within the school and is contributing to the high standards of RE teaching witnessed. All members of the school family make a clear and highly effective contribution to church school self-evaluation. Evaluation is used effectively to clarify the present position of Wilson's Endowed as a distinctive and caring church school and drives the continuing development of the school's distinctive Christian character. The governors are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities and make a valuable contribution to school leadership and Christian vision. The successful school council, and the very effective worship committee, play an important role in involving all pupils in the life of the school. Parents feel that the school listens to their views and that problems are dealt with quickly and sensitively. They know that their opinions are valued. The school's outstanding links with the church and the community ensure that the school is at the heart of the community. The focus for development from the previous report has been addressed thoroughly ensuring that the opportunities for silent reflection and private prayer in worship and at other times within the school day have improved substantially.

Wilson's Endowed is a school where children are developed in their learning and faith and where the whole school community 'Listens, learns and shares with God!'

SIAMS report May 2014 Wilson's Endowed CE aided Primary, Over Kellet LA6 IBN