

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

<b>Wilden All Saints Church of England Primary School</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Wilden Lane, Wilden, Stourport-on-Severn DY13 9LP		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	23/05/2019	<b>Status of school</b>	Academy inspected as Voluntary Controlled
<b>Diocese</b>	Worcester	<b>URN</b>	144800

<b>Overall Judgement</b>	<b>How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>Additional Judgements</b>	<b>The impact of collective worship</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Good</b>

### School context

Wilden All Saints is a primary school with 211 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below national averages. The school became a member of the Severn Academies Education Trust in 2017. The headteacher has been in post for five years.

### The school's Christian vision

We believe children of Wilden will leave with an excitement for learning; with confidence in their own abilities and with an open mindedness to embrace life's challenges, so they can achieve their dreams.

Proverbs 18:15

Isaiah 41:13

Philippians 4:13

### Key findings

- The school's cohesive and deeply embedded Christian vision is integral to all aspects of its life and work. It profoundly and positively influences decision making, policies and practice at all levels.
- The exceptionally strong leadership of the headteacher has created a vibrant Christian learning community in which every member flourishes. Dedicated staff and highly skilled governors share the Christian vision which inspires and directs all aspects of school improvement.
- The support given to all stakeholders in times of difficulty is clearly rooted in the Christian vision. Pupils clearly understand that forgiveness and reconciliation have an impact on their daily lives.
- Inspirational and challenging religious education (RE) enables all pupils to engage with the big questions of life with confidence and integrity.
- The school has developed exceptional partnerships with other schools and has an impact on non church schools within the academy through sharing of good practice. This helps to strengthen links and enrich the lives of pupils across the academy.

### Areas for development

- Further develop the system for assessment and monitoring of religious education to ensure standards remain high and children are challenged.
- Continue to develop governor monitoring to ensure ongoing improvement of the school as a distinctive and effective church school.

## **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**

The school has a deeply embedded Christian vision, with a well-defined biblical basis effectively underpinning it. This vision shapes its Christian and inclusive service to all pupils, staff and the wider community extremely well. Its longstanding vision is always at the forefront of the school's robust improvement planning. The headteacher, senior leadership team and governing body work proficiently to ensure that the school's vision is successfully woven into and drives forward developments. For example, it enables innovative choices about the curriculum to be made, guides decisions about financial matters and inspires choices for on-going staff training and professional development.

The Christian vision and values of love, passion, perseverance, stewardship, empathy and compassion underpin all practices and policies of the school, resulting in a broad and rich curriculum which enables all to flourish. A pupil explained: 'Empathy is one of our school values because God sent Jesus to live on earth as a human so he could understand humankind better.' Parents comment on the love and compassion shown to their children and themselves and talk about specific instances where the headteacher and staff had 'gone above and beyond' for their children.

Governors are passionate about the work of the school and are involved in monitoring the effectiveness of the school as a church school. They have acknowledged that a more systematic approach is needed to ensure progressive improvement. Governors speak of how the vision has helped them make decisions regarding finance and staffing. Firmly embedded partnerships exist with all the academy schools, including non church schools, and the school often influences decisions made by the academy trust. The school is generous at sharing its expertise and some members of staff are 'trust improvement leaders' working across all schools in the academy. A link with a local primary school has helped develop a love of the performing arts, built friendships and encouraged all pupils to flourish within the wider community.

The parish priest provides excellent support to all stakeholders. Children talk enthusiastically about Rev Carey's lunchtime club which enables children to ask questions, reflect and receive support. An example given was how a child was very concerned about a family member. Through talking and listening, the child came to understand that whatever happened God was always with them. The school hosts 'Messy Church' and participates in family worship such as Harvest, Remembrance Day and Christmas. A particular strength is 'Thomas Jones Day' when the whole school remembers a benefactor of the school by laying flower posies and singing around his grave. These exemplify the school's excellent relationships with the parish church, clergy and local community. Links with other churches in the area are also strong. Staff and governors invest in diocesan training which helps develop future Church school leaders.

Pupils achieve well at Wilden. High quality teaching is targeted well to meet the learning needs of all pupils. The carefully mapped school curriculum, deeply rooted in the distinctive Christian vision and values, allows pupils to achieve the best academic outcomes. Pupils are excited by the highly creative curriculum which is continually enhanced by outdoor learning, educational visits and the provision of a variety of after school clubs. Academic progress is above national average in all key stages with disadvantaged children in line or above national averages. Vulnerable pupils, and those with special educational needs are well supported. As a result of the school's Christian vision staff are unwavering in their commitment to transforming every pupil regardless of their ability or background. The 'Lego Therapy' intervention is used to build up individual pupils' self-esteem and social skills. Participation by the school in the Junior Prince's Award has developed confidence and resilience as well as leadership and teamwork across the whole school. The school has thought carefully about what spirituality means for them and uses this shared understanding to plan highly effective experiences across the curriculum. The 'Magic Moments' floor books clearly demonstrate that pupils acknowledge, grow and flourish in their appreciation of spiritual experiences.

The school encourages all pupils to reflect on 'Big Questions' and make positive choices in their own lives. The link, through an ex staff member and local church, for Kosele, a school and orphanage in Kenya has led pupils to have a sympathetic understanding of inequality. As a direct result of 'Ground Force', a school outdoor project caring for the school grounds, pupils expressed a desire to clean up the environment wider than their school

community demonstrating the value of stewardship. A grant was obtained by a governor to create Wilden Warrior buckets which will involve families borrowing them to pick up and dispose of any litter.

The Christian vision, and associated values underpin relationships at all levels. Staff remark that the school is like a big family where everyone cares and supports each other. One member of staff stated that the Christian values of the school have had an impact on their personal life and allowed them to explore their own spirituality even though they have no faith. The headteacher is highly regarded by all stakeholders and staff wellbeing is fully supported by her. The personal notes she sends are appreciated by all and reflect the care she bestows on all. A caring, Christian culture ensures all are treated with dignity and respect, resulting in everyone feeling valued. Pupils are happy, hardworking and safe. As a result, behaviour is exemplary and attendance above national average. The parish priest provides support for the health and wellbeing of all stakeholders. Parents particularly appreciate the support given to the whole community during difficult times. Governors are very aware of the need to ensure the head also receives support for her mental health and wellbeing. Consequently, adults within the school flourish because they are supported emotionally as well as professionally.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. It is distinctively Christian and uses a combination of traditional and modern Christian practices as well as incorporating ideas from pupils. Elements of Anglican worship are embedded, such as responses, appropriately coloured cloths, reflection, singing and prayer, enabling pupils to appreciate different aspects of Christian worship. The Year 6 'Retreat Day' led by members of the parish church is a deeply spiritual and highly memorable experience for all pupils. Pupils remark that the church is 'our church' which is used for curriculum activities as well as religious services. Wilden's unique start to the school year is a traditional Clypping Service, a hugging of the church which connects the school to the physical church building. All pupils, staff, governors and church members are invited to take part which marks the beginning of a fresh start for all. The worship committee is involved in planning and delivering worship and, along with governors and staff, regularly evaluates its quality and impact. As a result, worship is constantly being improved and refined to meet the needs of the school.

Pupils are inspired and enthused by RE. The RE curriculum is well-planned and challenges pupils to explore their own beliefs and to deepen their understanding of the impact religion has on others. Children from Wilden participated in an academy activity day exploring the link between science and faith. This allowed pupils to debate issues important to them, listen to other opinions and develop their own. The RE lead is enthusiastic, knowledgeable and attends diocesan training. The innovative 'Diverse City' week deepened pupils' knowledge of different religions and cultures thus increasing their understanding of diversity and difference. Assessment of RE is monitored but acknowledged by the school is the need to develop this further to ensure standards remain high. RE very much expresses the school's Christian vision of enabling pupils to ponder the big questions, learn about the life of Jesus, debate and make decisions as to how they want to live their lives now and in the future.

The understanding by all stakeholders that the school's Christian vision and values are lived out daily makes a truly transformational difference to the lives of pupils and adults.

Headteacher	Francesca Fishwick
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