



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Windsor Park Church of England (VC) Middle School

Springfield Road
Uttoxeter
ST14 7JX

Previous SIAMS grade: Satisfactory

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Lichfield

Local authority: Staffordshire

Date of inspection: 9 July 2015

Date of last inspection: 14 July 2010

School's unique reference number: 124451

Headteacher: Phil Slack

Inspector's name and number: Huw D Bishop NS344

School context

Windsor Park Middle School has 374 pupils on roll. Most of them live in and around Uttoxeter and almost all pupils are of White British heritage with a very small number from minority ethnic backgrounds. The number of pupils with special educational needs is above average although those entitled to free school meals is below average. The school has almost twice the national average of Looked After Children, most of whom are from Staffordshire although some are from neighbouring local authorities. When last inspected by Ofsted in March 2015, the school was judged to be good overall, with many outstanding features.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Windsor Park Middle School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The clear vision and leadership of the headteacher, modelling Christian values and inclusive practice for pupils, colleagues and parents which are proclaimed and lived out in the school's daily life.
- A distinctive Christian ethos which is now embedding well in all aspects of school life.
- The significant partnership with the parish church and the vicar's commitment in particular, which nurtures a clear focus for Christian and Anglican identity in school.
- The impact of strong religious education which permeates through the learning experience for pupils and enables their outstanding spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Areas to improve

- Develop the formal evaluation of collective worship, to inform future planning.
- Enhance the contribution collective worship makes to pupils' personal spirituality

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

Windsor Park Middle School has been on a significant educational and spiritual journey and all members of the school community now recognise and promote its distinctive Christian character. A new Mission Statement, formed in consultation with pupils, parents, staff and governors highlights that the “school is a place of endeavour, teamwork, friendship and laughter”. The school is also a place ‘*where faith can be talked about openly*’, as was the view of the vicar of the parish. Pupils spoken to on the day of the inspection agreed with her. Pupils are indeed happy, safe and valued and identified how Christian values impact strongly on the quality of relationships within school. Pupils care well for each other. Students start their school journey with standards found nationally and leave with standards at above the national averages. This is attributed to the school’s strong nurturing and inclusive Christian character which develops God given talents through every learning opportunity. Pupils say that ‘*the school is awesome; teachers are very supportive and help us to learn for life*’. Pupils’ behaviour is outstanding and characterised by Christian care, tolerance and mutual respect. Pupils also say that religious education makes a big contribution to the school’s Christian character. They learn a lot about Christianity and other faiths and enjoy the opportunities to express and evaluate ideas and feelings. The school succeeds in its aim of developing in all pupils a belief in their unique worth, a full awareness of the Christian faith in practice and the moral and spiritual aspects of life in society. The latter permeates every subject in the school curriculum so that every learning experience proclaims Christian belief and values. The school environment enhances the distinctive Christian character with many relevant displays and artefacts focussing on its Christian ethos. The centrality of the cross in classrooms and corridors is a reminder of the school’s Christian distinctiveness as all pupils pass through to classrooms. Pupils enjoy and value worship and say that the impact of the themes helps them to think beyond the school to life and issues affecting the world. Worship, which is often taken by the students, promotes an understanding and respect for the cultural diversity within modern Britain. Adults within the school are positive role models and the strong relationships across the school reflect its clear Christian practice.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is a very important part of school life focussing primarily on Christianity and the teachings of Jesus. A ‘Pupil Worship Team’ encourages pupils to lead and provide innovative ideas for worship. All members of the school community value and engage in worship which happens daily. Pupils show respect that the occasion is special, listen carefully to the worship leader, readings from the Bible and participate fully in affirmations of faith, particularly those highlighting the doctrine of the Trinity. They know and use the Lord’s Prayer in worship. The Vicar of St Mary’s Church leads worship in school weekly. She is also a key figure in supporting the wellbeing and pastoral care of staff as well as pupils. The school celebrates Christian festivals with services at St Mary’s Church as well as termly Eucharist services and Year 8 pupils mark the end of their learning journey at the school with a service in church. Pupils contribute to these services in a number of ways through reading, drama, music, reflection and a sharing of the ‘Peace’. An increasing number of pupils have undertaken the ‘Communion before Confirmation’ course and some have gone on and chosen to be confirmed. Prayer is central at the school and pupils are encouraged to write and ‘post a prayer’ which are then incorporated into the school’s daily prayers. A prayer board in the corridor provides an opportunity for pupils to express their own needs and issues. Themes explored during collective worship are wide ranging, reflect the school’s Christian values and are integrated into lessons and the school’s daily life. The programme is a three year cycle and based on Christian festivals as well as key festivals from other religions. It allows for a range of worship experiences incorporating Saints’ days, World Peace Day, Holocaust Day and Remembrance Day, whilst remaining flexible enough to include current events. This supports students’ moral, social and cultural understanding as well as their personal and spiritual development. However, more can be done in the evaluation of collective worship to inspire a higher level of personal spiritual reflection

and its importance as part of pupils' own spiritual journeys.

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

The Christian vision, values and distinctiveness at Windsor Park Middle School are communicated effectively both within school and in the wider community. It is clear to the visitor that this is a Church of England school – the visual evidence is strong, but more important is the way it is communicated at various levels and the quality of active relationships that permeate the school. The headteacher, with the strong support from the leadership team and governors, provides calm, inspirational and transformational leadership. This is firmly grounded in Christian principles and on the basic premise in the school's Mission Statement that *"our shared Christian values and ambitions unite us; it is the genuine quality of our relationships with each other and with Jesus that really matter; we care deeply about the children's wellbeing, their happiness and fulfilment"*. A foundation governor described the headteacher's leadership as *'building up trust and modelling it'*. Parents, too, appreciate all that the school does, claiming that its Christian distinctiveness is now strong, valued and proclaimed within the community. As a result, standards of achievement are improving and the personal needs of all pupils are being met exceptionally well. Parents say that *'the support our children get is fantastic'*. The curriculum is well thought out to meet the needs of all pupils and is underpinned by a strong spiritual, moral, social and cultural element. Religious education is regarded as a core subject and the strong practice which is evident is mirrored in other curriculum areas, as well as the collective worship programme. The RE department made a contribution to the National Society's 'Making a Difference'; a review of RE in Church of England Schools. It also works in close partnership with the diocese of Lichfield. Governors, alongside the school's leaders, monitor the school's Christian ethos and the role all staff play to support it. Foundation governors attend worship in school regularly. Links with St Mary's Church are very strong and proactive. This is an excellent example of church and church school serving each other in a rich and valued ministry and in mission to the local community. Together, the school's leaders and the governing body have a clear understanding of the future developmental needs of Windsor Park as a Church school, with professional development opportunities and succession planning identified clearly to enrich the school's continued growth in the local area and nurture its distinctiveness as a Church of England school.

SIAMS report July 2015 Windsor Park Middle School Uttoxeter ST14 7JX