

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

### St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy

#### Vision

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Philippians 4:13

At St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy we want our children to be rooted in strong faith and academic foundations to thrive and succeed, knowing that Jesus is with them, every step of their journey. We have the highest expectations and aspirations for our children, knowing that together, we can achieve anything through Christ. St. Wilfrid's is a place where children can grow in strength, to be unique and flourish in the presence of God. Our School Christian Values are threaded through our school, our decision making and everything that we do. Love is at the heart of our Christian Values and all members of our school community aim to 'live out' our Christian Values in our actions and choices.

St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

#### Notable Strengths

- The cherished vision of 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' underpins daily life at St Wilfrid's and is deeply rooted in Christian belief. The way in which it is lived out in daily practice enables individuals to blossom and flourish.
- Leaders' commitment to ensuring that everyone can experience success, creates a highly inclusive, nurturing ethos where pupils, regardless of their needs, are warmly accepted and valued. This creates a strong sense of belonging within the school community, and individual's needs are met exceptionally well.
- Collective worship and prayer are central to the life of the school and are deeply valued by pupils and adults. Moments of stillness and reflection nurture spiritual growth and provide opportunities for personal contemplation. This enables adults and pupils to flourish spiritually.
- Leaders' commitment to the vision and supporting Christian values results in exceptional support for staff. Consequently, they feel deeply valued and thrive professionally and personally.
- Leaders conscientiously ensure that pupils understand the diverse nature of the world that they live in. Thoughtfully planned curriculum opportunities broaden pupils' horizons and teach them to value diversity and to respect difference. This results in confident pupils who are well prepared for life in modern society.

#### Development Points

- Enhance pupils' understanding of non-religious worldviews so that they can understand and make informed comparisons between a range of different perspectives.



## Inspection Findings

### Vision and Leadership

Leaders are aspirational for St Wilfrid's to be the best church school it can be. As a result, the distinctive practice enables adults and pupils to flourish. This is a happy, united school community, where the deeply embedded Christian vision is lived out in an exemplary manner. Consequently, pupils and adults know they are treasured. Stronger together, they strive to be the very best version of themselves, secure in the knowledge that they can 'do all things through Christ who strengthens them'. A strong sense of moral purpose motivates those leading and governing the school. The Learning Together Trust vision of 'With God, all things are possible' fully supports the drive to achieve success for all God's children. Leaders are committed to overcoming any challenges preventing pupils from learning and thriving. This is evident in all aspects of school life. Resources across the trust are thoughtfully allocated to staffing and projects that directly address pupils' needs. Inspired by the vision, leaders believe that with the right support, all things are possible. Consequently, pupils thrive academically, personally and spiritually. They know that the vision supports them when they are struggling because they know that Christ is with them, helping them.

### Vision and Curriculum

Leaders ensure that a carefully crafted curriculum offers a range of rich experiences to broaden pupils' horizons. Staff have high expectations, with an emphasis on developing core knowledge and skills for learning, developing pupils' confidence and resilience. This builds a strong foundation across the curriculum, with pupils motivated by self-belief as a result of the vision. Staff support them to 'reach their God given potential'. This enables them to excel and flourish academically, socially and spiritually. A consistent, strategic school wide approach to spiritual development across the curriculum encourages reflection from four perspectives: self, others, the world and God. A wide range of high-quality enrichment activities within school and across the trust, contribute to pupils' gradually deepening understanding of the world. Pupils seize the many opportunities offered to them in and beyond lessons. This contributes significantly to their flourishing. Provision for pupils with special educational needs / disabilities (SEND) is strong. Tailored support, sensitive adaptations and appropriate resources enable pupils to access learning and flourish. This inclusive approach demonstrates leaders' commitment to ensuring pupils, including those with SEND, are valued, supported and able to thrive.

### Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is deeply valued, bringing a sense of 'communal joy' and togetherness to the worshipping life of the school. It has significant impact upon pupils, giving them a strong moral sense of what is right and how to live their lives. Daily prayer is an anchor for the school. Staff speak of the transformational rhythm of knowing that they are praying alongside other schools within the trust. This supports their spiritual flourishing. Worship is inclusive with staff sensitively supporting pupils, including those with SEND, to actively participate. A rich source of thoughtfully planned opportunities to be still, reflect and to develop spiritually is a key element to worship. Pupils say that worship enables them to grow closer to God. Staff speak of how they have 'flourished in faith' alongside the pupils. Pupils and staff understand that 'Love connects everything together.' As a result, they develop a strong sense of self in relation to the world and beyond. This understanding deepens as pupils move up the school. Worship is enriched by the strong, mutually beneficial partnership with the church community. Families are warmly welcomed to services led by year groups throughout the year. This enhances collective worship and results in pupils' personal growth as they gain the skills and confidence to contribute to worship in school and church.

### Vision and School Culture

The school vision and supporting Christian values underpin exceptional support for pupils and staff, with the wellbeing of each individual nurtured with compassion and understanding. This enables them to flourish personally and spiritually. Opportunities to engage in national qualifications and school-based training fosters



staff aspiration and expertise. Leaders, including directors and governors, provide time and resources to ensure adults grow professionally and build careers. Consequently, they feel appreciated and respected. This results in excellent relationships and high staff morale. Pupils and adults are nurtured within a culture that encourages them to view challenges as opportunities. Good mental health is actively promoted across the trust. Pupil wellbeing is prioritised alongside academic progress, ensuring a focus on holistic growth. A strong partnership with the church provides reciprocal support in many aspects of school and parish life. This enriches the school community and is deeply valued.

#### Vision, Justice and Responsibility

A commitment to teaching pupils about equality, diversity, inclusion and justice is driven by the vision and supporting Christian values. Across the curriculum, thoughtfully planned opportunities to appreciate diversity and equality are regularly provided. These enable pupils to address stereotypes and broaden their understanding of the world. This equips them for life as they value their own uniqueness, while respecting the beliefs and opinions of others. Embodying the school's vision and values, they are passionate advocates of fairness, equality and the celebration of difference. They are not afraid to stand up to injustice and to condemn discrimination saying that 'everyone deserves love and respect'. Consequently, they act as agents of change within the life of the school. For example, Year 2 staff and pupils teach other year groups sign language. Pupils flourish by taking advantage of the many leadership opportunities offered to them. They appreciate that staff pay genuine attention to their voice and understand that they can make a difference. One example is how the pupil leadership team initiated a sustainability station to reduce single-use plastics across the school. Pupils enjoy opportunities to see younger pupils grow in confidence and accomplish things with their help. Through these roles, they develop maturity and self-assurance. They become articulate, and thoughtful individuals who express their own views and listen attentively to the perspectives of others.

#### Religious Education

Religious education (RE) is led by a team who are passionate about its importance as a core subject in a Church school. Effective leadership has established a high quality, challenging curriculum, in which prior knowledge is built upon sequentially. This ensures that pupils, regardless of their age, benefit from a rich RE provision. The curriculum offers pupils opportunities to consider a breadth of diverse cultures and faiths. This enriches their understanding and helps them to respect other peoples' beliefs. Pupils recognise that 'understanding others' religions can stop conflicts'. They also understand that some people do not have religious beliefs and they respect this. However, they do not demonstrate a knowledge of a range of worldviews. This limits their understanding of the way that a range of people see, interpret and inhabit the world.

Effective partnerships within the trust and the diocese ensure that high-quality training supports teachers' strong subject knowledge. This enables staff to teach effectively, positively impacting outcomes for pupils. Pupils enjoy RE and speak about it confidently. They recall previous learning in detail. As a result, they make progress, have well developed language to speak about religions and a sound understanding of beliefs and practices. Even the youngest pupils are encouraged to ask big questions and think deeply. They recognise that sometimes there are no right answers. Knowing that they can think meaningfully about subjects supports them to think more deeply and better understand the concepts they discuss.

## Information

Address	Rectory Lane, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0XB		
Date	03 March 2026	URN	139883
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	582
Diocese	Blackburn		
MAT	Learning Together Trust		
MAT Chair	Jillian Hyde-Baron		
Headteacher	Kate Newman (Interim)		
Substantive Executive Headteacher	Stuart Colothan		
Chair of Governors	Kathryn Ashton		
Inspector	Susan Sullivan		