



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

### **St Wilfrid's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Valley Drive  
Branton  
Doncaster  
DN3 3NB

#### **Diocese: Sheffield**

Local authority: Doncaster

Date of inspection: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013

Date of last inspection: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008

School's unique reference number: 106767

Headteacher: Miss Celia Oates

Inspector's name and number: Mrs C A Roberts 469

### **School context**

St Wilfrid's is a slightly smaller than average primary school, serving the parish of St Wilfrid which includes the villages of Cantley and Branton on the outskirts of Doncaster. Approximately one third of pupils come from outside this area. Pupils are mainly of White British origin. There is a lower than average proportion of pupils with a statement of special educational need, and on school action or school action plus. Pupil premium funding is also lower than average. The parish church of St Wilfrid's is approximately two miles away. The headteacher and deputy headteacher have been in post since January 2013.

### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Wilfrid's Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding**

St Wilfrid's school has a strong Christian character based on a clear Mission Statement and aims. All adults are keen to articulate how important the Christian character is in motivating and nurturing the whole school community. Leaders and governors have an open and honest style of leadership, where children come first. Consequently, children achieve very well personally, spiritually and academically. The strong and mutually supportive links with the church and the support of the school Chaplain further enhance the school as a church school.

### **Established strengths**

- The exemplary relationships based on love and care across the whole school community.
- Strong leadership, committed to maintaining and developing the Christian character of the school for the benefit of pupils, families and the community.
- The dedication of all adults in supporting children to gain their very best both personally and academically underpinned by Gospel values.

### **Focus for development**

- Link Gospel messages to explicit Christian values and highlight in policies, displays and worship themes.
- Ensure children have opportunity to plan and lead worship on a regular basis.
- Link schemes of work for religious education (RE) to Levels of Attainment (Targets 1 and 2) and use for assessment and target setting.
- Ensure monitoring of RE includes observations of teaching and learning, linked to the school monitoring time table.

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

St Wilfrid's Primary school is an extremely welcoming community, where adults and children alike are proud to live out Gospel values. The school is inclusive of all faiths and beliefs, where God and faith issues are talked about openly and reflectively. Children have an exceptional knowledge of the Bible and are keen to discuss spiritual ideas. This has an excellent impact on behaviour and relationships, which are exemplary. For example one boy states, 'Sharing reminds me of the kindness of Jesus' and another pupil 'Forgiveness means we come back as friends (after a fall out)'. Achievement is also exemplary for all groups in school. Despite Gospel messages being the bedrock of the school, leaders now need to link these to explicit Christian values and highlight them in policy documents, displays and worship themes. Children have many opportunities for spiritual development, not only through worship but also through the curriculum and the many visits they take part in. The school would however benefit from discussion about a shared understanding of spirituality and also to provide areas around school for interactive reflection. Children have great respect for all faiths and say 'They like religious education (RE) as they can find out about different cultures and faiths'. They also enjoy 'different visits to places of worship'. They also engage in many opportunities to fund raise and support those less fortunate than themselves such as the Samaritan's Purse project. Consequently their understanding of diverse communities is very good.

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

Everyone at St Wilfrid's school understands that worship is a crucial part of the school day and provides a special time to reflect, pray and praise God. Children are very clear why worship is so important to them and their school and state, 'We can talk to God and get help with our problems' and 'Worship makes me feel complete'. Worship offers variety in terms of leaders and children particularly

enjoy visits from Father John and others. They really enjoy taking part in worship through role play and prayer, however do not plan and lead worship at the moment. Themes are well planned, allowing for spiritual development, although would benefit from being linked to explicit Christian values. Worship has an outstanding impact on the school community, because it is uplifting, provides variety and engages. A real strength of the worship programme is the very regular masses and also input into worship from the Jubilate group. This group of Year 5 and 6 children have great status in school and many younger children aspire to join. Children have a very clear understanding of how Jesus' teachings and Biblical accounts can support them in life. For example, one child states about the account of the Five Loaves and Two Fish, 'Sharing your food will make you have a better life, Jesus makes for a better life'. Another child goes onto state about the account of the Blind Man, 'We can learn even if we hate people, we can respect people and learn to like each other'. Anglican traditions such as understanding of symbols, liturgical colours and blessings are well developed. Consequently, the impact on children's understanding of the Trinity and other theological concepts is excellent. For example children state, 'The Father sent his Son, the Son died and he left the Spirit', 'God's Son and the Holy Spirit are going to watch over you' and 'It's special to give you a blessing, it means different things to everyone'. Some monitoring of worship takes place and leaders are looking to formalise this to include pupil voice.

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

RE has high status in school and most children value it. Schemes of work are well planned, and fulfil the National Society Statement of Entitlement for the amount of curriculum time spent on Christianity. However, they do not currently give explicit guidance on Levels of Attainment Target 1 (learning about religion) and Target 2 (learning from religion). Themes are interesting, thought provoking and enable children to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. For example, Reception children take part in an awe and wonder walk to look at God's wonderful world, whilst Year 5 children explore why the mosque is an important place for Muslims. Children engage in a variety of quality learning activities such as group work to discuss why washing before prayer is important to Muslims, as well as taking part in Easter prayer journeys. Children are very articulate about their learning in RE, although would benefit from having clear targets set based on both levels of attainment. Teaching is consistently good in RE and all staff regularly assess children, consequently they make good progress and achieve well. Monitoring of RE is undertaken by a dedicated governor in consultation with the RE co-ordinator and is reflective and supportive. This now needs greater rigour to include observations by senior leaders and linked to the school monitoring time table.

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

The headteacher has a clear Christian vision for St Wilfrid's school and this is based on Gospel values. The school mission statement is based on Christian values and this is reviewed annually by staff and governors. Although children understand how important the teachings of Jesus are to the daily life of the school they would now benefit from involvement in the review of the mission statement. All adults are clear how important the mission statement is to the school and it is shared through a variety of ways, such as the school website, prospectus and written communications to parents. The constant articulation of vision and mission of the school ensures that Gospel teachings are integral to all that the school does. This has an outstanding impact on achievement and personal development. Governors are extremely hard working and dedicated and state 'We are here for the children' and 'Our vision comes from the Gospel'. They engage in formal and informal monitoring of the school as a church school and this enables them to effectively challenge leaders when necessary. The school development plan is robust, and links to specific church school aspects, particularly for RE. Links with the local parish of St Wilfrid's are strong, for example children visit at least three times a year mainly for services, the retired priest is now Chaplain at the school and runs bi-annual confirmation classes with a good number of children being confirmed. There are also regular updates to the Parochial Church Council. The school enjoys good relationships with parents who are very supportive of the school as a church school. They say the strengths of the school are 'Its morals, the ethos and family feel' and 'Christian values are lived out in their daily life'. The school has a strong impact on the local community through many initiatives such as the summer fayre, Jubilate sing at the local residential home, and Christmas carols at the community hall. Partnerships are formed through children's visits to Walsingham and through fundraising activities for global communities.

SIAMS report May 2013 St.Wilfrid's CE VA Primary, Branton DN3 3NB

