

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

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Canon Sharples C of E Primary School and Nursery</b> | Whalley<br>Wigan<br>WN2 1BP |
| <b>Current SIAMS inspection grade</b>                   | <b>Outstanding</b>          |
| <b>Diocese</b>  | <b>Liverpool</b>            |
| Previous SIAMS inspection grade:                        | <b>N/A</b>                  |
| Local authority   | Wigan                       |
| Name of multi-academy trust/ federation                 | Learning Together Trust     |
| Date of inspection                                      | 10 November 2016            |
| Date of last inspection                                 | N/A                         |
| School's unique reference number                        | 3592005                     |
| Headteacher   | Jennifer Woodcock           |
| Inspector's name and number                             | Jean Forward 625            |

### School context

Canon Sharples C of E Primary School and Nursery became an academy in July 2015 as a partner school with St. Wilfrid's C of E Primary School in the *Learning Together Trust*. This is under the joint sponsorship of the dioceses of Blackburn and Liverpool. The headteacher took up her appointment in September 2015.

The percentage of pupils known to be eligible for pupil premium funding is well above the national average. The number of pupils identified as having additional needs is also above the national average. The school's deprivation indicator has increased with more children coming from hard-pressed families. Most pupils are White British. However, some families are from a non-Christian faith background. At the end of Year 6 in 2016, pupils reached the government floor standard for progress.

### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Canon Sharples Primary School and Nursery as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The outstanding Christian leadership of the headteacher and executive headteacher and their vision for the development of the school ensure that the school's Christian ethos is at the heart of daily life.
- The school is extremely successful in creating a loving, caring and inclusive environment rooted in Christian values. This has a direct influence on pupils' well-being, progress and enjoyment in learning.
- The children's behaviour, care for each other and positive attitudes to learning are rooted in the school's core Christian values.
- The governing body provides outstanding support and challenge through commitment and expertise. This results in strong Christian leadership and strategic self-evaluation of church school distinctiveness.

### Areas to improve

- Further develop the whole school tracking system for assessment in Religious Education (RE). This will ensure that pupils' attainment and progress are consistently and accurately reviewed.
- Extend the evaluation of collective worship to provide more frequent information about its effect on all members of the school family. This will support continuous improvement.

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

A strong commitment to its Christian ethos and the development of the whole child underpins the school's work. Pupils talk confidently about the importance of the school's core Christian values in their daily life. Year group focus values are discussed across the curriculum. A pupil said, 'When we discuss characters in a novel we talk about how they show our values.' Positive relationships across the school community are rooted in a Christ-centred approach and are a key element in the school's success. The school's emphasis on social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) development is excellent. It is rooted in the Christian ethos and a focus on nurturing every individual and on supporting families. Consequently, pupils demonstrate increasingly high levels of self-esteem and awareness of others. All members of the community know they are valued and the ethos of Christian trust and respect is clearly evident. Pupils are extremely courteous, friendly and confident. They enjoy being members of the school council and being involved in the playground buddy system. They understand that these opportunities are an example of Christian service in the school community. Pupils are able to share concerns with their teachers knowing that these will be addressed in a caring way. A pupil said, 'Our teachers are very kind and they always help us.' Parents comment that their children are happy and enthusiastic about learning and school life. They say that their children develop positive attitudes and talk about Christian values at home. Parents ascribe the support they receive to the distinctive Christian ethos. The school has a strong commitment to Christian stewardship, supporting a range of charities including Christian Aid and Wigan and Leigh Hospice. Pupils speak confidently of the importance of showing generosity and compassion to those in need and understand that this is directly linked to the teaching of Jesus. Quality displays and Christian signs and symbols emphasise the school's distinctiveness and prompt the pupils' spiritual awareness extremely well. Pupils value the classroom reflection areas and are able to explain their importance as a spiritual resource and aid to prayer. The school's strong commitment to widening pupils' knowledge of non-Christian faiths contributes well to cultural knowledge and to positive attitudes. Pupils' attendance is in line with the national expectation. The school's Christian care for and commitment to every child secure these positive outcomes.

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

The act of collective worship is central to the life of the school. It is vibrant and inspires pupils and staff. Planning incorporates themes based on the school's core Christian values, the Bible and major Christian festivals. As a result, pupils are constantly reminded of the ways in which they can lead a life rooted in Jesus. The school places Christ at the centre of all it does and collective worship enables pupils of all ages to understand how the teaching of Jesus guides Christians. One pupil said, 'We learn about Jesus and God and we reflect'. The pupils enjoy worship and engage well with questions which explore values and beliefs. They value times of silence and reflection which are an important part of the school's approach to prayer. Pupils become familiar with Anglican practice through the use of traditional prayers, responses and a clear framework for worship. The termly celebration of the Eucharist is experienced by the whole school. Pupils in Year 6 have the opportunity to be prepared for confirmation and many of them demonstrate their commitment to the life of faith by taking this important step. Pupils understand that worship plays a key part in the life of faith which the school and St. Stephen's and St. John the Baptist churches foster. The parish priest plays an important part in the weekly pattern of worship. He is involved in leading worship and in every stage of the planning and evaluation process. The school worships in the parish churches for major festivals. Parents support these occasions and enjoy being included in the wider worshipping community. The pupils contribute to special acts of worship through prayers, reading, music and drama. As yet, they do not plan and lead worship independently but training with Worship Warriors is about to take place. Pupils have a good understanding of and are able to explain God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The school has systems in place for staff to monitor and evaluate worship. This results in positive developments which extend pupils' experience of the variety of worship.

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

The school has a strong commitment to developing all aspects of teaching and learning in RE. Teaching is consistently good with some outstanding practice in Early Years and Key Stage 1. Standards are comparable to those in other subjects and reflect the good progress children make from starting points. Teachers are well-supported and the school has a wide range of resources to enhance teaching and learning. Lessons are planned to meet the needs of all learners, using a range of activities which engage pupils and develop essential skills. Pupils are challenged to consider, investigate and reflect. They experience art, drama and extended writing activities. The subject is taught in a creative way with a strong emphasis on developing Christian values. There is a clear balance between learning about religion and opportunities for pupils to think about what their learning means to them. Pupils are enthusiastic and say that they enjoy their learning. Evidence of prior learning and thinking skills was demonstrated in a Year 6 lesson about Advent. All pupils respond confidently when asked to express their opinions and when answering challenging questions. This was particularly evident in a Year 2 lesson about angels as God's messengers. The collaborative discussion and the sharing of ideas and opinions make a strong contribution to pupils' spiritual and moral development. A pupil commented, 'I like to learn about Jesus in RE'. Visitors and parent experts make an excellent contribution to pupils' knowledge and understanding of non-Christian faiths. The well-informed and committed subject leader monitors through observations, book scrutiny and cross-checking of standards. This ensures increasingly high expectations in teaching and learning. Activities with staff at St. Wilfrid's and with other church schools in the diocesan cluster provide an excellent opportunity to work co-operatively and extend expertise. The school's assessment activities and recording of attainment and progress have been established in Early Years and Key Stage 1. However, systems have yet to be fully developed across Key Stage 2. In some year groups, marking guides pupils and invites them to answer questions and do their best.

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

The headteacher and executive headteacher have a clear and strong vision for the school based on Christian principles and values. They take every opportunity to promote the school's distinctive Christian character which guides the school community and enables everyone to do their best. Staff and governors are committed to fostering all aspects of pupils' development and well-being through Christian care and love. In doing so, they recognise the importance of creating a Christian ethos which supports effective learning and the promotion of equal opportunities. The headteacher attributes pupils' successful learning and personal development to the Christ-centred qualities of the school. The school knows its pupils and their families extremely well and meets individual needs through a culture of Christian nurturing and support. The appointment of a learning mentor, pastoral support teaching assistant and counsellor demonstrates the outstanding commitment of the governing body to meet the personal and emotional needs of every child. Parents recognise the distinctive Christian qualities of the school and speak highly of the respect with which they and their children are treated. Governors have a clear understanding of their strategic role and provide a high level of challenge. Action plans for RE and worship are included in the school's development planning and are discussed by the governing body. This ensures that aspects of church school distinctiveness are of the highest priority. The school's Christian ethos is a thread which draws together every aspect of leadership and management within the school and the trust. The school is outward looking and works with other church schools and those in the local consortium on matters of school improvement. These initiatives strengthen the school's resolve to provide the very best education for its pupils. Opportunities are provided for all staff to develop their expertise and to further their careers. A strong partnership with the diocese through discussion and training has resulted in the highly effective development of all aspects of church school distinctiveness.