



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### Wentworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School

Churchfield Lane  
Wentworth  
Rotherham  
S62 7TX

**Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding**

**Current inspection grade: Outstanding**

**Diocese: Sheffield**

Local authority: Rotherham

Dates of inspection: 9 February 2015

Date of last inspection: 30 November 2009

School's unique reference number: 106929

Headteacher: Sally Armstrong

Inspector's name and number: David Horner (648)

#### School context

Wentworth C of E (C) Junior & Infant School is a smaller than average size school and is situated in a rural village on the outskirts of Rotherham. The school is oversubscribed and has 127 pupils on roll. The number of pupils entitled to free school meals and the number on the Special Needs Register are both well below national average. The great majority of the pupils are of white British heritage. The headteacher has been in post for approximately 18 months. The school is immediately adjacent to its church which is currently without a vicar.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Wentworth School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Leadership has a very clear vision for the school, based firmly upon Christian values which are apparent throughout school in displays. This produces excellent relationships at all levels.
- The schools strong Christian values impact directly on learners' behaviour, personal development and achievement.
- A very strong emphasis on developing the whole child based on deep Christian values underpins everything in school.

#### Areas to improve

- Develop the involvement of learners in collective worship to include evaluating worship.
- Develop the role of the governing body in challenging the school leadership in a supportive way.

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

Distinctly Christian values, known as the 'Sunshine Values' are promoted consistently, effectively and explicitly throughout the school and are deeply embedded in daily life. These values include trust, respect and thoughtfulness and they are seen in eye-catching and interactive displays across the whole school. The impact of these values is clearly evident in the excellent behaviour, personal development and achievement of the learners. Learners make clear links between the school values and their learning. The school focuses consistently on the development of the whole child in a very caring atmosphere. Diverse needs are well catered for, particularly through the use of new interactive technology, especially in the school hall. Pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural and social development is carefully nurtured by all staff and reflects the school's Christian character and 'sunshine values'. Learners are given time for reflection through the use of dedicated areas in each classroom and reflection tepees. These are very well used and are highly effective in the development of learners' personal spirituality. Behaviour is excellent and is built firmly upon the school's Christian values. Learners make clear connections between the 'Sunshine Values' and their behaviour. An example of this is their positive strategies for dealing with conflict. Learners see Religious Education as exciting and it is an integral part of the school curriculum. It also contributes significantly to learners' understanding of other faiths and cultures, for example they can speak with respect and understanding about the Five Pillars of Islam. Very positive relationships are evident between all stakeholders. Parents describe the school as 'a family' where 'everyone looks after each other'. Charitable giving has a high priority with over £5000 being raised during the past year. This increases the learners' appreciation of the needs of those less fortunate than themselves.

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

Collective worship is distinctly Christian in nature and is a strength of the school. It is very well planned and thoughtfully structured to reflect the schools 'sunshine values' and place them in a Biblical context. Learners engage enthusiastically with collective worship, it allows time for calmness and reflection but learners also enjoy singing and are given regular opportunities to participate and increasingly to plan and lead collective worship, although they are not yet involved its evaluation. All teaching staff are involved in collective worship and it is distinctively Anglican, with a clear focus on helping learners develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and the concept of the Holy Trinity. The interactive technology in the hall is used to great advantage to encourage participation and reflection. An increasing number of visitors are invited to lead worship which increases the range of experiences offered to learners. Reflection books in the classroom and the recently formed 'Values Group' clearly show how worship impacts on learners and inspires them, demonstrating how they can apply what they learn to their everyday actions. The impact of collective worship is also seen in the positive behaviour of the children and their reaction to events. Prayer is a central part of the school day and contributes with great effect to the learners' spiritual development. Learners know set prayers, they talk with confidence about the Bible and can explain its influence on their thinking. Learners are able to confidently discuss prayer and why it is important to them. The Church is used for worship, particularly for festival celebrations when the wider school community including parents and governors are all involved.

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

School leaders, in particular the headteacher, lead through example and have a very clear vision of Christian education based upon the development of the whole child which is rooted in distinctively Christian values. This is articulated by all leaders and is evident throughout the school. Christian values are embedded into learning opportunities across the whole school. This ensures that pupils become reflective and resilient learners and is apparent in the high standards shown by the school's current attainment data. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural

development is delivered through a broad, creative curriculum which makes clear cross-curricular links but successfully ties everything together through strong Christian values. There is highly effective strategic leadership, initiatives are monitored and their impact evaluated carefully and collaboratively. A strong emphasis on professional development for all staff stems from the headteacher's very inclusive style of leadership which promotes strong teamwork and empowers all staff. Strong partnerships exist with other agencies including the Wath Learning Community and the local Diocese, where school leaders regularly attend training. These links ensure that best practice is shared and self-evaluation is accurate. A strong and mutually supportive relationship exists with the Church, despite the fact that there is currently no vicar. Governors are very supportive of school and are currently reviewing their composition, which should lead to them taking a more challenging role which questions the school leadership more effectively. Leadership of Collective Worship and Religious Education has a very high priority and leads to highly effective practice in these areas. Parents speak very highly of the school and appreciate its distinctly Christian nature. The school meets the statutory requirements for collective worship.

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