



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### Wreay Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Wreay Carlisle

CA4 0RL

**Previous inspection grade:** Outstanding

**Current inspection grade:** **Outstanding**

**Diocese:** **Carlisle**

Local authority: Cumbria

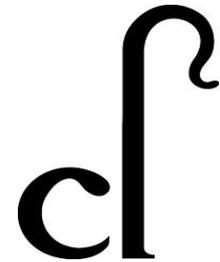
Date of inspection: 15 October 2015

Date of last inspection: 8 March 2011

School's unique reference number: 112260

Headteacher: Claire Render

Inspector's name and number: Ruth Wall NS 548



Diocese of Carlisle  
Growing Disciples

#### School context

Wreay Church of England Primary School is a small rural school with 116 pupils on roll. The majority come from the Carlisle area. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is below average. The number of pupils with special educational needs is above average. The proportion of pupils who join the school at times other than the start or end of an academic year is high. The chair of governors was appointed in September 2014.

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

- Senior leaders, governors and staff provide an inclusive education based on Christian values.
- The headteacher's dedication and focussed leadership has secured a stable and highly motivated staff team whose purpose is the well-being and development of the pupils in their care.
- Christian values underpin the excellent relationships within the whole school community.
- Spiritual development is outstanding as a result of the opportunities provided for reflection during Religious Education (RE), collective worship and the wider curriculum.

#### Areas to improve

- Provide opportunities for learners to visit a range of places so that they understand and make links between the beliefs and practices of faiths, other than Christianity.
- Ensure that the curriculum, including collective worship, provides more experience of Christian diversity to extend and enrich pupils' understanding and appreciation of different expressions of Christianity.

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

The mission statement reflects the impact of the school's Christian ethos: 'Every child is a unique gift from God'. Pupils' personal development is outstanding because the school's Christian vision emphasises that all children are valued and nurtured. The school regularly welcomes children with significant needs into its family. A parent commented, 'The values of care and inclusivity are an integral part of everyday school life'. In this secure and affirming environment children's behaviour is excellent. Data shows that pupils make above expected levels of progress across school. The school's Christian character contributes strongly to this by providing an ethos, based on respect and trust, in which pupils are enthusiastic learners and feel supported and able to move on when difficulties occur. Displays and Christian signs and symbols emphasise the school's distinctiveness and challenge pupils to think deeply about Christian values. They link their care for others to the way Jesus healed people. Working with an artist, the whole school have been involved in designing a painting which symbolises the importance of Christian values in their journey through life. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent as a result of a wide variety of focussed activities. For example, the global learning project enables children to think critically about social justice. They consider ways in which they can demonstrate responsibility locally and globally, with the result that they put their Christian values into practice. Pupils are excited and challenged by their RE lessons. They show knowledge about and respect for diverse cultures and beliefs. However, their understanding is not enriched by visits to their places of worship. Through the Kenyan topic, children learnt about Christian diversity across the globe. This was brought to life for them through a teacher's travel blog as she experienced it first-hand.

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

Collective worship is a joyful and participatory experience for all members of the school family. It is well planned and firmly based on Christian values and Bible teaching. The 'Bible Curriculum' resource is highly successful in enabling children to develop their skills and confidence in planning and leading worship. They explain, 'We choose prayers, songs and crafts which help us to remember the message'. Children's reflections help each other to make improvements. The weekly whole-school worship in church is a celebration enjoyed by the whole school community. Written feedback from parents is testament to their appreciation: 'It allows us to share special moments with the children' and, 'Everyone is made to feel welcome'. Children have experience of traditional Anglican practice, but have limited experience of different styles of Christian worship. Worship times in the tree house are a particular favourite. As children make a connection with the natural world, they appreciate the awe and wonder of God's creation. Children have an excellent knowledge of the life and person of Jesus and a developing understanding of the nature of God. One boy commented, 'The Holy Spirit can help people to have faith when it's difficult'. Children appreciate the vicar's regular input. One child said, 'He teaches us a lot and explains things'. The school benefits from a music specialist whose skills and enthusiasm inspire the love of making music together which enhances the worship experience. Children know formal prayers and understand the value of personal prayer. In Year 2, children collectively suggested words for a thankyou song to God. They put their ideas into a thankyou card which inspired one boy to make his own later in the day. Children responded with obvious sensitivity to the time of silence and reflection without being directed by the teacher.

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

The school is exceptionally well led by leaders who have a personal faith and commitment to the pursuit of excellence. Christian values permeate all aspects of school life, including management and governance. The headteacher is highly thought of for her outstanding leadership skills, dedication and level of care. Teachers say, 'She is inspirational and aspirational'. Through partnerships with the University of Cumbria, the diocese and the Rural

Learning Alliance, the headteacher is involved in mentoring and, with the deputy headteacher, supporting other schools. The school is committed to the professional development of teachers which enhances the Christian character of the school. Staff are exceptionally well supported and morale is high. The headteacher said, 'They are ordinary people doing extraordinary things'. Governors support and challenge the work of the school through analysis of data and robust monitoring. They use their various and considerable skills to very good effect. Issues from the previous inspection have been fully addressed and the impact of the changes has been monitored effectively. RE and collective worship are exceptionally well led, with planning and evaluation contributing to future development. Diocesan and in-service training contribute to the Christian distinctiveness of the school. Leaders and governors recognise the importance of the school's Christian character in creating an ethos which supports effective learning. The school plays a pivotal role in the way St Mary's Church, school and community work together and important celebrations are shared events. Children enjoy their responsibilities, often taking the initiative in organising fund-raising events. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. They say that communication between school and home is excellent and that they are able to be actively involved in their children's education. The words of Jesus, displayed in all classrooms, sum up the school's ethos: 'Whatever you do, do it with kindness and with love'.

SIAMS report, October 2015, Wreay Primary School, Carlisle CA4 0RL