

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.