

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Westleigh Methodist Primary School

Vision

We are a loving, inclusive family, rooted in our Christian values and nurturing ethos. We provide a positive learning environment where all children can achieve their full potential. This is rooted in Matthew: 19-26. 'With God all things are possible.'

Westleigh Methodist Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- The theologically rooted Christian vision is highly relevant to the urban context and Methodist foundation of the school. Determined Christian leadership and engagement with formal partners ensure it is a living reality that enables pupils and adults to flourish.
- The Christian vision ensures high expectations and challenge underpin the curriculum. Pupils, including those who experience barriers to learning, become confident learners with high aspirations for the future.
- Collective worship is valued as a time to be together and reflect on the Christian vision and values. As a result, pupils gain a developing understanding of their own spirituality and beliefs.
- Relationships are characterized by nurture, kindness and respect. This impacts positively on pupils' behaviour and on their impressive understanding of difference and diversity.
- The teaching of religious education (RE) is strengthened by training and development from the Methodist Academies and School's Trust (MAST). The partnership with the Multi-Academy Trust enriches the RE curriculum. Consequently, pupils develop a sound understanding of Christianity and a range of world religions.

Development Point

- To enhance the depth of understanding of a range of non-religious worldviews. This will help to ensure the RE curriculum continues to be well balanced and diverse.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

This distinctly Methodist school is a haven of calm in the busy town in which it sits. Collaborative development of the Christian vision means it is shared and understood by pupils, staff and parents with clarity and pride. The biblical roots of the vision inspire aspiration and encouragement for those who face challenges or barriers to their learning. Pupils articulate the vision and routinely relate it to their own lives, knowing all things are possible. The vision of the trust and the mission of MAST align closely with the school's work providing a collaborative framework for school development. Proactive engagement with the trust and strong Christian leadership have a transformational impact on the ethos and culture of the school. The vision to transform lives clearly translates into the daily life of the school. The effectiveness of the Christian vision is robustly monitored by governors ensuring that it is central to Westleigh's strategic direction. Learning walks enhance curriculum development, while information gained from pupil voice activities lead to additional support at key transition points. As a result, pupils continue to flourish and learn.

Vision and Curriculum

The Christian vision and values are at the core of curriculum development. Planning, content and interactive teaching styles offer pupils the best chance of success. This encourages them to live life 'in all its fullness.' The school has developed an inspiring curriculum that not only supports pupils' spiritual development but also widens their horizons. Multiple enrichment activities enable pupils to develop through the arts, sport and music, thus viewing life through a broader lens. An understanding of spirituality grows as pupils care for nature by making bird feeders and planting flowers. Outdoor adventurous visits develop a secure understanding of an individual's place in the world, alongside resilience. Leaders are active in addressing barriers to learning. Pupils needing additional support, including those with special educational needs and /or disabilities (SEND), access a range of bespoke interventions. This enables them to embrace learning. For example, speech and language therapy gives pupils the skills and confidence to communicate and interact more confidently. Training about spirituality has secured a shared understanding of how it is developed through the curriculum. This is exemplified in the vibrant artwork displayed in school. It demonstrates creative ways pupils express themselves and their feelings, leading to a deepening sense of spirituality.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship is a daily exploration of the Christian vision and values. It is highly inclusive and clearly reflects the school's Methodist foundation. The sense of peace and togetherness pervading worship means it is valued. It is enjoyed by pupils and adults as a time of calm and stillness. Opportunities for reflection and joyful singing have an uplifting effect on individuals and on their spirituality. Child chaplains demonstrate growing confidence and spiritual leadership by leading the call to worship. They engage in spontaneous prayers that include asking for God's protection. Pupils share their prayers on a public prayer fence, which sustains the local community during times of difficulty. Partnership with nearby churches and MAST enhance worship development. Members of a local Methodist church bring Bible stories to life in school with the 'Open the Book' project. This helps pupils understand key messages and themes having a positive impact on kind behaviour and interactions through the school. 'Wiggle Worship' ensures pupils, including the very young, develop spiritually through the joy and wonder of singing and dance. Pupils enhance their appreciation of the impact of the Christian vision and values on their lives through shared online worship with the trust family of schools. Individuals gain a deep understanding of Christian festivals and enjoy celebrating special events when visiting local churches. This enriches their experience of worship.

Vision and School Culture

The Christian vision ensures people feel embraced into this inclusive, loving school community, described as a 'home from home'. A strong sense of family and nurture seeps through the life of the school. Staff work closely



as a team to promote and live out the vision and values. As a result, happy and harmonious relationships are enabled to develop across the school. This includes staff new to the school who immediately feel included and supported in their work. Families welcome the 'open-door policy' and value the strong communication between school and home. Westleigh's commitment to nurture and pastoral care means adults are comfortable approaching leaders for help in times of difficulty. This gives them hope and a sense of belonging. Coffee mornings for families provide a space to engage with family hubs and outside agencies, for example, mental health services. This contributes to a school culture where wellbeing and good mental health are central to its work. Sensory spaces and meditation sessions led by pupils offer opportunities to calm and self-regulate. This creates an environment that respects individuals and seeks the best for each one. Proactive engagement with a local charity enhances pupils' wellbeing and learning by addressing social, emotional and academic needs in school. This enables them to thrive in school life.

Religious Education

In partnership with the trust, leaders have developed a broad and balanced RE curriculum. Detailed RE plans ensure learning is sequenced, well balanced and diverse. Younger pupils learn about the Bible through creative activities. As they progress, they understand the different and various features of Christianity and world religions. For example, the Christian view of God with Hindu Gods. Professional development opportunities lead to continual development of the RE curriculum. Training from MAST inspires a deeper way of thinking being incorporated into teaching strategies. This prompts pupils to ask 'big questions'. For example, 'Do angels really take our prayers to heaven?' They enjoy being challenged in their thinking, often linking their responses to biblical knowledge. The use of Christian artwork supports pupils' understanding of the key beliefs of Christianity. Pupils have a secure knowledge of the key features of Methodism through a range of resources. Pupils have a broad knowledge of a range of world religions and bring their own experiences to enrich the curriculum. For example, they learn from their peers about features of Buddhism. This means they are able to identify and link key features of religions such as places of worship. Pupils have opportunities to consider a range of beliefs. However, the teaching of non-religious worldviews is limited.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The Christian vision gives pupils a sense of responsibility to 'do all we can' to improve the lives of others. This is exemplified in a range of roles across the school. School councillors promote environmental issues, such as writing to community partners with solutions to ease parking congestion. Pupils are fully involved in caring for their own school as litter pickers, while light leaders work to conserve electricity. They demonstrate care in their local community by distributing items, including toys, to families in need. Pupils are encouraged to challenge injustice without fear through the use of texts such as 'The Invisible'. Pupils learn why making good choices and being a good citizen matter. Their understanding about justice is deepened through a visit by a local magistrate. On another occasion, a project with the local police teaches pupils how anti-social behaviour affects their community. This positively motivates a school that displays exemplary behaviour and where pupils are respectful towards adults. Pupils show compassion for those in need further away. A link with the Edukid charity helps to give pupils an understanding of inequality in the world. Consequently, they raise money to provide water and education for young people in Uganda.

Information

Address	Westleigh Lane, Leigh, Lancashire, WN7 5NJ		
Date	19 January 2026	URN	140087
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	235
Methodist district	North West England		
MAT	Epworth Education Trust		
MAT Chair	Stuart Ellis		
Headteacher	Louise Boardman		
Chair of Governors	Shane Pilkington		
Inspector	Anne Barker		