



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### **The Bishop Wand Church of England School**

Laytons Lane

Sunbury on Thames

TW16 6LT

**Diocese: London**

Local authority: N/A

Dates of inspection: 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Date of last inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009

School's unique reference number: 138491

Headteacher: Daniel Aldridge

Inspector's name and number: Nick McKemey 280

### **School context**

Bishop Wand is a medium-sized secondary school with 1044 students on roll. Three-quarters of the students are from white British backgrounds with a growing minority from other ethnic groups, of which six percent of students speak English as a second language. The proportion of students with special educational needs and/or disabilities is broadly in line with national averages. Four out of five students are from Christian families of which nearly half have an Anglican background. The remainder is of other faiths or no faith. The school converted to academy status in 2012. The current headteacher took up post in September 2014.

### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of The Bishop Wand Church of England School as a Church of England school are outstanding**

- The Bishop Wand Church of England School has an ethos of inclusive Christian fellowship in which, every individual is valued and nurtured to realise their God-given potential.
- Collective worship is a powerful, transforming provision for the whole school community.
- Outstanding religious education (RE) is at the heart of the effectiveness of the school's distinctive Christian character.
- Outstanding governance, leadership and management are successfully fulfilling the mission to realise the 'God-given potential' of the students.
- The highly effective chaplaincy enables the students and staff to play a valuable Christian role in wider local and worldwide communities.

### **Areas to improve**

- To establish a clearly defined strategy for collective worship which is rooted in the school's mission statement and the core Christian values.

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

The Bishop Wand Church of England School comprehensively lives out the mission statement, 'Realising God Given Potential'. There is a strong ethos of inclusive Christian fellowship in which, whatever his or her denomination, faith or belief, every individual is fully valued. A parent describes the school as a 'nurturing environment'. As a result, attendance is excellent and attitudes to learning are highly positive. The curriculum, teaching and schemes of work have been carefully positioned to meet every individual's learning needs and potential. Because of this GCSE and A level AS and A2 results are significantly above the national average. In English and mathematics disadvantaged students are successfully closing the gap with others in achieving expected progress. The school's climate of trust, interdependence and respect is based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. This enables students to make excellent progress in spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. 'This school has had a massive impact on my child', commented another parent. The distinctive and highly effective Christian character of the school is driven by the powerful influences of both collective worship and religious studies (RS). At the heart of the school is an energetic and creative chaplaincy. The effect of which radiates throughout the school and into a wide range of parishes and Christian communities. The Bishop's Building is a much-used focal point for reflection and prayer by all members of the school and wider communities. Because of the effect of these core elements students develop outstanding knowledge and understanding of Christianity and respect for the beliefs and views of others. Students thus become well-rounded individuals with a profound concern for the wellbeing of others. The school's mission statement is a highly effective focal point for the life of the school. Consultative work is in progress, however, to redefine the Biblically rooted Christian values that most effectively support this.

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

Collective worship is a powerful transformational element in the life of the school. It has a fundamental influence on the quality of attitudes, behaviour, spirituality and moral development. 'It tells you the way to live', commented a girl in Year 7. Worship provides a focus on the mission statement so that it is successfully taken up by the whole school community. Through collective worship and complementary learning in RS, students develop outstanding knowledge and understanding of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the Holy Trinity and the Gospel in the context of the Anglican liturgical tradition. The outstanding effectiveness of worship is the result of the creative and comprehensive provision by the chaplaincy team. Students are active participants in the planning and conduct of a full and inclusive spectrum of worship activities. Extensive contributions are made by clergy, Bishop's interns and youth leaders. A rich blend of Church calendar, Biblical, Christian perspective and moral content is provided for all types of worship. Worship themes are linked not only with RS but also across the curriculum. Although the overarching context of worship is Anglican and Christian, worship is highly valued by students of all denominations, faiths and no faith. Christian values are embedded in the content of worship but the programme lacks a fully strategic clarity. This means that members of the school community can be uncertain which values are specific to the mission statement. The prayer life of the school has an outstanding impact. A parent noted, 'the school encourages creative ways with prayer'. In response to the regular and formal forms of prayer that they experience in worship students become especially mindful to pray for others and those in crisis or need. Collective worship enables students to develop a mature understanding of the different forms of collective and private prayer and their purposes.

### The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Outstanding religious studies (RS) stands at the heart of the school's distinctive Christian character. RS forms a highly effective partnership with the chaplaincy team and the broader curriculum. Virtually all students study RS to GCSE and it is a popular sixth form choice. Key Stage 3 students make excellent progress and start to engage in GCSE study in Year 9. RS GCSE results are significantly above the national average. RS A2 results are substantially above the national norm and AS results reflect strong performances across other subjects. This success is because the quality of teaching and learning in RS is outstanding. Teachers and students engage in productive dialogue, as in a Year 10 session on euthanasia, enabling reflection on complex ethical issues. Students greatly value and enjoy their learning. 'I'm not really a church person but I love RS', commented a boy in Year 10. Parents report that children freely discuss topics from RS 'at the dinner table'. The outstanding spiritual, moral and theological knowledge and understanding the students develop is the result of visionary subject leadership. There is an exemplary understanding of the purpose of religious education in a church school. Curriculum planning and schemes of study are sensitively structured to meet the needs of students. There is always critical evaluation in progress to further improve teaching, learning and curriculum content. As a result, the schemes of work develop excellent understanding of the Christian faith and the Anglican tradition. The exploration of the foundational beliefs and ideologies of major world religions in the context of the history and evolution of Christianity is highly effective. RS plays a vital role in creating an ethos of enquiry, understanding and respect, which students have for each other's traditions and beliefs. This enables students to develop spiritually and address difficult moral issues in their lives with wise judgement.

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

Outstanding leadership and management is successfully fulfilling the mission 'to realise the 'God-given potential' of the students. The academy trustees ensure that the Christian character of the school is maintained and enhanced. Strong support and challenge for the school headship and leadership by a highly experienced governing body is supported by assiduous monitoring and evaluation of the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the church school. The governors have a strong presence in the school community. All this results in high and improving standards of achievement and underpins the wellbeing and motivation of the whole school community. The school is led and managed as a church school by highly effective senior and middle leadership. They, with their teaching and staff colleagues consistently apply the mission statement to their expectations of, and relationships with, students. High levels of discipline and positive behaviour are maintained because students and staff share the same principles of forgiveness and restorative justice. Students, staff and parents all comment on the school's strong climate of interdependence and trust. The leadership provides preparation and inspiration for those contemplating further leadership in a church school. The highly effective leadership of the chaplaincy enables the students and staff school to play a valuable role in the wider local and worldwide Christian communities. The chaplaincy team is at the heart of the planning, content and development of worship. They also provide outstanding supportive pastoral provision. This was powerfully demonstrated when the community came together to come to terms with the illness and death of a Year 7 student. The Bishop Wand Church of England School is an outward looking institution with a strong ethos of charitable action. The outreach and collaborative work in the wider Christian community is extensive. There are strong and sustained relationships with the parish, local primary schools and community organisations.

SIAMS report March 2015 The Bishop Wand C of E School Sunbury on Thames TW16 6LT

