



## Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report



**Wrestlingworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Lower School  
Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Sandy SG19 2EU**

**Diocese of St Albans**

<b>LA:</b>	<b>Bedfordshire</b>
<b>SIAS Inspection:</b>	<b>09 September 2008</b>
<b>Previous S23 Inspection:</b>	<b>7-9 June 2004</b>
<b>URN:</b>	<b>109609</b>
<b>Headteacher:</b>	<b>Mrs Heather Curry</b>
<b>SIAS Inspector Name:</b>	<b>Ms Chris Westgarth</b>
<b>SIAS Inspector No:</b>	<b>44</b>

### **School Context**

Wrestlingworth Lower School is situated opposite the parish church of St Peter's. There are 46 on roll and the majority of pupils are white British. Pupils have a wide range of abilities including 15% of learners with special needs. All are very well supported by the school. Since 2005 the headteacher has led this school jointly with Dunton VC Lower School. In 2006 the school was accredited with the Healthy School Special Award for the work on the Reverence for Life garden.

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

Christian values underpin its work and the experiences provided for the pupils. Each child is viewed as being special and encouraged to grow in responsibility and respect, surrounded with love.

### **Established strengths**

- The school's care for all individuals which is underpinned by Christian values
- The positive, strong links with the church
- The reverence for life garden

### **Focus for development**

- Ensure that learners are involved in the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship
- Increase pupil involvement in worship, for example, through the arts
- Encourage staff to attend CW in order to emphasise the importance of this time in the school day

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

The school ethos statement takes the form of a mind map and is a result of extensive, inclusive consultation which clearly reflects the aims and goals of the school. There is an atmosphere and ethos of love, care and support regarding each person as an individual and therefore as unique. The behaviour of the children is good. Children are polite and welcoming. The children report that they feel safe and secure and as a result there are good levels of self-esteem. Learners flourish and fulfil their potential, whatever their gifts or talents; their academic achievement is high. Whatever their religious faith, learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent. The delightful grounds, the reverence for life garden, the school playing field and the covered area are obvious assets to the school. The whole school environment is clean, tidy and well cared for, thus reinforcing the Christian ethos of care and respect for the surroundings and the world we live in. Lunchtimes are calm and orderly with a good family atmosphere. Pupils are able to explain about saying sorry and forgiveness. The school has recently begun supporting a Ugandan charity, through the involvement of community, church and a supply teacher who visited the country. This uniting of village, church and school giving is admirable. Therefore charitable involvement is strong. Learners take a leading role in the planning of the Harvest Lunch and the Easter tea which is to be commended.

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.**

Most learners speak positively about assembly time, however no staff attended the worship observed. Worship is well planned. The headteacher is the coordinator and she monitors and informally evaluates the worship times. The development of effective strategies, with greater involvement from the Governing body, staff and learners, to monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship will enable the school to build on current good practices. The worship time is meaningful for most and the Collective worship plan is closely linked to the Diocesan themes. There are good levels of pupil participation, with learners reading Bible passages and praying a response. Learners are willing to answer questions and make suggestions. Most pupils enter and exit the hall quietly, although some became easily distracted and their attention was not held. Learners enjoy worshipping in church and by holding special Services, Easter, Christmas and leavers' Services. Pupils say worship helps them to understand the meaning of Christian values.

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

The Headteacher and Governors have a clear vision of the distinctive Christian Character of the school. All are valued and respected and there is a strong inclusive ethos. The clear leadership of the Headteacher and senior teacher provides an example of care and concern for all members of the school family. As a result of this leadership, learners follow this role model to promote excellent relationships, good attitudes to learning and a sense of responsibility, resulting in high standards of attainment. Learners benefit from a united staff team committed to academic and personal development. The supportive governing body work well with the headteacher to ensure that the school is moving in the right direction and the foundation governors play an effective role in monitoring and maintaining the Christian ethos of the school. Christian values in school are rightly given a high priority by the Headteacher, senior teacher, governors and church. The school has highly effective and supportive links with the local church community and plans are in place to ensure that this continues while the church is without an incumbent.