

Leigh Church of England Infant School Walmsley Road, Leigh WN7 1YE Diocese of Manchester Local Authority: Wigan Date of inspection: 7th March 2013 Date of last inspection: 2nd July 2008 Schools unique reference number: 106516 Headteacher: Mrs Tracey Gunn Inspector: Mrs Brenda McGregor Registration number 442	School context Leigh Church of England Infant School is a two form entry school, situated close to the town centre and the Parish Church. The school has an above average number of children on the free school meals register. The number of children on the special educational needs register is average. Most of the children are from white British backgrounds. The school is well established and is over subscribed.	The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Leigh CE Infants as a Church of England school are outstanding As a result of the caring, Christian ethos, the children thrive. They are very well cared for, their needs accurately assessed and acted upon. The children and staff feel valued and listened to. Achievement in spiritual, moral, social and cultural values permeates the whole school environment. This is further enhanced by excellent displays, prayer corners, a value board and the excellent behaviour of the children and staff.	Established strengths • The school has a strong Christian ethos; • Every child is valued; • Strong and effective links with the church; • Good and effective relationships with parents.	Focus for development • To explore and arrange visits to other faith places of worship; • To enhance the foundation stage wall displays for religious education.	The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners All learners feel valued because they are listened to, their concerns are acted upon and rewards and praise increase their self-esteem. The school's Christian character permeates its ethos and increases pupils' awareness of the responsibilities of citizenship, for example through their support of several charities. The children's moral development is excellent and their values are clearly demonstrated in class and in the playground. Overall, their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding because values are explored in collective worship, religious education and elsewhere in the school curriculum. The Christian values of love and friendship motivate caring relationships between all members of the school community, resulting in a safe and caring school environment. Spiritual awareness is encouraged through the outstanding school environment. The excellent displays, resources, artefacts and teaching all help to develop these aspects. The school is recognised as outstanding by parents and the local community, hence the oversubscribed applications for entry.
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The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding Collective worship has a high profile, whether whole school or in the classroom. The children are eager to participate and are very enthusiastic during worship. They are eager to write prayers and some say their own to the school during collective worship. Children's appreciation of the importance of prayer is strongly enhanced by having prayer corners and boxes in each classroom. Prayers help the children to demonstrate an awareness of community cohesion by thinking of others and offering thanks for community involvement. Pupils participate positively with the singing which gives them an even greater sense of being part of a worshipping community. Their spiritual growth and affirmation are enhanced through reflection, prayer and awe and wonder. The children have a very good understanding of the Anglican faith. There are very clear plans and evaluations along with excellent resources and displays which enhance this. They know and have an understanding of the Lord prayer and the Grace and the vicar brings the Church into the school each week and takes the school into Church for special celebrations.	The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding The standards achieved in religious education are very high because effective teaching results in true learning. Excellent plans, assessment and evaluations result in very positive lessons and learning outcomes. Lesson plans include a variety of activities to engage the children and result in a high standard of work in their religious education books. Marking rewards children's understanding and enables them to see how to improve. This is an excellent way of reinforcing their initial input. The children are very enthusiastic because of the personal involvement which enhances their learning. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural values are explained in depth through religious education in a manner relevant to their understanding. The religious education syllabus strongly promotes the distinctive Christian character of the school. Other faiths and festivals are also being explored and will be enhanced by visits to places where these are practised or remembered in an historical setting. Religious education is very important to the children as it plays a central part in their school life.	The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding The school has a clear Christian vision, achieved by the dedicated work of the Headteacher, Vicar and Governors. They evaluate very effectively the strength of the school's Christian character by questionnaires and personal contact. The senior leaders then transmit this understanding successfully so that the school community is enabled to realize this vision. Because the staff feel valued and undertake training on the school's Christian character, they are enthusiastic in putting this vision into practice. All stakeholders, including learners and parents, are included in evaluating the school's progress through questionnaires and an excellent school diary. There are very positive partnerships between the school, Church and the local community. The parents interviewed confirmed this and they also applauded the school's open door policy together with the safe environment for their children. The school values Diocesan support along with knowledge of the wider world which visitors bring into school. Policies and documentation which emphasise and reflect the school's Christian character are in place and up to date.
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