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Ringling praise for Wimborne Academy Trust schools



Five schools from Wimborne Academy Trust have received praise following SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections. Chair of trustees John Dickson and CEO Liz West are pictured with pupils from Emmanuel CE Middle, St Johns CE First, Verwood CE First, Witchampton CE First, St Michael's CE Middle and executive headteacher Jo Hancock (St John's and Witchampton), headteacher Adam Parsons (Verwood First) and executive headteacher Ron Jenkinson (St Michael's and Emmanuel).

An education trust in Dorset is celebrating after five of its schools received top praise from inspectors.

Wimborne Academy Trust's (WAT) five Church of England first and middle schools were all recently visited by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspectors – with four of them receiving the top 'excellent' verdict and one achieving the high 'good' judgement.

The schools judged 'excellent' were St Michael's CE Middle in Colehill, Verwood CE First, Witchampton CE First and St John's CE First.

And Emmanuel CE Middle School in Verwood, which was declared 'good', received high praise for undergoing a 'transformational journey' since joining WAT.

All Church of England and Methodist schools undergo SIAMS inspections every five years. The inspections evaluate the Christian vision and religious education provided by church schools plus their distinctiveness and effectiveness.

CEO of Wimborne Academy Trust, Liz West, said: "This is the first time our five church schools have been inspected so close together and we are delighted by the ringing endorsement all of them received.

"Every inspection noted the work we do as a Trust with our schools in supporting and challenging them to do the very best by their pupils.

"All our schools have their own unique offering but as a Trust we also work closely together and share best practice and this collaboration is bearing out in results."

Wimborne Academy Trust was formed in 2015 with seven founding schools – Allenbourn Middle, St Michael's CE Middle, Merley First, St John's CE First, Hayeswood First, Colehill First and Witchampton CE First.

In January 2018 Emmanuel CE Middle joined the Trust and it was joined a few months later by Lockyer's Middle in Corfe Mullen.

Verwood CE First and Hillside First increased the size of the Trust when they joined in early 2019, meaning three of Verwood's four schools are now part of WAT.

And the start of this academic year saw WAT become an all-through education trust when upper school Queen Elizabeth's in Wimborne joined.

In addition the Trust is also home to Wimborne Teaching School, which works with schools throughout Dorset to help train teachers and improve standards.

"It's been an incredible four years for our Trust," Liz West added.

"We have come a long way in a very short time and we look forward to even more continued successes for all our schools."

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Note to editors: For more information contact Rachel Read, account director at Deep South Media, on 01202 534487.