



Dear Colleagues,

The John Wesley School is named after the founder of the Methodist movement – this is testimony to the place it holds in the hearts of local Methodists and the Methodist Family of Schools. We are very proud of the work which has been done since the school opened to build its life as a genuine Christian community. The success of the school has been recognised by Ofsted but, maybe more pleasingly, in its consistently Outstanding SIAMS inspections. Staff consistently report that the school is a positive place to work and this is perhaps the most important judgment of all – the way the vision is shared and the school is valued by the people who are there, ‘on the ground’.

The school is supported by local Methodists through the work of the circuit. There are close working relationships with both of the churches locally as well as with Churches Together in Ashford. In addition to leading worship each week, the churches regularly run Messy Church in the school. The President of the Methodist Conference is visiting the District in October 2017 and the school was the natural choice for all the circuit to come together for the planned united service and celebration

At national level, the school is a member of the Methodist Schools Group (www.methodistschools.org.uk). There are almost 90 Methodist Schools across the country, 66 of them in the state sector. About half of those are in the North West but there is a strong cluster in the East Kent area, with Boughton-under-Blean and St Peter’s in Canterbury, as well as Kent Colleges, Canterbury (and Pembury) in the independent sector. Methodists have had a strong commitment to education since the start of the Methodist movement – you can find out more about Methodists and education here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utzOW6fLRQQ>.

The Methodist Church and the Church of England are covenant partners, signatories to an historic agreement that the two churches will work together at every opportunity. Our schools are one of the best examples of the covenant in practice.

Yours faithfully,

Barbara Easton
Director of Education
The Methodist Church in Britain