



Lower Heath
CE Primary School

Part of the **Marches** Academy Trust

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

Our Vision & Values

Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your father in heaven



Matthew 5:16



LOWER HEATH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL – CHRISTIAN VALUES

♥ Love

"Love is patient, love is kind"
1 Corinthians 13:4

👍 Respect

"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you"
Matthew 7:12

∞ Faith

"Faith can move mountains"
Matthew 17:20



😊 Thankfulness

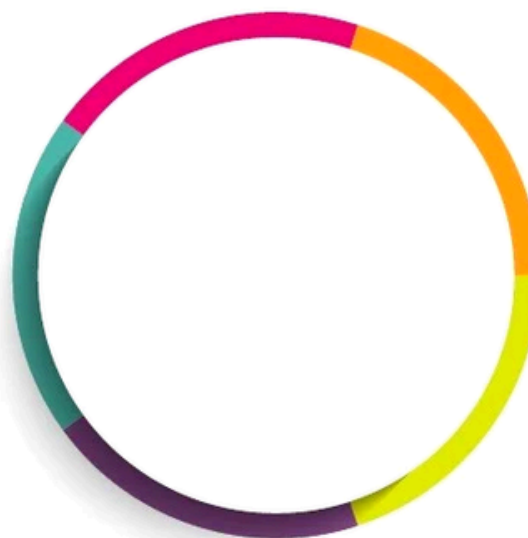
"There's always something to be thankful for"
1 Thessalonians 5:18

👨👩👦 Fellowship

"Encourage each other and build each other up"
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Marches Trust Vision & Values

Our vision:
Achievement
through caring^{ou}



Excellence

Excellence: striving
always for mastery
and personal success



Integrity

Integrity: consistently
acting with honesty,
compassion and
respect



Empathy

Empathy: embracing
and supporting the
uniqueness of every
individual



Creativity

Creativity: inspiring
and challenging
through invention,
experimentation
and exploration



Equality

Equality: ensuring
fair opportunity
for all

Reflections – A Summary of the Year



2025–2026 has been another successful and rewarding year for Lower Heath CE Primary School and Nursery. We are incredibly proud to be a school where every child is truly known and valued, and where high expectations sit alongside a strong sense of care and nurture.

Outcomes continue to strengthen across the school. Children show pride in their work and demonstrate a genuine enjoyment of learning. A growing love of reading is evident through improvements in phonics, combined with strong support from families.

Our curriculum remains a real strength. It is rich, engaging and full of purposeful experiences that bring learning to life. Alongside this, we are intentional in developing independence, resilience and leadership, ensuring pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Relationships underpin everything we do. Staff know pupils well and create an environment where children feel safe, happy and proud to belong. We continue to invest in our staff team, and this is reflected in the consistency and quality of teaching across the school. Close partnerships with families ensure that Lower Heath remains at the heart of its community.

Despite the challenges faced by small rural schools, Lower Heath continues not just to succeed, but to flourish.

School Priorities and Impact 2025 – 2026

People First

- Steplab coaching model was introduced, improving consistency in teaching practice
- Staff are increasingly confident in using effective teaching strategies
- We have consolidated our strong culture of professional development and collaboration
- Improved quality of teaching has impacted positively on pupil outcomes



Anytime, anywhere learning

- Outcomes (particularly writing) improved across most year groups, with strong outcomes in KS2
- Vocabulary and oracy has developed, with pupils more confident speaking and explaining ideas
- Phonics provision across EYFS and KS1 has been strengthened, with targeted support put in place quickly
- Increased focus on mathematical talk, has improved reasoning and understanding
- EYFS curriculum has strengthened, improving independence, language and readiness for Year 1

Working today to protect tomorrow

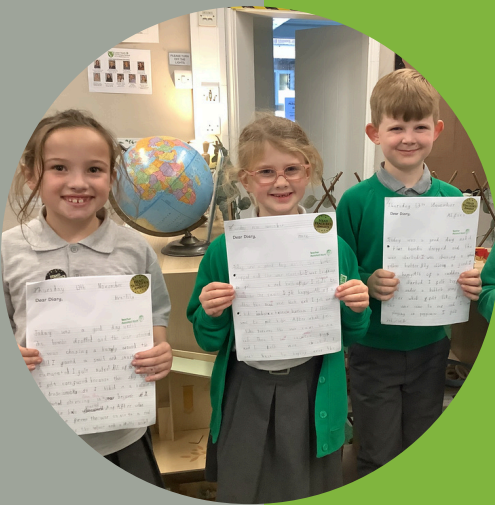
- Careful financial planning has protected high quality provision
- Staffing and resources were used efficiently to maximise impact for pupils
- Clear strategic planning supports future growth and stability



Belonging

- Our inclusive culture ensures children feel safe, valued and supported
- Pupil voice shows improved attitudes to learning
- Relationships with families and community continue to be strengthened
- Attendance remains a priority, with systems in place to support families
- There is a clear sense of belonging across the school community





A Year of Lower Heath Learning

At Lower Heath, we are incredibly proud of our dedicated and talented team, who consistently bring learning to life in meaningful and memorable ways. Their commitment ensures that outcomes remain strong, while also creating classrooms where children feel inspired, motivated and eager to learn. Our pupils tell us they enjoy their lessons and value being stretched and challenged, reflecting a culture where learning is both engaging and ambitious.

We are passionate about offering a broad and balanced curriculum that helps every child discover what they love. Whether working as mini scientists, developing as writers and journalists, performing as dancers or exploring the wider world, children are given opportunities to shine in different areas. This inclusive approach ensures that all pupils feel successful and develop confidence in their own strengths.

Outdoor learning in our Allwood World is an important part of life at Lower Heath, helping children to build resilience, curiosity and a deeper understanding of the world around them. These experiences support both wellbeing and engagement, making learning purposeful and memorable.

As a Church of England school, our Christian vision of “Let Your Light Shine” is at the heart of everything we do. This underpins our commitment to helping every child grow with kindness and character, ensuring that they leave us not only with strong academic foundations but also a clear sense of who they are.

Reading and writing remain key priorities, with a strong emphasis on developing a lifelong love of books from the earliest years. This is brought to life through a wide range of trips, visitors and curriculum experiences that enrich learning and inspire curiosity throughout the year.



Early Years and Starting School

Our Early Years provision continues to go from strength to strength. Within the classroom, provision is carefully designed to support all areas of learning, with a strong focus on communication and language, personal, social and emotional development and early literacy. Our skilled team create an environment that inspires curiosity, supports exploration and encourages children to become confident, independent learners. Learning is thoughtfully linked to high quality stories, helping children develop imagination, vocabulary and a love of learning from the very beginning of their education journey.

Children begin their phonics learning at an age appropriate level, as soon as they join us at Lower Heath, giving them a strong foundation in early reading. We place great value on building lasting partnerships with parents, ensuring that families feel part of their child's learning journey. Initiatives such as Growing Great Readers Together have been particularly successful, with all parents joining us to see their children showcase their reading with confidence and pride.

Our annual intake has been full to capacity for the past two years, something we are incredibly proud of, and a reflection of the strong community we have built together, making Lower Heath a truly special place to begin school life.



Experiences Beyond the Classroom



At Lower Heath, we believe that some of the most powerful learning happens beyond the classroom. This year has been rich in memorable experiences that have brought the curriculum to life and inspired our pupils in meaningful ways.

A particular highlight was our first international trip, where our Year 5 and 6 pupils travelled to France. This was an unforgettable experience, giving children the opportunity to immerse themselves in a different culture, practise language skills and develop independence and confidence. For many, it was their first time abroad, and it truly broadened their horizons in a way that cannot be replicated in the classroom.



Across the year, trips have been carefully planned to support all areas of the curriculum. This year's highlights include visiting the British Ironworks linked directly to art, Telford Gurdwara, linking to Religious Education and Fordhall Farm linking to science and geography learning. In addition, classes have enjoyed in-school workshops delivered by Shrewsbury Museums, Singing Sal and Xplore Science, which really gave their learning a bang! And our involvement in the Trust wide careers event helped children begin to think about their futures and aspirations.

Another key highlight was our residential visit to Manchester. For our pupils, this was an invaluable opportunity to experience city life, diversity and different cultures beyond our rural setting. It supported both personal development and a deeper understanding of the wider world.

These experiences remain a powerful part of learning at Lower Heath.

Pride, Behaviour and Attitudes



Behaviour and attitudes across the school remain a clear strength. Children consistently report that they feel safe, happy and well supported. They enjoy their lessons and speak positively about their learning experiences. Relationships between staff and pupils are warm and respectful, creating a calm and purposeful environment for learning. Attendance continues to be high and reflects children's enjoyment of school. This year, Lower Heath was recognised nationally, achieving an award for being in the top 10% of the country for attendance (FFT, 2026). This strongly indicates that pupils value their education and are keen to attend regularly.

Children actively contribute to shaping their school community. Our One Voice Bright Sparks lead on pupil initiatives that promote kindness, wellbeing and healthy living and events such as Children in Charge Day see pupils confidently take on roles including teaching lessons, serving lunches and answering the phones. This sense of ownership helps pupils develop confidence, responsibility and pride in their school.



Community

Community remains at the heart of life at Lower Heath, with a rich programme of events and partnerships bringing pupils, families and the wider community together. Seasonal events such as Harvest Festival, supporting Whitchurch Foodbank, alongside the Christmas, Easter and summer fairs, continue to provide meaningful opportunities for connection while supporting those in need. These events are well attended and reflect the strong sense of belonging that defines the school.

A standout annual event is the colour run, which continues to grow in popularity. Linked to the Holi festival, it provides a joyful opportunity to celebrate diversity, inclusion and togetherness. It is a vibrant and memorable occasion that unites the community while promoting shared values of respect and understanding.

Pupil leadership through One Voice has been particularly impactful. This year, pupils have encouraged the school to think beyond the immediate community, including leading efforts to support Kits 4 Africa and raising awareness of wider global need. They also organised a charity adults v children football match in support of Autism West Midlands, bringing the community together following Year 6 SATs in a fun and purposeful way.

Another community highlight this year was welcoming former pupil Roger West, who shared his book celebrating the history of the school since 1799. In addition, every child contributed artwork to the Prees Railway Station project, leaving a permanent legacy within the local area.

Looking ahead, meaningful engagement with families and the community has helped shape a clear three year Community Plan focused on employment, environmental action and community events, ensuring pupils continue to make a positive difference to others.



Christian Distinctiveness

At Lower Heath, our Christian vision continues to underpin all aspects of school life, guiding both our strategic direction and our daily interactions. Rooted in the biblical principle of “Let your light shine”, we actively encourage every member of our school community to live out our shared values of love, respect, faith, thankfulness and fellowship.

Our strong partnership with the Church remains a key strength with regular visits to Holy Immanuel Church, along with the annual performance from Saltmine Theatre Company, provide opportunities for reflection, inspiration and spiritual development that are valued by all.. Links with Fauls Parochial Church Council continue to grow. Our annual Harvest Tea is a wonderful celebration and this year, PCC members are joining us at our summer fair, further strengthening community ties. These special moments provide meaningful opportunities for our children to truly shine.

We have also valued opportunities to come together as a wider Trust family. The recent “Open Doors, Open Hearts” event at St Alkmund’s Church in Whitchurch brought together all Trust Church of England schools in a joyful act of collective worship, reinforcing shared beliefs and a strong sense of belonging.

This strong ethos is increasingly reflected in the way our children are shaping their own school community by leading their own lunchtime clubs including dance, maths and crafts. Our recent Great Big School Clean, attended by both families and children, demonstrated a shared commitment to caring for the environment and serving others.

Through these ongoing developments, we continue to ensure that our Christian distinctiveness is lived out authentically, preparing our children to shine their light in the wider world and to grow into responsible citizens who contribute positively to society.



Our Team

Lower Heath staff team remains strong, committed and united in their determination to provide the very best for every child. Staff consistently go the extra mile, giving their time willingly to enrich pupils' experiences through a wide range of clubs, including arts and crafts and the hugely popular drama club. This reflects their dedication to developing the whole child beyond the classroom and creating a vibrant school community.

The Steplab coaching system introduced this year has strengthened professional development, ensuring staff are continually learning from one another and refining their practice. Collaboration is a clear strength, both within school and across the trust, where wider expertise is shared effectively. Lower Heath staff are increasingly recognised for their contribution and professionalism, highlighting the impact of this collective approach.

Our strong staff team is complemented by a highly skilled and supportive governing body, who provide both challenge and encouragement, ensuring the school continues to improve. Engagement with parents is also a strength. Recent survey responses show strong participation, with families sharing thoughtful ideas about how Lower Heath can develop further. This reflects a culture of listening, openness and genuine collaboration.

There is a clear sense of pride and belonging within the team. This is reflected in staff feedback, with all staff sharing that they would recommend Lower Heath to others, the highest accolade and a strong indicator of a positive and supportive working culture.



LGB and Governance

This year, our Local Governing Body has continued to play a vital role in supporting the school, asking thoughtful questions, and championing the needs of our children, families and staff.

- Keeping children safe and supported: Governors challenged accident-reporting patterns across the Trust, ensuring our systems are accurate and consistent. They also strengthened oversight of support for disadvantaged pupils by reviewing how pupil premium funding is used and how families are made aware of help available.
- Championing inclusion and SEND: Governors deepened their understanding of classroom strategies for SEND and requested clearer data to show the real progress of pupils with additional needs. This has helped leaders refine how we track, evaluate and plan provision for vulnerable learners.
- Listening to families and pupils: Governors provided constructive feedback on the Trust's parent survey to make it more accessible. They also requested insight into how pupil survey findings are acted upon, ensuring children's voices lead to real change.
- Strengthening community connections: Governors supported the development of our Community Plan by identifying a wider range of local organisations, helping the school build stronger links within the Lower Heath area and beyond.
- Improving clarity and communication: Governors monitored the accuracy of curriculum information on the website and emphasised the importance of timely visit reports so that monitoring can meaningfully inform LGB discussions and decisions.

Together, these actions show a governing body that is thoughtful, curious and committed to ensuring every child at Lower Heath feels safe, included and able to thrive.



School Priorities 2026 – 2027

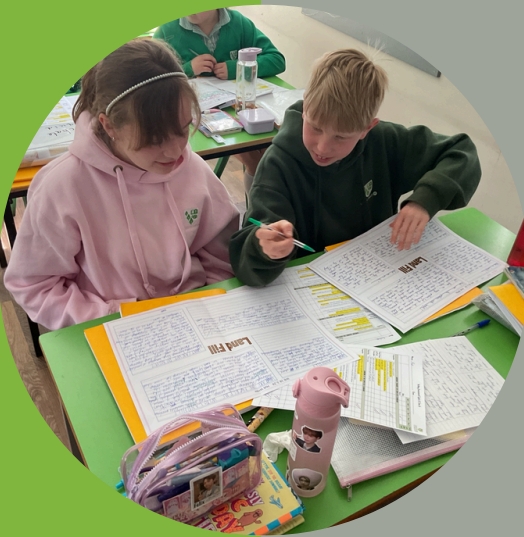


Anytime, Anywhere Learning

- Embed consistent, high quality writing across the school
- Improve spelling, grammar and transcription alongside greater depth outcomes
- Strengthen phonics and early reading to be in line with national expectations
- Remove barriers through adaptive teaching and effective use of adults
- Continue strengthening EYFS language, interactions and school readiness

Our People

- Continue coaching to further strengthen teaching and learning
- Develop leadership capacity across all staff
- Ensure effective deployment of all adults to support learning
- Maintain strong culture of professional development and reflection



Belonging

- Strengthen attendance through an inclusive and supportive approach
- Continue building a culture where every child feels valued and included
- Promote engaging learning to support behaviour and motivation
- Strengthen partnerships with families and the wider community

Working Today to Protect Tomorrow

- Maintain strong financial sustainability and value for money
- Align staffing and resources carefully to school priorities
- Continue strategic planning for future capacity and site development
- Strengthen pupil recruitment and retention, particularly in EYFS



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