



## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>Richard Hill Church of England Primary School</b>	
Address	12 Anstey Lane, Thurcaston, Leicester, LE7 7JA
<b>School vision</b>	
<p>Like our founder Richard Hill, we believe in giving every family the best opportunity to flourish. Our success as a school will come as the fruits of the spirit grow within us, and we show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control to each other.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘You shall know them by their fruits.’ Matthew 7:16</p>	
<b>School strengths</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strong Christian vision, together with clearly defined Christian values, give this school its firm foundation. Consequently, members of the school community very clearly articulate how the vision and values positively impact their lives.</li> <li>• Committed leaders, including trustees, governors and staff, know and understand the tightly knit community the school serves. They work hard to ensure that pupils and their families are nurtured and supported.</li> <li>• The partnerships between the school and church are strong, leading to both spiritual and pastoral care for the whole community. Staff feel truly valued. Leaders at all levels refer to how the vision provides a foundation for reflection and action.</li> <li>• Collective worship plays a key part in pupils' understanding of the school's Christian vision and the relevance of it in their lives. Collective worship is invitational and inclusive and enhanced by very good partnerships with the church and growing faith leader.</li> <li>• Religious Education (RE) engages the pupils' interests. Pupils discuss their understanding of world faiths and have a good knowledge of biblical texts. They are articulate and curious. Staff ensure that the RE curriculum is memorable through careful planning.</li> </ul>	
<b>Areas for development</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To embed the work started on developing spirituality so that pupils and adults can articulate their ideas and beliefs consistently.</li> <li>• Provide further opportunities for pupils to explore issues of injustice in the world. This will encourage pupils to initiate, participate in and lead social action projects.</li> <li>• To ensure that the recording of pupils' work in RE reflects the high standard of discussions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Inspection findings</b>	
<p>Richard Hill's Christian vision and values permeate all aspects of life at the school. It has been carefully chosen by leaders and governors to ensure it is right for their school and reflects the community the school serves. Everyone can take something from it, irrespective of faith or no faith. Pupils, parents, staff and governors all talk positively about the 'fruits of the spirit' and how these impact positively on pupils' attitude and learning. Awards are given to pupils who demonstrate the</p>	

'fruits of the spirit' which are carefully woven into all aspects of school life. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are the 'fruits of the spirit' which pupils talk about constantly during the school day. Pupils talk enthusiastically about times they have both been nominated and also when they have nominated another pupil for such an award. Parents talk about the 'fruits of the spirit' impacting positively on relationships at home and that their children recognise this in their own lives. This enhances pupil's sense of continuity between home and school.

Richard Hill is currently part of The Vines Multi Academy Trust whose vision and values align very closely with that of the school. The school is currently transitioning and joining a bigger MAT. This is being carefully managed and is considered to be a strong move for the life of Richard Hill as a Church school. Trustees from The Vines have supported the school financially to develop as a Church school, employing a growing faith leader to work across schools in the trust. This has had a positive impact on the growth of the school as a Church school. Governors know the school well and work with leaders to secure a nurturing environment where adults and pupils can thrive. They monitor and evaluate the impact of the vision and make changes as a result.

The school is now embarking upon a period of stability with the relatively new appointment of the headteacher. The positivity and love that is apparent for each other in the school community is a key strength of the school. Strong relationships form the solid foundation for school life. These relationships have been further strengthened during the recent bereavement which significantly affected the whole school. All groups within school talked positively about the support and love shared during this difficult time. Richard Hill nurtures its pupils, supports its parents and leaders are accessible to any staff or families who have concerns or problems. The school is welcoming and everyone is seen as an important and unique member of the school.

School leaders are determined to see the school thrive. Staff have welcomed the opportunity to be part of professional development throughout the trust and to share their skills. The new curriculum is making a difference to the flourishing of all. Pupils work collaboratively and see this as a natural part of learning. They talk about being the best person they can be and take responsibility for their learning. Provision for pupils is fully inclusive in all aspects of school life. Pupils develop skills which help them to learn and are transferring these to new experiences, becoming lifelong learners. The curriculum has rejuvenated pupils' enjoyment of learning. Pupils are exposed to elements of awe and wonder although planned opportunities for spiritual development across all subjects are insufficiently identified or planned. Greater consistency would deepen the spiritual development of pupils further.

Wellbeing is supported by leaders and as a result, there is mutual support amongst the staff team and they feel valued. This is mirrored through the care and support given to pupils who join the school. Staff are sensitive to the needs of adults and pupils resulting in strong relationships. This care also enables all to flourish across school. There is a calm and purposeful learning environment which helps to drive pupils to reach their potential.

Pupils understand the importance of showing the 'fruits of the spirit' through social action and talk enthusiastically about their link with a Ugandan school. They understand the similarities and differences between the schools and know that they both can learn from each other. Pupils have some understanding of themselves as agents of change.

Collective worship is varied and inclusive. Leaders plan worship carefully to promote the school's vision and values which form a central part of worship. As a result, pupils demonstrate the 'fruits of the spirit' in their daily lives and relationships with others as they grow in their spiritual lives. Pupils enjoy participating in worship and like the dramatic retelling of Bible stories. They respond well

through respectful reflection, enthusiastic singing and quiet times of prayer. The school has a strong connection with the local clergy who help lead collective worship both in school and the local church for important festivals. As a result, reference to the Bible and the teachings of Jesus help adults and children to understand the vision's roots in Christian teaching. Prayer spaces and reflection areas are created in classrooms where pupils can choose to write and share their own prayers throughout the week. This helps their spiritual development. Worship takes place at the end of the day to enable pupils to develop spiritually. This is a deliberate decision by leaders so pupils leave school with the key message prevalent in their minds.

RE contributes to the flourishing of pupils who talk enthusiastically about their learning. Pupils confidently ask and answer questions and enjoy discussing and exploring challenging concepts in class. The RE curriculum is broad and varied, encompassing Christianity and a variety of world religions. Consequently, it helps to broaden pupils' horizons. Lessons benefit from pupils' keen participation and the local clergy and growing faith leader both support the teaching of RE. Recent changes made to the approach to teaching RE across the school have been made with the intention of raising the standard of written work produced by pupils. Work in books does not yet reflect the high standards of knowledge and understanding that pupils can articulate.

The inspection findings indicate that the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school, and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Information			
Inspection date	23 November 2023	URN	145972
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	116
Diocese	Leicester		
MAT/Federation	The Vines Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Mrs Sally Applebee		
Chair	Ms Sharon Deackes		
Inspector	Jane Davis	No.	2210