



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

Ripley Endowed Church of England VC School	
Address	Main Street, Ripley, Harrogate, HG3 3AY

School vision
At Ripley CE Primary School we aim to provide a community of compassion. A place where all children are courageous and who grow together, guided by love.

School strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a nurturing community built on a vision of togetherness and love. It extends to those beyond school, resulting in partnerships that positively impact the lives of others.</li> <li>• During a period of change and uncertainty, the vision has been central to decisions taken by leaders, driving the way forward. A wonderful positivity and sense of renewal now pervades the life of the school. There is a determined commitment to the continued development of the school's Christian distinctiveness.</li> <li>• Collective worship unites the whole school family. Opportunities to reflect on the vision and its associated values of community, compassion and courage abound. Consequently, it significantly influences the lives of pupils and adults, enabling all to flourish.</li> <li>• The vision underpins a culture that nurtures all. The curriculum is carefully planned to enable all to achieve. This includes those that are vulnerable and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).</li> </ul>

Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that leaders continue to develop a robust system to monitor the school's distinctively Christian character and vision. This is so that they understand the impact of actions and identify the next steps for improvement.</li> <li>• Inspire and enable pupils to become agents of change so that they recognise the positive impact that they can have in the world.</li> <li>• Embed the monitoring and evaluation of the recently revised RE curriculum by school leaders to further improve the effectiveness of the curriculum.</li> </ul>

Inspection findings
<p>The vision of Ripley School is a true reflection of its original founding purpose. It is a place where all are included and made to feel welcome. Leaders have a secure understanding of the context of the school. They are committed to meeting local needs, whilst ensuring that pupils develop an understanding of diversity in wider British society. The school has been subject to significant uncertainty, upheaval and change in recent years. This has hindered rigorous self-evaluation of the continuing impact of the distinctiveness of Ripley as a Church school. However, relatively recent developments in school leadership have brought stability and positive progress. This is having a significant impact and has been warmly welcomed by pupils and adults. A revision of the school's Christian vision has been integral in establishing a culture of renewal and purpose. Support from</p>



diocesan advisers has further developed the vision, collective worship and the RE curriculum. Pupils and adults affirm the positive impact that this has had to date. They have been emboldened to grow together in love, for the benefit of the whole school family. Values of community, compassion and courage underpin the vision and are embraced. This is evident in the approach taken to staff wellbeing. Courageous decisions have been taken by leaders with compassion and care. Staff articulate how this was accomplished in a loving environment. These include restructuring classes across the Federation to ensure consistency, reduce staff workload and promote positive and productive relationships.

Spirituality is intrinsically woven throughout the life of the school and its curriculum. A profound understanding is shared by pupils and adults. Evidence of awe and wonder abounds. In RE lessons, the youngest children learn about the story of Creation in the Bible. This is further developed through experiential opportunities which promote a sense of joy and appreciation of nature. Pupils enthusiastically relate how they ask searching questions and take time to reflect in all areas of the curriculum. Challenging questions such as ‘How would you feel to be the one lost sheep?’ abound. Such questions link spiritual development to the school values. Time is taken to reflect and discuss these questions. They are also included in the weekly newsletter to enable pupils to explore further at home. Parents appreciate these links and feel that it promotes their spiritual development too. School displays challenge thinking and encourage pupils and adults to consider who they are and their impact in the world.

Growing together, guided by love, is central to relationships in this school community and beyond. Pupils embrace the uniqueness of each individual and value their place within the school family. Those with SEND provide inspiration to others. Parents are effusive in their praise for the swift and effective addressing of specific needs. They explain how staff wholeheartedly focus on care and teaching to provide the very best opportunities and support for pupils. Pupils are encouraged to support others to promote wellbeing and confidence. Clear and comprehensive behaviour procedures based on the school’s vision ensure that pupils reflect on mistakes and learn from them. There is a clear focus on restorative justice that is valued by all. Consequently, all are enabled to flourish.

Meaningful and well-developed relationships with the local community are highly valued for their positive impact. Pupils regularly have lunch with older community members. Recently, pupils have been discussing their history topic of World War II with their older neighbours. They have listened to first hand experiences of the war and explored courage, community and compassion in this context. This has further cemented already strong relationships.

Pupil leadership roles provide developing opportunities to bring about change and challenge injustice. Engagement in Autism Awareness Day developed understanding and empowered pupils to fundraise effectively. Many other fundraising activities are actively embraced. However, opportunities to develop the school’s vision and values in bringing about meaningful change and challenge injustice are less evident. Inspirational ideas put forward by pupils, such as challenging the inequality of women around the world, have yet to be explored.

The RE curriculum has recently been revised with support from the Diocesan adviser. It has been eagerly embraced by pupils who refer to it as ‘fun and snappy’. They explain how it enables them to be challenged in an environment where their views are valued and explored. The curriculum has a clear progression that allows pupils to revisit key concepts regularly. It provides many opportunities to further embed knowledge. It is planned to enable pupils to learn about major faiths in isolation to secure understanding of each religion. This is then developed so that pupils explore key concepts such as festivals across a range of faiths. However, there has been insufficient time for leaders to monitor and evaluate the longer-term impact of this new curriculum.

Collective worship is the cornerstone of life at Ripley School. One leader described it as ‘the central jigsaw piece that reveals the vision for all to see, live and understand’. Daily worship is planned and structured to provide powerful opportunities to worship, reflect, praise and learn. It is inclusive in a manner that enables all to actively engage in their own way. There is a regular pattern to worship, including reference to the Christian understanding of God as three in one. Carefully chosen Bible stories based on love, community, courage and compassion are explored. They challenge thinking, explore the nature of God in Christianity and visibly impact thoughts and actions. Pupils and adults cherish this reflective and engaging start to the day and rightly emphasise its impact on flourishing. Strong and valuable links exist with clergy and the church congregation. Regular opportunities to attend the Eucharist at the local church further enrich worship. Pupils are able to discuss at length the meaning of the Eucharist with church leaders. If appropriate, they can then choose to make a commitment to receive communion if they wish to do so. The local vicar meets regularly with pupils to explore the impact that worship has and ways to improve it further. Worship is the precious thread that links this community together in love.

These inspection findings indicate that Ripley Endowed Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church School.

Information			
Inspection date	4 October 2023	URN	121580
VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled	Pupils on roll	40
Diocese	Leeds		
MAT/Federation			
Executive Head of Beckwithshaw, Kettlesing and Ripley CE Primary Schools	Victoria Kirkman		
Chair	Robert Ling		
Inspector	Jo Brookes	No.	2110