

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

Trinity Church of England Academy, Eppleby Forcett	
Address	Eppleby, Richmond, DL11 7AY

### School vision

Together may we give our children: Roots to grow and Wings to fly.  
 ‘Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of all garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.’  
 Matthew 13 vs.31-32

### School strengths

- The Christian vision of Eppleby Forcett school is inspiring, loved and lived out by the school community. There is a profound pupil understanding of the Christian vision. The school and the multi-academy trust’s (MAT) visions seamlessly work together for the benefit of all.
- Standards of behaviour are exceptional. Eppleby Forcett pupils are confident and articulate. They accept each individual as they are and always lookout for the best interests of others.
- Pupil voice and student leadership at all levels are having a transformative effect on school life.
- Worship is impacting positively on pupils’ lives; they and their families talk about worship with joy. There are vibrant church and school links which stem from the vision. Worship contains significant opportunities for pupil and adults flourishing.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum is exceptionally effective. Significant strengths in RE include very positive pupil attitudes to the subject and passionate leadership.

### Areas for development

- To continue to develop the positive work around a shared language and embedded understanding of spirituality. This is so that spirituality is highly visible and articulated confidently in all areas of school life.
- To fully utilise the already powerful student voice at Eppleby Forcett to enable pupil instigated social action to fly.

### Inspection findings

The vision and values (friendship, respect and perserverance) at Eppleby Forcett inspire and infuse school life with hope and ambition. The youngest pupils understand and use ‘roots to grow and wings to fly’ (with linked actions) to direct their learning. Older pupils give profound, thoughtful and articulate explanations of what the vision means to them now and in the future. Regular church visitors to school correctly say ‘I have seen the growth of the mustard seed from pre-school to Year 6.’ The vision of both the school and the Dales Academies Trust complement each other perfectly.



Leaders of the MAT describe their vision as an umbrella which ensures none of the schools underneath it get wet. Eppleby Forcett school shares all of its governance, leadership and teaching with another school within the same MAT. The preschool and early years unit are based on the Eppleby Forcett site. Years 1 to 6 are based on the Middleton Tyas site. Pupils travel by bus from one site to another and the bus journey sums up the Christian vision in action. The school invests significantly in additional staffing for the bus so that pupils flourish. Pupils enjoy singing and playing games on the journey and it is a highlight of their day. Leaders know the school exceptionally well, monitoring is vision based monitoring and evaluation. Governors are frequent visitors to school, and are notably well informed.

The curriculum is highly investigative and is shaped to fit the rural context of the school. Therefore, opportunities for visits and visitors to school are prioritised. This ensures that everyone has access to experiences that enable them to grow like a mustard seed. Spirituality across the curriculum is nurtured by access to outdoor learning and a rich diet of visits and visitors. The early years unit is magical and infused with spirituality throughout. A culture of reflection is embedded across the school. Pupils engage in regular structured reflection of RE and collective worship. They talk about spirituality however, all members of the school are not yet confident to articulate their experiences and understanding of spirituality.

Collective worship is joyful, invitational, interactive and memorable. All members of the school community are highly engaged in the worshipping life of the school. This includes moving sung worship, pupil composed and led prayers, classroom reflection corners and after school clubs. Pupil collective worship leaders love their roles and others aspire to be worship leaders also. They recognise and value the time that worship gives them to simply pause. Staff also value that worship contains space for their own spiritual development. Links with local churches are well established and support growth in both the school and the local church. Regular visits from the 'Open the Book' team build the foundations of worship for the youngest pupils. The St Michael's Club is a well-loved church led school club, which actively links to the school vision and values.

Eppleby Forcett is a happy and harmonious environment where everyone (pupils, adults and families) are supported to flourish. Behaviour and attendance are exemplary. Relationships at all levels are prioritised as foundational to flourishing. Staff say 'I feel blessed to work here' and once staff join the school team they rarely leave. Families make a very deliberate choice to send their children to Eppleby Forcett. Support for the positive mental health of the whole school is carefully planned and facilitated. There is a wide reaching and highly effective approach to whole school wellbeing underpinned by the school Christian vision. This includes supervision for staff, and the effective use of 'I wish my teacher knew' baskets in classroom for pupils.

As part of growing like a mustard seed Eppleby Forcett abounds in opportunities for service through responsibility. This includes reading leaders, student subject leaders, worship leaders and the transformative school council. The school council, through the use of an app, actively engages all pupils in meaningful and impactful ways. Pupils are being empowered to identify, debate and enact significant changes to their school and community. They have demonstrated their ability to be change makers in a wide range of ways. Some of which include creating backpacks for the homeless, developing an eco-club and a positive action advent calendar. The curriculum explores issues of justice and pupils are equipped and ready to engage in independently instigated social action. The culture of justice and responsibility contributes markedly to positive relationships within school and with families.

The RE curriculum at Eppleby Forcett is carefully crafted to meet the needs of their learners. The high-quality curriculum is well sequenced and balanced in terms of coverage of a range of faiths and world views. Excellent use is made of big books to capture learning, enable reflection, enthuse and

inspire further learning. RE lessons are well planned, relevantly resourced and impact on pupils' lives and their spiritual development. Pupils are extremely enthusiastic to share their RE learning with others. RE is a high status subject across the school. Effective links with diocese mean that training for all staff is up to date and bespoke to Eppleby Forcett. Governors correctly described RE as 'not just within the curriculum, but in the whole school, a thread that runs right through it.' Passionate and conscientious leadership of RE ensures that the curriculum is highly effective, fits the school context and pupils flourish.

Eppleby Forcett is a school where all, inspired by the vision are building strong foundations so they can flourish like a mustard seed.

The inspection findings indicate that Trinity Academy Eppleby Forcett Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	13 December 2023	URN	144164
VC/VA/Academy	Academy	Pupils on roll	40
Diocese	Leeds		
MAT/Federation	Dales Academies Trust		
Headteacher	Debbie McLean		
Chair	Tina Reid		
Inspector	Ruth Houston	No.	947