

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

All Saints' and St Richard's Church of England Primary School

Vision

Learning to be the best we can be, Loving all God's kingdom, Living life to the full.

John 10:10: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

All Saints' and St Richard's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- The school community is guided by the Christian vision inspired by John 10:10, focusing on learning and loving God's kingdom. Fostering growth through servant leadership and nurturing of individual talents, grounded in the school's Christian values.
- The Christian vision, values and opportunities for spiritual development are skillfully woven throughout the curriculum. This promotes intellectual, spiritual, and moral growth empowering pupils to positively impact their local community.
- Inclusive worship at the school offers leadership opportunities and diverse worship experiences, cultivating belonging, spiritual growth and unity among pupils and staff.
- Pupils and staff feel valued, safe, and empowered by the supportive culture that underpins the school life. It prioritises mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being within a community of friendship and hope.
- Religious education (RE) leadership is shared across the federation, providing quality resources and professional development. This helps teachers deliver impactful lessons that support pupils' academic and spiritual growth.

Development Points

- Use pupils existing experience of local injustice to engage with broader issues of injustice. This is to enable pupils to drive positive change as courageous advocates, where they witness a need.



Inspection findings

All Saints' and St Richard's Church of England Primary is a rural village school with a strong culture of belonging, resilience, and respect. It is part of a federation with one other school, promoting collaboration. The school leadership works closely to ensure a robust Christian vision that allows staff and pupils to flourish. This vision encourages pupils to be their best, love God's kingdom, and live life to the fullest. It shapes the school community, creating an environment where pupils and adults grow together. The values of forgiveness, friendship, courage, hope, perseverance, and wisdom are embedded throughout the school. Pupils at All Saints' and St Richard's are compassionate and inclusive. This was evident in a recent poetry competition, where pupils supported a nervous classmate. The school fosters an environment where respect and kindness thrive, ensuring everyone feels valued. Pupils, staff, and families contribute to this nurturing culture, ensuring they flourish spiritually, academically, and socially.

The school's curriculum integrates biblical principles across subjects, ensuring spiritual development alongside academic progress. Every subject is planned with spirituality in mind. Pupils experience moments of 'now,' 'wow,' and 'ow,' allowing staff to nurture spiritual reflection. Through this, pupils reflect on their emotions, gaining appreciation for the awe and wonder of the world. Weekly forest school sessions promote reflection and gratitude, helping pupils connect with God's creation. They are given time to meditate and appreciate the calmness of nature, which fosters resilience and spiritual awareness. Pupils speak fondly about their time in forest school, as it helps them bond with peers and feel connected to the world. The curriculum offers enrichment activities through various clubs, ensuring that pupils experience life to the fullest. The special educational needs and disabilities team works collaboratively across the federation. They support families and pupils, ensuring needs are met, and pupils flourish in line with the Christian vision. The school offers breakfast clubs and relaxed morning entry sessions that specifically support pupils with mental health needs. This provision helps vulnerable pupils attend school ready to learn. Mental health and wellbeing leads support staff and families providing guidance and care.

Worship is a central part of daily life at All Saints' and St Richard's. Morning sessions offer opportunities for reflection, spiritual growth, and community-building. Church members lead some sessions, strengthening ties with the local church. Pupils actively participate in worship, leading prayers and reflections. Certificates are awarded in weekly celebration worship for pupils who embody the school's values. A weekly caretaker's award is given to those who demonstrate stewardship around the school's environment. Worship themes focus on wisdom, forgiveness, and making good choices. Pupils reflect on these themes through related classroom activities. The diocesan collective worship scheme ensures the sessions remain relevant and accessible. Worship is inclusive, encouraging pupils to participate fully in spiritual life. Pupils lead worship, fostering leadership opportunities and a sense of responsibility. Worship experiences, including celebrations at the local church, inspire both pupils and staff. These promote belonging, spiritual growth, and unity.

The school is built on a foundation of support, collaboration, and shared values, creating a thriving community. Year 6 pupils mentor Reception pupils, fostering leadership and a caring culture. House days unite pupils from different year groups, strengthening bonds and teamwork. Attendance is rigorously monitored, with support plans for families facing challenges in getting their children to school each day. This ensures pupils can access the wide curriculum and live life to the full in line with the Christian vision. Staff wellbeing is a priority, ensuring a supportive work culture. Coffee sessions offer staff a chance to connect, share, and support each other. Professional development aligns with the school's Christian vision, guiding staff to live its values. Staff participate in diocesan training, helping them embrace the school's values. New staff receive role-specific training to ensure success.



Performance management includes clear development goals for professional growth, benefiting both staff and pupils. Regular policy reviews involve pupils, staff, governors, and families, ensuring diverse perspectives shape practices. This approach creates a cohesive environment where members of the school community feel valued and supported.

Strong partnerships with parents, local churches, and the wider community are highly valued. These relationships help create a supportive network that enhance both the pupils' academic and spiritual growth. The school's vision emphasises justice and responsibility. Pupils engage in discussions on fairness and ethics, developing an understanding of helping others. They support a local wildlife charity, demonstrating their responsibility and love for God's kingdom. The school council leads initiatives across the school promoting justice. They ensure pupils have access to outdoor spaces by advocating for wellington boots to be brought to school. Furthermore, championing inclusive access to new playground equipment enables pupils to experience promoting justice for all. However, opportunities to campaign about broader issues of injustice are limited. Pupils apply for leadership roles such as school council, faith council, and sports crew. They share plans for positive change and demonstrate commitment to justice. Through visits to the 'Young at Heart' group, pupils engage with older adults, showing kindness and empathy.

Staff participate in ongoing professional development for RE, ensuring they provide meaningful lessons that deepen pupils' understanding of different religions. Training and advice from the diocese supports continuous growth and improvement. Best practices are shared across the federation through subject and strategic leads. This allows staff to develop and flourish. RE lessons are strategically planned across the federation to ensure equity for pupils. These lessons promote reflection and discussion, encouraging respect for diverse beliefs. The school invests in high-quality resources, including multimedia tools and books. The RE curriculum covers a broad range of religions, fostering critical thinking and appreciation for differing perspectives. Pupils revisit key religions throughout the years, reinforcing their understanding of different belief systems. Digital resources help overcome challenges posed by the school's remote location, enabling pupils to explore places of worship on a larger scale.

Leaders have implemented an effective system to track assessments, providing accurate feedback that helps teachers plan effectively for pupil progress. Pupils confidently discuss religious concepts, symbols, and key Christian events. They enjoy lessons that use drama techniques to encourage deep thinking about religions. Pupils reflect on the role of faith in both everyday life and major events, ensuring continuous progress in RE. Staff questioning is skilful, drawing out profound responses from pupils. RE holds a high profile, with teachers and support staff involved in its delivery. This enables them to make the most of incidental opportunities to deepen pupils' thinking throughout the school day.

Information

Address	School Hill, Old Heathfield, Heathfield TN21 9AE		
Date	6 March 2025	URN	114554
Type of school	Voluntary Aided	No. of pupils	101
Diocese	Chichester		
Federation	Sussex Spires Federation		
Headteacher	Alex Baptie		
Executive Headteacher	Catherine Cottingham		
Chair of Governors	Nigel English		
Inspector	Geraldine Shackleton		