

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary's Rickmansworth Church of England Primary School

Vision

'Aspiring, nurturing, flourishing; together shining a light'.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand and it gives light to all the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

Matthew 5: 13-16

St Mary's Rickmansworth 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.

Notable Strengths

- The Christian vision, biblically rooted in the gospel of St Matthew, is the foundation of the school's work as a Church school. Leaders are inspirational in their ambition and outworking of the vision. As a result, lives are transformed because pupils and adults are empowered to shine as lights, with and for, one another.
- Inclusion sits at the heart of this school community. The support for pupils, especially the most vulnerable, is exemplary. As a result, they are recognised as valued members of St Mary's Rickmansworth School.
- The deeply embedded Christian values are known clearly by pupils, staff and parents. They are a point of reference for members of the community, resulting in positive relationships across the school.
- Inspirational collective worship unites the school community and contributes powerfully to the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults.

Development Point

- Broaden pupils' understanding of Christianity as a global faith. This is so that pupils have a deeper appreciation of the diversity in belief, practice and tradition within Christianity.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

St Mary's Rickmansworth is a warm, nurturing school where pupils and adults are well known and cherished. The Christian vision, rooted in Jesus' words to shine as lights in the world, guides leaders' actions and priorities. As a result, it empowers clear strategic planning, accurately reflecting the needs of the school. For instance, the development of the 'Hub' for pupils who require additional support has proved to be an invaluable resource. The school's associated Christian values are faithful to the Anglican foundation of the school. They are lived out and are consistently modelled by staff, connecting their actions to the school's vision of togetherness. This helps pupils to understand and apply the values to their own lives and learning. Governors play an active role in keeping the vision central to strategic development. Therefore, they ensure that it remains at the heart of discussions and decision-making. The school's vision aligns closely with that of the trust and provides a clear framework for effective monitoring by leaders and governors.

Vision and Curriculum

The Christian vision inspires a curriculum that challenges pupils to 'shine their light' in their own unique ways. The school's approach through carefully crafted 'learning journeys' provides rich opportunities to learn and discover the world. Pupils are therefore able to discover their individual gifts and strengths. Throughout the year, many themed events, including diversity, science and wellbeing weeks, broaden pupils' experiences and enrich the wider curriculum. An extensive range of trips and clubs further enhance the curriculum and resonates with the vision to shine. The school's spirituality crest, designed by pupils, allows them to express their own spiritual journey in age-appropriate ways. Displayed around the school, it is an effective, visual reminder of the different connections made through their daily lives. As a result, there is a very clear, shared understanding of spirituality throughout the school community. Staff strongly commit to supporting pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) through tailored and bespoke interventions. As a result, they are able to 'shine' as learners and achieve their potential.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship offers a daily opportunity for members of the school community to pause and reflect together on the school's Christian vision and values. It is invitational and inclusive, drawing on prayers, biblical stories and songs that support spiritual flourishing. Rituals such as lighting candles and joining in shared responses create a sense of reverence and a comforting familiarity. A range of leaders and visitors make worship interesting and stimulating. Clergy regularly lead worship, deepening pupils' understanding of Bible stories and strengthening links with the local church. As a result, pupils relate many instances when they have been inspired. These include a memorable event at Pentecost. Pupils say they were helped by the idea that they could be free of their cares and concerns because, 'all our worries were burnt'. Peaceful spaces, such as the secret garden and reflection corners, help pupils pause, think, and reflect calmly. Families value joining services for the school community in the local church throughout the year, such as Christmas and Easter.

Vision and School Culture

The school's ethos ensures that pupils and staff are recognised and celebrated as unique and valued members of the community. Wellbeing is prioritised, with a strong focus on positive mental health and belonging. For instance, Staff and families appreciate the readily available access they have to school leaders, who feel they are listened to and supported. Personalised guidance is highly effective and plays a significant role in promoting emotional wellbeing and resilience among pupils and adults. As a result, valuable pastoral care and nurturing support is provided. Staff development focuses on helping adults to grow their gifts. The impact is visible in positive relationships and a strong sense of belonging across the school. The therapy dog, who visits regularly, aids emotional regulation, confidence and wellbeing. Peer Mediators support other pupils who may feel lonely



and help to resolve minor difficulties. Their work mirrors the vision through a culture of kindness and inclusion. Staff feel appreciated and supported, so they can 'shine their light' in their work.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Pupils actively contribute to the life of the school through a wide range of leadership responsibilities that encourage confidence and success. They relish the opportunity to serve others and act for change through roles such as buddies and councillors. The school's innovative 'St Mary's changemakers project' brings the vision and values to life further. Pupils are empowered to take action in their communities through practical challenges linked to school's values such as courage, friendship and compassion. As a result, they make a positive difference both in school and beyond. Pupils enjoy receiving stickers and the special changemaker badges, recognising their commitment to living out the school vision in practical ways. They engage in charitable projects that promote dignity and justice. For instance, by supporting food banks, plus other local and national charities. Providing uniform for schools overseas means pupils can 'shine their light' beyond the local community. Effective partnerships with the local church, the diocese and trust have a positive impact on adults and pupils.

Religious Education

RE has exceptionally strong leadership. As a result, the subject has a high profile and is an inspiring, well-resourced core subject. Pupils access a diverse and balanced curriculum, including a range of worldviews and beliefs. This helps them to develop respect, empathy and understanding of people from different faiths and backgrounds. Special diversity weeks enable pupils to engage practically with and demonstrate knowledge of a range of religions. However, their understanding of Christianity as a living, global world faith is less developed. Visitors and visits to places of worship such as the local church, a Hindu temple and a synagogue, significantly enhance RE provision.

Extensive support and training from the diocese strengthen and develop staff expertise. Therefore, teachers are confident in their teaching of RE, ensuring lessons are consistently engaging and resource rich. They instigate lively discussions using deep philosophical questions. As a result, RE plays an important role in developing pupils' critical thinking and personal views. Leaders have developed accurate assessment practices in RE. Thus, teachers know how well pupils are learning and adapt lessons to meet the needs of their classes. As a result, pupils throughout the school make sound progress and achieve well.

Information

Address	Stockers Farm Road, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 1NY		
Date	01 July 2026	URN	150576
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	192
Diocese	St Albans		
MAT	Chess Valley Primary Learning Trust		
MAT CEO	Debbie Rogan		
Headteacher	Natasha Maxwell		
Chair of Governors	David Carruthers		
Inspector	Jenny Earp		