



Diocese of St Albans

RE Inspection Report (VC Schools)

School Name:	St Catherine's VC Primary School
URN:	117410
School Address:	Park Road, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 0AW
Date of visit:	18 June 2015
Diocese:	St Albans
LA:	Hertfordshire
Headteacher:	Hazel Wing
Inspector's name & number:	Mel Adams NS 58
Critical Reader:	Jo Fageant
<p style="text-align: center;">The effectiveness of religious education is good</p> <p>RE is an important subject in the school and the leader has been supported over the past 2 years to raise its profile and develop learning and teaching. She is committed to improving progress and raising attainment and to developing the contribution of RE to the distinctive Christian character of the school. As a consequence, children enjoy learning in RE. In lessons observed from year 1 to year 4, children answered questions and confidently offered their own ideas. They gain a good understanding of Christianity and different faiths using a range of skills such as enquiry and investigation. This was observed in a year 4 class where children were examining a range of Hindu and Christian texts, drawing common ideas about the messages they convey and how people apply them to their lives. One child explained, 'People believe in it and it gives you guidance throughout the day'. Where learning activities are well- structured and supported by effective teacher questioning children develop an understanding of vocabulary related to different faiths, such as Karma being discussed in year 4 and reincarnation in year 1/ 2 class. Children's spoken responses often indicate growing understanding but these are not recorded to inform assessment. Visitors from different faiths support children's developing understanding. Children have not visited different places of worship. Children's recorded work in books does not consistently demonstrate religious knowledge and understanding. This can be as a result of tasks which focus on personal thoughts or work sheets which limit space for developing ideas. Some tasks are more effective, such as an activity to prepare for a visit by someone from another faith. Attainment is measured against national expectations as set out in the Hertfordshire agreed syllabus. Evidence available indicates that attainment in Key Stage 1 and Lower Key stage 2 is broadly in line with these expectations. Evidence of current attainment in children's' books in upper key stage 2 is below expectation. The head teacher and RE leader are aware that they do not have a clear picture of progress within each year, or over time. Marking of work, though occasionally affirming is not in line with school expectations for other subjects, limiting opportunities to develop thinking and progress. The school values are evident in RE, with children able to explain how their learning helps them to respect others, explained by one child who was trying to fast briefly to help them respect those who are observing Ramadan. As a result, RE makes a good contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural [SMSC] development.</p>	

This RE report should be read together with the recent SIAMS report.

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