



Nicki Mattin

Principal

Spires Academy

Nicki was appointed as the Principal of Spires Academy in September 2012. Spires is a small non selective secondary school in the fully selective county of Kent. It therefore serves a community that is characterised by a high level of disadvantage and low academic levels on entry who suffer from low aspiration and damaged self-esteem. The level of need is high. It is one of the original 'old style' academies and benefitted from a brand-new build that opened as Nicki joined the school.

Nicki has over 20 years' experience of working in schools which has shaped her philosophy and vision. She believes that schools should equip their students with the confidence, competence, knowledge, skills and understanding to fit easily and actively into a rapidly changing society. Partnership working is critical to this.

During her career, Nicki has been fortunate to work on projects that have had influence locally, nationally and internationally. This included being the school lead on an EU- funded project "Improving the Quality of Education in Iraq" with the British Council and Iraqi government. The aim being to help rebuild the Iraq school system and community using a model of school to school support. Nicki was fortunate to visit Iraq in November 2011 to visit schools and participate in a joint conference.

Nicki is currently a member of the Schools Together Group (STG) steering group committee which champion state and independent schools working in partnership.

Leading schools' development