



Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for St Eugene De Mazenod Catholic Primary School

URN: 100047

Carried out on behalf of the Title. Most Rev. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster on:

Date: 22 - 23 February 2023

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The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference	✓	
The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop	✓	
The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection	Fully	

Summary of key findings

What the school does well

- Skillful teaching enhances pupil vocabulary and extends religious literacy.
- The flourishing partnership between the school, parish and parent community is central to the success of St Eugene's Catholic life and mission.
- The school, in partnership with the Church embodies the Church's preferential option for the poor by ensuring that resources are consciously and effectively targeted at those in greatest need.
- Child led worship is fully embedded, pupils lead worship with enthusiasm and reverence.

- Leaders are deeply committed to supporting staff in teaching religious education and leading worship. Through their relationships with each other and the love and care they show for pupils, staff consistently bear witness to the school's Catholic life and mission.

What the school needs to improve:

- Leaders of different subject areas should work together to plan opportunities to make relevant connections and embed Catholic social teaching.
- Planning of religious education should provide more opportunities for pupils to deepen their learning so that they begin to articulate how they have made progress, demonstrate independence, and synthesize what they have learned.
- To further embrace and celebrate the distinctive charism of St Eugene's Catholic Primary School in everyday life.

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade:.....

1

Pupil outcomes

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

1

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

1

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

1

Pupils in St Eugene's understand that their school has a distinctive Catholic identity, they know their school mission and school values. They know that St Eugene is the patron saint of broken families and that he worked tirelessly to help the poor. They understand that their work fundraising for "New Ways" as well as their sponsorship of children from developing countries, is an expression of how they too can live like St Eugene. Pupils are confident and feel secure in this welcoming community. They seek to live out their mission and school values, they recognise that everyone is made in God's image. Pupils take part assemblies where the key principles of Catholic social teaching are explored. This results in debate and discussion leading to direct action in various forms. For example, pupils support the local Church's foodbank and various other charities. Pupils can quote relevant scripture to support their actions. The communal area in school has a permanent foodbank basket which reminds pupils to donate. Pupils stack the shelves in the Church's foodbank and signpost to the community when produce is running low. The communal areas display artifacts from other faiths, pupils display a deep sense of respect for those of other faiths and told inspectors how they enjoyed having visitors to explain their faith, including a recent workshop on Judaism. Pupils' behaviour throughout the school is exemplary. Pupils value the opportunity to take on leadership roles as school chaplains. They help prepare liturgies for younger pupils as well as in their own classes.

Pupils gave inspectors examples of how they try to "Go shine in the world and live as Jesus lived" in their everyday lives. They understand that their school's mission statement is based on Christ's teachings and as a result they have a responsibility to behave towards each other in a manner that reflects this. Staff are very happy to work in this school, they explained how they work hard to support each other and celebrate each other to also "shine like Jesus". Every aspect of school life is

based on this mission. This is evident in the quality of relationships in this exceptionally supportive community. The respect and care the adults show for each other is evident in everyday life. Consequently, pupils emulate this behaviour resulting in the whole school community bearing witness to its Catholic life and mission. There is a commitment to care for and pray for the most vulnerable. Many examples were provided where the whole community united in prayer for healing, for those in sorrow, for those in trouble as well as to give thanks. St Eugene's is a school of the order of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate whose mission is to "bring the Good News of Christ to the Poor". The local priest and leaders work tirelessly to provide for the poor and vulnerable. This work is carried out enthusiastically, pupils as well as staff are reminded in assemblies about the value of this work and its impact on the wider community. St Eugene's has a carefully planned programme to deliver Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). This curriculum meets all statutory and diocesan requirements and is firmly rooted in the teachings of the Church. It celebrates a holistic view of the human person and pupils were confidently able to tell inspectors about what they had learned in these lessons.

Leaders and Governors ensure that Christ is at the heart of this school. Governors are actively involved in the school and ensure all policies and procedures reflect its Catholic life and mission. Leaders work closely with the diocese and participate in professional development opportunities offered. The local priest makes himself readily available to staff and to pupils, he is a regular visitor who contributes generously of his time. As a result, the partnership between school, parents and Parish is exemplary. Parents value the Church being opened early in the morning and families regularly visit to pray. The items running low in the food bank are noted and requests are listed in the Church, so people know what to include in their donations. Parents who responded to the survey, as well as those who spoke to inspectors, were overwhelmingly supportive of the school. The school and Parish work in partnership to provide service to those in greatest need. Staff explained that leaders and Governors respect the dignity of workers. They stated that leaders' efforts in this area contribute to their physical and mental wellbeing. Governors are passionate about their school; they have high levels of expertise and constantly strive to offer the very best experiences for pupils and staff. New staff feel extremely well supported, the staff survey was unanimous in its appreciation of leaders' work to ensure that they are supported to contribute to the Catholic life and mission of St Eugene's.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade:.....

2

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education.....

2

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education.....

2

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor, and evaluate the provision for religious education.....

2



The religious education curriculum has been planned to ensure that pupils develop a secure knowledge, understanding and skills required by the Religious Education Directory. St Eugene's uses the "Come and See" scheme to deliver its curriculum. Catholic Social teaching is referenced however, it is not yet explicitly planned as part of the curriculum. Staff adapt planning for pupils in their classes and pupils make good progress in knowing more, remembering more, and doing more when measured against the planned curriculum for each year. Adults work effectively to support pupils with SEND. However, some pupils do not always have opportunities to deepen their learning in religious education as tasks are not always matched to their ability. The consistent pedagogical approach to learning new vocabulary has resulted in pupils being religiously literate. Pupils respond well to the structure of their lessons and have a clear understanding of the concepts taught and tasks provided. Teachers use mini plenaries and questioning effectively to check understanding. Pupils are adept at using subject specific vocabulary during peer discussion to enhance learning. Pupils take great pride in their work and their books are well presented. Behaviour for learning is good, pupils are engaged and enjoy religious education. Pupils' achievements in religious education is comparable with other core curriculum subjects.

The school provides good professional development for teachers. As St Eugene's is in partnership with other schools, a day a term has been set aside for teachers to meet with a religious education teacher who supports planning and delivery of the curriculum. This support, alongside diocesan training, ensures most teachers are confident in their subject knowledge. There is a strong emphasis on pedagogy resulting in teachers having a good understanding how pupils in their school learn. Teachers value religious education and provide a variety of tasks for pupils to enjoy and consolidate learning. Assessment is mostly used effectively to make sure planning is relevant and pupils learn

well. Pupils' achievements in religious education are celebrated, this leads to high levels of motivation. Pupils are given time to reflect in lessons however this does not always impact on how well they analyse and evaluate concepts taught.

Leaders have ensured that the curriculum is mapped out against the requirements of the curriculum directory. Online resources are used effectively to enhance its delivery. Leaders and governors constantly monitor and assess religious education and ensure that it is at least comparable to other core subjects in terms of professional development, resourcing, timetabling, and staffing. Leaders ensure all teachers are confident to teach every aspect of the curriculum, staff new to Catholic education have completed the diocesan *Foundation Stones* training. The subject leader has a clear vision for teaching and learning and is very well placed to deliver this vision. She is ably assisted by the religious education lead for the school's partnership. As a result, teaching is good. Teachers feel confident and well supported to provide lessons for pupils that enable them to progress sequentially through the curriculum. However, planning does not always provide opportunities for some pupils to deepen their theological understanding of topics taught. Tasks to deepen learning experiences are sometimes provided as extensions rather than being targeted tasks for groups of pupils. Leaders and Governors self-evaluation is accurate and informed by thorough monitoring, analysis, and self-challenge.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.

Collective worship key judgement grade:.....

1

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

1

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

1

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

1



Prayer is an integral part of daily life in St Eugene's. Pupils eagerly participate to pray for each other and for those in need. Morning prayer includes prayers for the children sponsored by pupils. World events are considered, and prayers offered for all. During an assembly and liturgy on Ash Wednesday the school choir led pupils in song as they gathered to pray for victims and survivors of the earthquake in Turkey. Pupils were engaged and gave thoughtful responses when the local priest thanked them for their contributions to the foodbank and told how they are helping people in the community. Through their responses about Lenten duties, it was clear that pupils linked Scripture, Pope Francis' Lenten message and their donations. They could see the impact of their actions. Pupils lead worship with passion and confidence, pupils in Reception class demonstrated that they can independently choose cloths of the correct liturgical colours and prepare a prayer space with a candle, Bible, cross and artifacts to support their liturgy. Pupils in Year 6 began their liturgy with a whole class meditation which is common practice in every year group. Pupils are adept at reflecting on worship, they consider how they can improve the worship experience for all. They make links with what is going on around them, pupils came to school in their own clothes to support their chosen "New Ways" charity and incorporated this into their worship.

Staff told inspectors how much they appreciate that they pray for each other in times of need and in times of celebration. Traditional prayers are included in worship are embedded in the daily life of the school. Inspectors observed a wide range of prayer, pupils like to write prayers for inclusion in assembly and on their prayer tree. Christian mediation is a highly valued practice, pupils told inspectors how much they enjoy meditation and a time to be still. Scripture is very well used for reflection; pupils enjoy responding to the Word in a variety of ways. New staff and those new to

Catholic education are very well supported by Catholic support staff and leaders. Worship experiences are recorded and shared as examples of good practice. Leaders quality assure worship experiences so that new staff quickly grow in confidence and become adept at helping pupils plan and lead worship. Parents appreciate being invited to school to worship with pupils.

St Eugene's has a well-planned calendar of Worship that ensures Mass is celebrated regularly and significant days such as St Eugene's feast day are prioritised. The policy on prayer and worship ensures pupils have varied opportunities to participate. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered during Advent and Lent. Leaders and Governors work tirelessly to ensure effective professional development opportunities are in place. The school is part of a partnership, its strong focus on school improvement has resulted in a consistent pedagogical approach that impacts positively on the planning of prayer and worship. This approach, coupled with rigorous quality assurance, has resulted in all staff developing and supporting high quality worship experiences for pupils. The budget for religious education is comparable to the budget set for other core subjects, consequently pupils have attractive, relevant resources to use when leading Worship. These resources reflect the liturgical year and impact on the quality of experience for pupils.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Eugene de Mazenod Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	100047
Full postal address of the school	Mazenod Avenue, West Hampstead, London NW6 4LS
School phone number	0207 624 4837
Name of head teacher or principal	Rebecca Smith Head of School, Moya Richardson Executive Headteacher
Chair of governing board	Angela Docherty
School Website	www.steugene.camden.sch.uk
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age-range of pupils	4-11
Trustees	Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

The inspection team

Evelyn Ward

Lead inspector

Jade Cahill

Team inspector

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement