



St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

URN: 102912

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Westminster

05–06 December 2024

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

1

Catholic life and mission (p.3)

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

1

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

1

Collective worship (p.7)

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

1

The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference

Yes

The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop

Yes

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection

Fully

Compliance statement

- The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference.
- The school is fully compliant with the additional requirements of the diocesan bishop.
- All areas for improvement outlined in the previous diocesan inspection have been addressed in full.

What the school does well

- The leadership team, led by the passionate and committed head teacher, joyfully live out the mission 'together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'.
- Relationships throughout the school are based on the highest levels of care and respect, leading to exemplary pupil behaviour and attitudes.
- The strength of the home/school/parish links lead to a strong sense of community where all stakeholders are nurtured in their faith.
- Staff use a range of creative teaching strategies, based on scripture, which foster high levels of engagement and an enjoyment of religious education for all pupils.
- Pupils are actively engaged in supporting those in need; they recognise that their mission is to serve others and they understand the theology 'not to be served, but to serve'.

What the school needs to improve

- Ensure planned activities in religious education provide opportunities for extended writing to showcase a range of abilities.
- Further develop the experience of prayer and liturgy to enable more pupils to make more meaningful links to their religious commitment 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

Pupil outcomes

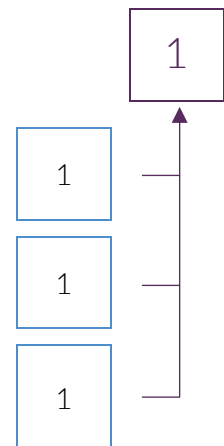
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

Provision

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

Leadership

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



All members of the school community of St Edmund's embrace and live out the mission, 'together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'. One pupil stated, 'it means that God guides us as we grow up together'. The school responds to the needs of others locally, nationally and globally, with pupils taking a lead role in deciding which charities to support. Examples include the Whitton Foodbank, the Catholic Children's Society and Cafod. Pupils can confidently articulate the theology that underpins their actions. They can link these actions to scripture, one child commented that 'we learn from Jesus who cared for the poor.' Pupil groups such as the Buddies, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, School Council, Eco-team, religious education prefects and the Mini Vinnies have a strong understanding of why they lead initiatives across the school. They shared that 'we care about God's world – we are not just bystanders but we follow in Jesus' way.' Pupils are very proud to be part of the St Edmund's community and know that a shared faith is at its centre, 'if you're going through a tough time, you can pray'. Pupils are proud of the difference they make to others in their community. Catholic social teaching is taught effectively at St Edmund's; pupils are able to speak confidently about what these principles are and how they can put them into action in their lives.

Staff feel privileged to be a part of this community and this is evident through the positive relationships they have with each other and the pupils, resulting in high levels of pastoral care and respect. This level of care permeates all stakeholders at St Edmund's; the 'Buddies' spoke enthusiastically about how they 'give out equipment to help the younger children play.' One child shared, 'if people are sad, we play with them.' They feel their job is an important one so 'children don't feel lonely.' One parent commented 'I am delighted that St Edmund's is nurturing my daughter to be a thoughtful child who places Jesus at the core of all the decisions she makes.' St

Edmund's is a very inclusive school and pupils with additional needs are given regular opportunities to engage in all aspects of school life, being well supported by the additional adults. Pupil understanding of Catholic social teaching principles is reflected throughout the vibrant learning environment and in their class books. Displays around the school are lively, engaging and reflective of the distinctive Catholic nature of the school. Pupils have written out the Lord's Prayer in their home language; many displays include scripture, and Catholic social teaching displays are a celebration of what the children are learning. Together, they create a warm and welcoming environment for all pupils. The provision of relationships, sex and health education is strong and meets all diocesan guidelines.

On entering St Edmund's, it is immediately apparent that this is a Catholic school. The head teacher, deputy head teacher and the leader for Catholic life, share a commitment to ensuring that Catholic life is central to this community. The parish priest supports the school very well by being an active presence in the community, greeting families on the gate each week, as well as celebrating Masses and liturgies throughout the year. Leaders and the parish priest have a reciprocal and supportive relationship, both being highly ambitious for the school's future development. Staff show love and care for each other and all pupils, bearing witness to the school's commitment to enable all to flourish. One staff member stated, 'this school has allowed me to grow and develop as a person of faith as well as a teacher'. Senior leaders are well supported by governors who fully support the school in its core mission offering effective support and challenge. Parents are recognised as the first educators of their child and are invited and encouraged to be part of the Catholic life of the school. One parent stated 'I enjoy joining in year group prayer sessions in both assemblies and at Masses'.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

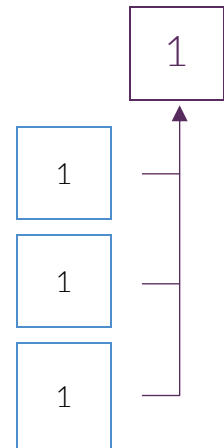
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

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

Leadership

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



Pupil behaviour is excellent at St Edmund's; pupils display very positive attitudes to their learning, and this leads to outstanding outcomes in religious education. Pupils make strong progress from their starting points, and this is evident when they articulate their learning; levels of religious literacy are strong. Staff provide a rich and varied range of creative opportunities to engage pupils in religious education lessons and pupils speak of how much they enjoy these. Teachers now need to plan for more extended writing opportunities, so pupils are able to showcase their knowledge and understanding in religious education. Pupils understand and can apply what they have learned from scripture to their RE tasks. One child shared, 'I am the Lord's servant, may it happen to me as you have said', as she created a piece of artwork based on the story of the Annunciation. Pupils can speak confidently about key concepts in scripture; this is a strength of the religious education teaching at St Edmund's. In one lesson, pupils were able to use vocabulary such as 'incarnation' and 'antiphon' in a meaningful and accurate context. Pupils at St Edmund's are curious, interested and engaged learners. Their efforts in religious education are celebrated and this leads to higher levels of motivation.

Staff are enthusiastic about teaching religious education and ensure it is given the highest priority; this leads to strong pupil attitudes and behaviour. Teachers across the school have strong subject knowledge and this leads to high quality learning opportunities for pupils. The most effective teaching included questioning that encouraged deeper thinking and links to scripture and prayer life. This was seen in an upper Key Stage 2 lesson when discussing the origins of the Angelus. Pupils effectively use Bibles to support them in further developing their understanding. Lessons are planned to ensure all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, participate and achieve well. The use of art and creative approaches to support religious education is a strength across the school. These opportunities are well utilised,

particularly for those with language needs, to ensure that all pupils are able to express their understanding in religious education. Pupils get a very good start at St Edmund's in developing their religious literacy. Strategies such as song, art and drama are used effectively to enable full engagement and participation throughout the Early Years. Verbal feedback leads to progress for all, and this was evident through discussions with pupils alongside the learning in their books. Pupils show an understanding of self-assessment and how it can improve their learning in religious education.

The leadership team at St Edmund's has a strong commitment to promoting a high-quality religious education for all. The religious education lead shows a strong understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development, as well as a high level of expertise and a passion for the subject. Leaders place great importance on staff professional development, ensuring religious education is at the core of the curriculum and this has led to strong subject knowledge in religious education across the school. Induction systems are highly valued by staff and lead to teachers feeling confidently supported in their teaching. The religious education lead supports staff with ongoing training and new teachers benefit from working alongside a more experienced year group partner. Staff also access diocesan training and this whole package ensures they are fully supported to effectively teach religious education. Governors and the parish priest are committed to the school; they are highly appreciated and their presence is recognised and valued by all. A generous budget is allocated to this subject area.

Collective worship

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

Collective worship key judgement grade

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

1

Prayer and liturgy are a central part of school life at St Edmund's and valued by all members of the community. Pupils use and understand a variety of prayers including the celebration of the word, silence and reflection alongside the prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition such as the rosary and the Angelus. Pupils are confident, reverent and respectful in prayer sessions and work collaboratively with teachers and their peers to effectively plan and lead these. Prayer sessions are beginning to be more cohesive and built upon a common theme. Staff now need to ensure all pupils are given opportunities to make more meaningful links between prayer and their daily commitment to their faith. Pupils enjoy singing and this enhances assemblies and liturgies. One child shared that, 'the hymns we sing help me to reflect and get closer to God'. There is a well implemented, planned progression of prayers from the Early Years to Year 6.

The school, parish and homes work closely together to support the prayer life of pupils. St Edmund's provides numerous opportunities for planned prayer and liturgy experiences and there is a daily pattern of prayer across all year groups. Parents are invited into school for assemblies, Masses and liturgies and these are very well attended. Home-school prayer links are strong; one parent stated, 'I love how they are always seeking new ways to improve the children's prayer life such as sending home rosary bags to pray with the families at home in October'. Another parent reflected on how much the prayer life in school has impacted on what they do at home, 'my children ask to go to Mass every Sunday and have made their own altar in their bedroom where they pray every evening'. Pupils take a lead role in school Masses. At a recent celebration for St Edmund's feast day, the Year 6 children planned out the service with their teachers, role playing the life of St Edmund. Scripture is at the heart of prayer and liturgy experiences for pupils and the links between this and the liturgical year ensure prayer

experiences are more relevant. The outdoor prayer garden is well utilised and provides a meaningful space for children to engage in prayer opportunities throughout the liturgical year.

Prayer and liturgy is given a high priority by leaders at St Edmund's and is strengthened through the parish links and the collegial relationship the school has with the parish priest. Leaders work closely with him to plan regular Masses which class groups attend. Pupils eagerly take on ministries within the Church and enjoy being altar servers and reading at Mass. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered during Advent and Lent. The parish priest has recently purchased icons of the school House Saints to display in the Church; further enhancing the school and parish links for pupils. The head teacher is a role model within the community, leading with passion, showing her commitment to placing Christ at the centre of St Edmund's. One parent stated, 'the headteacher guides our children well, reinforcing our Catholic values'. Staff have been well trained by the religious education lead to ensure they are fully supporting pupils as they lead prayer sessions regularly. The school calendar provides a framework for Masses, assemblies and liturgies that are linked to the Liturgical year. Leaders, including governors, ensure the provision for prayer and liturgy is prioritised when setting budgets and allocating resources.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Edmund's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	102912
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3183315
Full postal address of the school	St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Nelson Road, Whitton, Twickenham, TW2 7BB
School phone number	02088947898
Headteacher	Carmel Moreland
Chair of governors	Clare Jones
School Website	www.st-edmunds.richmond.sch.uk
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	N/A
Age-range of pupils	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	January 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

The inspection team

Robina Maher	Lead
Tim Hallett	Team
Christine Curtis	Team

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