

INSPECTION REPORT

St Edmund's R.C. Primary School

Inspection date 17th June 2014

Reporting Inspectors

Lead Inspector

Additional Inspector

Mr. A.J. Sowerby

Mrs M Taylor

Inspection carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School Roman Catholic Primary

URN 105527

Age range of pupils 3-11 years

Number on roll 240

Appropriate authority The Governing Body

Chair of Governors Rev Fr Gerald Murphy

Headteacher Mrs Anne Clinton

Religious Education Co-ordinator Mrs Zara Betney

Date of previous inspection May 2009

| The Inspection judgements are: | Grade | Explanation of the Grades |
|--|--------------|---------------------------|
| Overall effectiveness of the school | 1 | |
| The quality of the Word of God community | 1 | 1 = Outstanding |
| The quality of the Welcome community | 1 | 2 = Good |
| The quality of Welfare | 1 | 3=Requires Improvement |
| The quality of Worship | 1 | |
| The quality of Witness | 1 | 4 = Inadequate |

The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

St. Edmund's is a Roman Catholic Primary School situated in the Harpurhey district of Manchester approximately one mile north of the city centre. It is an area designated as one of the most socially deprived districts in the country. The school serves the parish of St Edmund's Harpurhey which is now amalgamated with the parishes of St. Malachy's and St Patrick's Collyhurst. It is a slightly smaller than the average size Primary School with 240 pupils on roll (including Nursery). 79% of children are baptised Catholic. Pupils who attend the school come from a range of ethnic backgrounds; 33% of pupils are white British, 27% of pupils are Black African. There is a rich variety of ethnicities represented within the school but no other group is larger than 5%. The proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language is much higher than average. 85 of pupils are on the SEN register with 3 pupils having a statement of educational need. 35% of pupils are eligible for FSM, with 44% eligible for FSM6. 3 pupils are designated as Looked After or under guardianship. Mobility is less than 2%. Eleven of the fourteen teachers are Catholic. All teachers teach R.E. and lead collective acts of prayer and worship. Four teachers have the CCRS, with another three currently undertaking the course. Since the previous inspection there has been a new Headteacher, a new chair of governors, a new Assistant Head Teacher and new R.E. Co-ordinator. Pupil numbers have risen from 186 to 240. The school has achieved a number of awards which include Healthy Schools Award, Active Schools Award, Eco School Award and a special commendation from the GMP for their work in the community during Advent.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL

St Edmund's is an outstanding Catholic Primary school. There is a wonderfully warm and friendly welcome given to all. All children are provided with a Catholic education in a caring and supportive environment where differences are welcomed and celebrated. All children take a great pride in the school which is fully inclusive. The Word of God is central to the life of the school. The school works collaboratively with the parish priest where the whole Catholic community is seen as a united family. This ensures the pastoral and spiritual needs of all families and children are very well met. The dedicated Head Teacher, Assistant Head Teacher R.E. Co-ordinator and Leadership Team have high expectations of adults and children. Together with the hard working staff they have created an ethos where everyone recognises the need to work together as a "family", showing love and concern for all its members. This work is further enhanced by the support of a very effective Governing Body. The children love coming to school and the school buddies, Chaplaincy Team, the Junior Leadership Team and Eco Council all expressed how very proud they are of all the opportunities given to them. Pupils are friendly, polite and welcoming and their behaviour at all times is exemplary. They work hard to fulfil the high expectations of the adults who work with them. They enjoyed every opportunity to share with the inspectors their work. The staff and pupils demonstrate a very high level of respect, care and service to others. The very effective teaching and learning; the creative and imaginative use of the learning environment; as well as the high quality interactive displays which supports the children's faith journey; ensure that all children receive a vibrant Catholic Education. This is also enhanced by the many engaging and uplifting Acts of Collective Worship that the inspection team observed.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE

- The outstanding teaching and learning opportunities provided for all children.
- The high quality interactive displays
- The uplifting Acts of Collective Worship
- The exemplary behaviour of the children
- The inspirational leadership of the Head Teacher, Assistant Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team supported by a highly effective Governing Body

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP is Outstanding

There is very strong leadership at all levels of the school community which contributes significantly to the outstanding provision for Catholic Education that the school currently provides. The Head Teacher, Assistant Head Teacher and R.E. Co-ordinator provide an extremely clear vision for the school. They provide outstanding role models for the whole school community and as a result the development of the Catholic life

of the school is at the forefront of the school's work. This is further enhanced by the work of the School Improvement Team and the Junior Leadership Team which helps to ensure that all members of the school community are able to play a part in the development of the school community. They are supported by a knowledgeable Governing Body, and the parish priest who is a regular visitor to the school. The school has a clear plan for developing R.E across the school and this is reflected in the priority it is given. Evidence for this can be found in the school's clear self-evaluation plan, which is based on the 5Ws model. The school is aware of its next steps and has clear plans for implementing them. As a result the inspector can verify that this evaluation is both accurate and reflective. The effective Governing Body has a clear sense of vision for the school and is aware of the need to continue to improve the school's learning environment so as to ensure that the school can continue to provide a high quality Catholic Education.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD OF GOD is outstanding:

The school's Mission Statement is clearly displayed throughout the school. It is known, lived and witnessed to and is evident at every level of the school. Consequently it has developed in the children a great sense of pride and belonging in the whole Catholic family of St Edmund's. This was evidenced in the confident manner in which the children could explain how it had been improved in order to make it more child friendly. The Religious Education of the pupils is at the centre of the Core Curriculum. The staffing and resources devoted to RE are of the highest standard, reflecting its significance and importance in the school. Teaching is consistently good and often outstanding across the school with many examples of excellent practice. Pupils are challenged to engage with the Big Questions of the purpose and meaning of life throughout the curriculum. This could be seen particularly in those lessons where children were challenged to implement the gospel message in their own lives. Examples of this were seen in Year 1 where the children were challenged to show compassion in their dealings with others, in Year 6 where they had the opportunity to reflect upon what qualities are required to become a saint, in Year 3 where the children were able to consider the feelings of all the characters in the story of the Good Samaritan. Scripture is clearly known, understood and made relevant throughout the school. The staff and pupils demonstrate and can articulate the centrality and importance of the Word of God. There is evidence on the displays in the classroom and halls of the importance of this. In all classrooms there is clear evidence of the centrality of prayer and worship in the children's lives and how this is linked to the R.E curriculum. The home, school and parish links are inclusive, creative and increasingly effective. Pupils are actively trained in outreach to the local community. This can be seen in the number of charities that the school supports. These are not just the Catholic charities such as CAFOD and St Joseph's Penny but also the support the school gives to other local charities such as the Lalley Centre.

The Inspectors cite the following evidence to confirm their judgement:

- Overall the standards of attainment, progress and hence achievement are outstanding. As the curriculum is based on the school's mission it is challenging, interesting and fulfilling. The children are developing the age appropriate knowledge and skills. The school has incorporated "The Way, The Truth and the Life" scheme. This is well supplemented by other R.E. resources so that as a result standards of learning are outstanding.
- Work in R.E is clearly as excellent as work in other subjects due to the high priority given to it in school. This was seen by inspectors during the scrutiny of both the R.E and Literacy books. Marking was consistently good in R.E. The school has begun to develop a clear and coherent system for tracking the children's attainment in R.E. but it is not yet fully embedded in the school something which the school recognises.
- Standards in RE are excellent. The children are encouraged to take the initiative and lead their own learning thereby developing their independence. This is evident in all classes. There are regular visits into and out of school to enrich the RE curriculum such as participating in joint Diocesan and parish masses.
- The school has worked collaboratively to gather evidence so that the school has a clear strategy that includes all members of the school community in implementing the 5Ws across the school. Evidence of this was seen in school where the staff gathers evidence on a weekly basis of how the school is meeting its mission.

THE QUALITY OF WELCOME is outstanding:

St Edmund's is a school where everyone feels welcome. The school's Mission Statement and School Prayer at the entrance to the school highlights the importance the school places on making sure that all members of the school community are part of God's family. Parents were keen to express their views by saying " It is a close knit community a real family" and that the welcome you get at the school is truly outstanding. The

importance of the dignity of the individual is clearly evident at all levels. This could be seen in the way that all pupils and staff treated children with special educational needs in a respectful and caring manner so that their self-esteem was raised and their needs met. The quality of the outreach support provided by the school has enabled it to improve its levels of attendance so that they are now above the national average. All members of the school community demonstrate a very high level of belonging and ownership of the school. Pupils are given a high level of responsibility in creating and sustaining the school's sense of welcome. The "School Chaplaincy Team, School Buddies, Junior Leadership Team and Eco Council are examples of projects which have enabled all the children to feel very proud of their school and its achievements. Parents are very welcome into school and are encouraged to engage in their child's learning. This could clearly be seen in the way that staff from the nursery and reception classes met parents at the start of the school day and discussed with them any concerns that they had.

The inspectors cite the following evidence to confirm their judgements:

- All families are welcomed into the school with warmth by the opportunities which are created to visit the school and meet the whole team. Parents voiced to the inspector how the staff went out of their way to make them feel part of the community of St. Edmund's through the opportunities provided of a variety of different social and fund raising activities.
- Parents are kept informed and up to date about the curriculum and events in school through the use of the school newsletter and school website. The school also ensures that the voice of the children is heard and respected. The children were keen to express their opinion about the changes they had brought about in school such as the provision of improved play facilities and the development of the outdoor area for the growing of vegetables.
- Within school relationships are of the highest quality. Older children care for the younger ones, pupil chaplains and support staff work hard to ensure playtimes are fun and peaceful. During the course of the inspection the children's behaviour was outstanding.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE is outstanding:

The staff and pupils demonstrate a very high level of respect, care and service to others. This was witnessed in all classes where children feel confident and secure enough to tend to their personal needs without interrupting the learning or having their dignity abused. The structures and procedures ensure that all pupils and staff feel safe and are treated with respect and dignity. This was evidenced in the way that members of staff cared for children who were hurt or unwell. The outreach support provided by the school ensures that the needs of parents and young families are met in a structured and sensitive manner. The provision of a before school Breakfast Club and a variety of before and after school activities all support the needs of the families the school serves. All pupils and staff feel safe and free to express their opinions and know that these will be valued. This was seen both during discussions with the children and also with the School Improvement Team who expressed their opinions about the variety of opportunities provided for them and how they felt empowered to express their opinions. Importance and recognition is given equally to all. The budget, staffing and resourcing decisions demonstrate a consistent commitment to Catholic stewardship throughout the school.

The Inspectors cite the following evidence to confirm their judgements:

- The physical, spiritual and mental well-being of each person is central to the school's mission. Junior Leadership Team discussed with the inspectors the need to reach out with kindness to others for example those less fortunate in the world. Children are caring and have a true sense of right and wrong.
- The school is a very caring community where everyone is valued! Children during lessons listened respectfully to other pupils' ideas. The School Chaplaincy Team and School Buddies provide good role models for younger children to follow and help to ensure that the school is a calm and orderly place to work. This has ensured that outstanding behaviour occurs across the school and the welfare of children is very well catered for.
- Calm support is offered by sensitive adults when children have difficulty remaining on task. Such role models ensure learning and good relationships develop. This could be seen in the way that children with special educational needs and disabilities were managed within the classroom so

that a purposeful learning environment was encountered.

- The school stresses the importance of reaching out beyond its own community so that children feel part of God's world. The charity work is a living example of this as children support CAFOD, St Joseph's Penny and many other charities chosen by the children.
- The school goes to great lengths to ensure as far as possible children are free from worry and a happy, calm atmosphere is the norm. The provision of regular child meditation sessions supports this, providing children with the opportunity for a short period of silence in a busy bustling school.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP is outstanding

The school provides a variety of worship opportunities for pupils throughout the school (prayer, reflection, liturgies) including small and large groups – which are appropriate to their backgrounds and faith experiences. The development of opportunities for pupils to worship according to their intellectual and life experience needs and stages of faith development is clearly evident. This could be seen in the way that the "Den" and the Chaplaincy area was used for simple age appropriate acts of worship. Inclusive worship helps pupils to grow in confidence in prayer and develop a relationship with God. All staff are confident and skilled in planning and leading prayer and worship which is pupil-centred, creative, inclusive and relevant.

Most staff are trained and supported in the formation and education of the prayer life of the school. Evidence was seen in the way that non Catholic staff are supported by the R.E. Co-ordinator with the preparation of Meditation sessions. A high level of creativity is evident in the worship, liturgies and celebrations, engaging all pupils and staff. The school provides a wide range of reflective prayer opportunities. This could be seen not only in the different prayer services observed by the inspection team but also in the evidence of the classroom and hall displays which were of a very high quality.

The inspectors cite the following evidence to confirm their judgements:

- The parish priest regularly celebrates the Mass with the children in school. Key events are celebrated with special masses: the beginning of each school year, the parish and school feast day, Holy Days and at the end of the year.
- During Advent, Lent and the Easter season the school holds assemblies, liturgies and times of reflection/ reconciliation that are all shared by the whole school community.
- There is a daily act of collective worship. These take place in a variety of formats and are thought provoking, uplifting experiences for example those witnessed in the nursery and reception. Children pray in classes, small groups and individually with great reverence, respect and thought. Those children who are not Catholic either join in or show great reverence to the worship taking place.
- Pupils are comfortable with their feelings and have a good and knowledgeable vocabulary. Each class has a special area of focus. The children know many school prayers and compose powerful prayers for themselves. In many classes there were examples of displays of the children's own prayers.
- Attractive displays which were seen around school are used to show and stimulate prayer opportunities. Hymns, music and singing enhanced the quality and enjoyment of prayer in school
- The Gospel values are clearly evidenced throughout all the policies and procedures and have a significant impact on learning and the life of the school.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS is outstanding:

All staff act as excellent role models for the children and help them in recognising that God is with them in every aspect of school life. Adults and pupils witness to the Mission Statement of the school, which informs everything and is explicit in policies and the lived experience of the whole community. Adults act as role models of the school's mission and values and as key promoters of the ethos of the school for the pupils and the school community's witness to the wider community. The staff and pupils feel confident and secure in their witness to Christ, the Gospel and the teachings of the Church. Pupils are confident in witnessing to the beliefs and values of a Catholic community and are actively encouraged and supported in being pro-active citizens who participate in the decision-making processes at a local and national level. This is seen in the way the school promotes support for various charities so as to promote support for the Common Good. An

explicit Catholic culture permeates the whole of school and is clearly identifiable through relationships, decision-making and actions.

The Inspectors cite the following evidence to confirm their judgement:

- The entire school community recognises that God is at the heart of the school in their actions and their relationships. All live the word of God. The mission statement is the powerful tool which is used to demonstrate how the school bears witness to a loving God. All members of the school family meet God each day and strive to meet all the challenges involved in this witness.
- The school mission is known and understood by all at appropriate levels. Relationships are outstanding at St Edmund's and a strong sense of teamwork and belonging exist.
- The children have a highly defined sense of fairness and justice. They know their responsibilities in terms of equal opportunities, stewardship and reconciliation.
- The inspectors noted at all times behaviour was outstanding. Children are respectful of each other. Adults working as a committed team have high expectations of the children and in this atmosphere the children thrive.

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- To continue to develop differentiation in curriculum R.E. so that activities are more closely matched to children's abilities.
- To enhance the opportunities for meditation so as to further develop children's spirituality

Dear Pupils

Thank you for making our visit to St Edmund's so enjoyable when we came to inspect your school for the Bishop. We really enjoyed being with you. Thank you for looking after us so well and helping us to feel very welcome. St. Edmund's is an outstanding Catholic school.

We enjoyed being part of your lessons and were sorry not to see everyone. Thank you for showing us so much of your work and activities. We could see that you are very proud of your school and all that you have achieved together. We were particularly impressed that you thought that the most important part of your learning and life together was that you 'felt connected to one another as all part of God's family'. I know the Bishop will be delighted to hear this.

Your teachers are really helping you to learn very well and we were very impressed by your excellent relationships and behaviour. It was good to see so much of your Mission Statement coming through everything you are learning; your relationships and the special way you make everyone feel valued. It is wonderful to see a school made up of pupils and adults who get on so well together so that everyone is cared for as a member of God's family. This is a true reflection of being part of a Catholic community where everyone is welcome and has a place.

You have started using your new RE programme and are doing very well. You are a very creative school and we were most impressed by the way you work together so co-operatively in your lessons. The prayer services we saw were very good and uplifting experiences. We have asked your teachers to continue to develop activities that are closely matched to your individual abilities and further develop the excellent work you are doing on meditation so as to help you all understand more about your faith and relationship with God.

God bless you all and have a really happy summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A.J Sowerby
Mrs M Taylor
Section 48 Inspectors
Diocese of Salford

Summary Report to Parents

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

St. Edmund's is a Roman Catholic Primary School situated in the Harpurhey district of Manchester approximately one mile north of the city centre. It is an area designated as one of the most socially deprived districts in the country. The school serves the parish of St Edmund's Harpurhey which is now amalgamated with the parishes of St. Malachy's and St Patrick's Collyhurst. It is a slightly smaller than the average size Primary School with 240 pupils on roll (including Nursery). 79% of children are baptised Catholic. Pupils who attend the school come from a range of ethnic backgrounds; 33% of pupils are white British, 27% of pupils are Black African. There is a rich variety of ethnicities represented within the school but no other group is larger than 5%. The proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language is much higher than average as is the percentage of pupils on the SEN register and those on FSM6. 11 out of 14 teachers are Catholic. All teachers teach R.E. and lead collective acts of prayer and worship. 4 teachers have the CCRS, with another 3 currently studying for it. There are 13 support staff of which 10 are Catholic. Since the previous inspection there has been a new Headteacher, a new chair of governors, a new Assistant Head Teacher and new R.E. Co-ordinator. The school has achieved a number of national and local awards.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL

St Edmund's is an outstanding Catholic Primary school. There is a wonderfully warm and friendly welcome given to all. All children are provided with a Catholic education in a caring and supportive environment where differences are welcomed and celebrated. All children take a great pride in the school which is fully inclusive. The Word of God is central to the life of the school. The school works collaboratively with the parish priest where the whole Catholic community is seen as a united family. This ensures the pastoral and spiritual needs of all families and children are very well met. The dedicated Head Teacher, Assistant Head Teacher R.E. Co-ordinator and Leadership Team have high expectations of adults and children. Together with the hard working staff they have created an ethos where everyone recognises the need to work together as a "family", showing love and concern for all its members. This work is further enhanced by the support of a very effective Governing Body. The children love coming to school and the school buddies, Chaplaincy Team, the Junior Leadership Team and Eco Council all expressed how very proud they are of all the opportunities given to them. Pupils are friendly, polite and welcoming and their behaviour at all times is exemplary. They work hard to fulfil the high expectations of the adults who work with them. They enjoyed every opportunity to share with the inspectors their work. The staff and pupils demonstrate a very high level of respect, care and service to others. The very effective teaching and learning; the creative and imaginative use of the learning environment; as well as the high quality interactive displays which supports the children's faith journey; ensure that all children receive a vibrant Catholic Education. This is also enhanced by the many engaging and uplifting Acts of Collective Worship that the inspection team observed.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE

- The outstanding teaching and learning opportunities provided for all children.
- The high quality interactive displays
- The uplifting Acts of Collective Worship
- The exemplary behaviour of the children
- The inspirational Senior Leadership Team supported by a highly effective Governing Body

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- To continue to develop differentiation in curriculum R.E. so that activities are more closely matched to children's abilities.
- To enhance the opportunities for meditation so as to further develop children's spirituality