

INSPECTION REPORT

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**Inspection carried out Under Canon 806
and in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005**

Name of School **St Edmund’s R C Primary School, Upper Monsall Street, Manchester M40 8NG**

Inspection date Friday 14th June 2019

Reporting Inspectors Mark Mountcastle and Claire Harrison

Type of school	Primary
URN	105527
Age range of pupils	3-11
Number on roll	235
Appropriate authority	The Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Peter Aulton
Headteacher	Anne Clinton
Religious Education Subject Leader	Rebecca Fox
Date of previous inspection	June 17 th 2014

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the Grades 1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
Overall effectiveness of the school	2	
Catholic Leadership	1	
The Catholic Life of the school (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness)	1	
Religious Education (incorporating Word)	2	
Collective Worship	2	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

St Edmunds RC Primary School is situated approximately one mile from Manchester city centre in the Harpurhey district. The school serves the amalgamated parishes of St Edmund, St Malachy and St Patrick. The schools of St Edmund and St Patrick are also federated under the executive headteacher. The school currently has 235 pupils on roll including a full time nursery and 96% of the children are baptised Catholic. The school caters for a range of ethnic backgrounds with the largest ethnic group being Black African. Of the children on role 40% of the pupils have English as an additional language and 11% of the children are classed as having a special educational need, 4 of whom have an Education, Health and Care Plan. In addition 46% of the children are eligible for pupil premium. There are 13 teachers, 12 of whom are Roman Catholic and 3 teachers have the CCRS qualification. The headteacher was appointed in 2011 and there is currently an acting deputy headteacher as the deputy is on maternity leave.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- **The care, welfare and love that the children, families and community receive is the ideal.**
- **The children are so confident in their relationships and self-worth that they contribute much to the whole Catholic life of the school.**
- **Leadership at all levels, including that of the children, has built a real community spirit that thrives within and well beyond the school.**

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD

St Edmund's is a fine example of a wonderful Catholic primary school. The excellent headteacher is extremely well supported by a committed senior leadership team and well informed governors and together they live their mission statement and have shaped a magnificent Catholic school. This ensures the pupils' well-being and the faith-life of the school is given high priority. Although some work needs to be undertaken in curriculum Religious Education and Collective Worship, there are many wonderful aspects of true mission in practice. The headteacher, who shows great humility, is very astute in self-evaluation of her school and has already begun work on the areas highlighted by the inspectors; she is very ambitious to achieve the best for the children in St Edmund's. The Catholic Life of the school is a particular strength and is a shining example for all schools. The care, love, support and guidance afforded to the children, families and community is beyond outstanding creating a calm, harmonious family feel which is a real strength of the school. There are very robust procedures in place throughout school and everyone feels welcomed, supported and valued. The children are great ambassadors for change as they know they are trusted and empowered to make a difference in their school and community. The words brilliant, happy, delightful and wonderful are heard from every parent who are all rightly very proud of their school and all it provides for their children. They truly feel like partners in the education of their children, knowing they will be listened to and helped when required. Everyone associated with the school believes in and lives the mission statement with family, faith and relationships at its centre.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

Leadership at all levels at St Edmund's is outstanding. The children are very active participants in school life and take on many roles very successfully. As they are trusted and see the positive outcomes of their hard work around school and in the community, they are empowered to make a difference and take great pride in their roles. The school is expertly led by a dedicated, hardworking headteacher and senior leadership team. They are all dedicated to the common good, providing outstanding care, support and guidance to all in the school community. They have worked very hard to create an 'oasis' of calm for the children and the support families receive from the day their children start school is truly the ideal. In addition the headteacher and school have extended their mission and have federated with St Patrick's in Collyhurst creating a very strong alliance between the two schools and three parishes of St Edmund's, St Patrick's and St Malachy's. The outreach work undertaken is exemplary and the strength of community is something to be celebrated. The federated governing body was formed a result of the amalgamation in September 2018. They are very well informed and know the school, its areas for

improvement and the community very well. The governors ensure that finances spent reflect not only the priorities of the school but the community it serves, ensuring the Catholic nature of the school is well resourced. The decision to appoint a CARITAS social worker to provide vital services to the school is a reflection of their commitment to their community.

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness) IS OUTSTANDING

St Edmund's exudes love, welcome and support to everyone in the community and all who visit. The school is an oasis of calm where the children feel valued, loved and supported in all they do for the school and the community. The whole day at school caters for varying needs and there is a very vibrant, busy and heavily subsidised breakfast club which sets a very positive vibe for each day at school. The children love attending school and are rightly proud of their achievements and all they do. The GIFT team could not wait to show their work and everything they do – from the stained glass window they made to how they help people if they feel 'lonely or unwanted.' The children are very confident in their various roles, junior ambassadors, buddies and chaplaincy prefects and they witness the impact of their actions in school and feel empowered. The parents talk of a 'brilliant' school where their children 'thrive and are happy.' Every parent spoken to beamed with pride when asked about the school and were rightly full of praise; they feel there is always a member of staff to speak to and issues are dealt with quickly and positively. The relationships between all staff and parents is excellent. From entering the school parents feel valued and the SENDCo and CARITAS social worker in particular work very hard with families, providing much needed early help and courses. The interventions that take place are a major contributory factor in the calm, happy and vibrant atmosphere seen throughout the school. The behaviour around school and in lessons was excellent and the children genuinely care for each other and help whenever they can.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS GOOD

The mission statement at St Edmund's is well known, used and lived throughout the school. The statement is child friendly and constantly referred to in policies, lessons and relationships; everyone genuinely 'seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ.' The work in Religious Education books and other beautifully presented media show that the school are at least providing 10% of curriculum time and the subject is very well resourced by governors who are very active participants in the Catholic life of the school. The children are exceptionally well behaved in lessons and they contribute very well however they have so much more potential to be more active participants in the learning and lessons. Plans are in place to provide training for newer staff to the school to assist their subject knowledge and increase the creativity and content within lessons. The school is also undertaking new initiatives to assist in the planning and delivery of curriculum Religious Education. Although some evidence was seen, the children also need to develop work around the 'Big Questions.' The children are bright, articulate and can clearly give so much more if trusted to explore topics. The children are very knowledgeable when talking about and referring to Sacred Scripture and Gospel Values. In Early Years the children were confident talking about the messages we can take from Jesus about being a good friend and children in upper Key Stage 2 were able to unpick the message within the Good Samaritan parable and make it relevant to their modern lives and incidents close to them. There is good evidence of progression in work throughout the school and vocabulary, knowledge and skills from Early Years to Year 6 show good and appropriate development.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IS GOOD

Prayer is at the core of the school community, linked to Gospel Values and how they are lived; this is a continuous theme throughout the school. For example when celebrating their achievements awards were given for showing how the pupils lived out Gospel Values (perseverance when improving work). It is also evident throughout the school as seen in displays around the school which the pupils were rightly proud of. Each class has a focal prayer area which is age appropriate and used effectively to celebrate their prayer life.

Worship is becoming more varied with the children taking greater responsibility for leading prayer and delivering acts of worship. The GIFT chaplaincy team play an active role as witnessed during the inspection where they prepared and led a prayer session for younger pupils in an area designed by themselves. It was lovely to see the pupils take ownership as they sat and shared a special moment with God using Sacred Scripture as a starting point; from the youngest pupils in the school

to the oldest, pupils were confident in talking about their faith. Where pupils took a lead in worship there were special moments of stillness in the presence of God, for example in year 1 when passing the dove the pupils whispered 'Alleluia, Jesus is alive' with great reverence.

Liturgical celebrations are enhanced from recent training of the Religious Education subject leader through 'Building the Kingdom' bringing the feasts alive to the whole school. For example in Nursery when children shared their ideas about Pentecost with much joy and enthusiasm through phases such as 'Pentecost means party' and 'He is alive'. The next step is for the school to increase the variety and quality of collective worship and prayer opportunities for both staff and pupils.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- **To provide staff training to ensure all staff have detailed subject knowledge in Religious education.**
- **That the children become more active participants in their learning and lessons.**
- **To increase the variety and quality of collective worship, ensuring all staff are confident and able in delivery.**