

# DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH VALIDATION REPORT



## St Edmund Campion's Catholic Primary School, Maidenhead

Altwood Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4PX

URN 110030  
 Date of previous validation March 2012  
 Date of this validation date **6<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	Previous validation:	Good
	<b>This validation:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>

<b>The school community:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Attainment and progress in RE:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>The wider community:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Quality of teaching in RE:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>Spiritual development:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Leadership and management of RE:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>Moral development:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Leadership and management:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>

### This is an outstanding school.

- St Edmund Campion's school provides an outstanding, distinctly Catholic education based on Gospel values, where each individual is nurtured, supported and challenged to recognise that 'God is at the centre of everything we do'.
- School leaders provide a strong and effective model of Christian leadership, where all members of the school community are valued. They inspire the community to share in a strong sense of vision and mission resulting in a highly collaborative and successful school.
- All in the school strive to do the best for their community.
- Links with the parish are outstanding, with the support of the parish priest being of benefit to the school.
- St Edmund Campion's is a school where strengths are recognised and celebrated and any areas for development that are identified are quickly addressed.
- RE is central to the life of the school. The excellent support of the RE leader ensures that progress and attainment are outstanding.
- Parents are very supportive of the school. An overwhelming majority of parents was very positive about all aspects of school life.
- Spiritual and moral development are outstanding. There is a rich and varied range of worship and opportunities for reflection, from which all members of the community are able to develop their relationship with God and provide Christian witness.
- The children's behaviour and attitudes to learning are outstanding.

### What does the school need to do to improve further?

In order to continue to move forward, the school should consider the following;

- Ensure the outstanding practice in RE is always consistently evidenced throughout the school.
- Continue to work with the local cluster on assessment and support staff in tracking children's achievement in RE accurately, considering the evidence base available.
- Continue developing the provision for prayer and reflection, through re-developing the outdoor prayer area.

## Full Report

### The school as a Catholic community

The school community:	Outstanding
The wider community:	Outstanding

- The mission statement is firmly embedded into all aspects of school life, enabling children and staff to recognise that ‘God is at the centre of everything we do’.
- The school has a calm and welcoming atmosphere. Relationships within the school community are strong and collaborative in spirit; children respond openly and with confidence.
- There is a positive and trusting relationship between home and the school. This is enhanced by the work of the school’s own parent support advisor.
- Parents hold the school in high regard. They recognise it as a caring Catholic community, where they are made to feel welcome and their children are happy. One parent stated, ‘The school has a wonderful and positive atmosphere. The children are taught to be caring towards others and their environment.’
- The school has a visible presence within St Edmund Campion’s Church, through staff involvement in the parish, class attendance at weekday Mass and joint fund-raising ventures. The parish priest stated that the school is, ‘One of the best things we have in this parish’.
- Pupil voice is sought and valued in many aspects of school life such as school council, Eco-team, ethos walks and pupil conferencing. The school council stated that their role was to, ‘Make the school an even better place’.
- The school is a pro-active member of the local and diocesan family of schools and has a strong, mutually supportive partnership with the local Catholic community.
- All members of the school community demonstrate their commitment to the principles and philosophy of stewardship, through their work as a Global Expert Centre and Learning for Sustainability ethos, support for CAFOD, Action Aid, Water Aid, and in responding to individual pupil’s requests to support certain charities. The school is continuing to seek to improve international links.
- A Diversity Evening is held every other year to celebrate and recognise diversity in the school community.

### Curriculum religious education

Attainment and progress:	Outstanding
Quality of teaching:	Outstanding
Leadership and management of RE:	Outstanding

- On leaving St Edmund Campion’s the children’s attainment and progress in RE are outstanding. Pupils have many and varied opportunities to demonstrate RE knowledge, through challenging questions and well planned activities linked to the levels of attainment. They respond naturally and confidently using a rich language of faith.
- A scrutiny of pupils’ work shows evidence of deep and reflective thought by the children. Children are able to demonstrate and consolidate their knowledge through a variety of ways, including discussion, art, music and drama.
- Marking and feedback can demonstrate the excellent assessment for learning many teachers use, enabling them to intervene where appropriate, as well as providing vital next steps and asking challenging questions to deepen pupils’ understanding. This was particularly evident in year 5/6.
- Pupils demonstrated a very positive attitude to learning in lessons observed and behaviour was outstanding.

- Excellent knowledge and understanding are evident through the lessons observed; with year 4 making links between the Scripture and the Mass. Meanwhile in year 2 children were enabled to begin drawing comparisons between parables.
- There is a great deal of high quality evidence, including educational trips, to support teaching and learning of other faiths.
- Exemplary relationships between all members of the school contribute significantly to learning. Teaching assistants ably support learning within RE lessons, through working with groups and individuals on differentiated tasks, often recording pupil responses.
- The RE subject leader provides excellent support and leadership in promoting and developing religious education. Staff are being developed professionally with time being devoted in staff meetings and through a coaching approach.
- In the diocesan validation questionnaire all parents consider that RE has a high profile within the school and the vast majority feel they are given an understanding of what is taught and that they are satisfied with the progress their child is making. 'I am also constantly surprised by their religious knowledge - little stories they recount. The teachers are doing a great job!'

### **Spiritual and moral development**

Spiritual development:

Outstanding

Moral development:

Outstanding

- Prayer and worship are integral to the daily life of St Edmund Campion's. The range of worship offered is extensive; from Masses, assemblies, class liturgies, meditations, reconciliation services and RE buddies.
- Opportunities to foster pupils' spiritual development can be found throughout the school curriculum and in their planning of liturgies and participation in Mass.
- Children's attitudes to worship and spirituality is outstanding, which is evident during acts of worship. Year 1 children were able to reflect quietly and reverently on the message of the Scripture. The RE buddy system allows children to share the Good News and pray together.
- Retreat days are valued by the children, allowing them to deepen their relationship with God.
- Pupils are highly considerate and very supportive of one another and encourage others to conduct themselves well. They understand the importance of reassessing their actions, being supported to do so through peer mediation. As a result pupil behaviour at St Edmund Campion's is outstanding.
- Pupils take on key responsibilities throughout the school, including school councillors, sports ambassadors, serving in the school shop and organising their own fund-raising activities.
- The celebration of achievement positively promotes pupil self-esteem and confidence. The children are rewarded for good behaviour and successes are celebrated in a variety of ways such as Award Assembly, gold cards and the Governors' Stewardship Award. The weekly behaviour target based on Sunday's Gospel is promoted throughout the week and newsletter.
- Pupils are thoughtful and reflective, demonstrating the school's excellent provision for their development. They describe their school as a place 'where God is with us in the good and bad'.

### **Leadership and management:**

Outstanding

- The personal witness to the faith provided by the headteacher provides a strong vision and direction for the work of the school.
- The rigorous and effective approach to the monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of the life of the school enables the school to constantly challenge itself. There is an insistence on high standards in all aspects of learning.

- A highly skilled and dedicated governing body takes a keen interest in the mission, development and progress of the school, through regular involvement in self-evaluation and focus on faith development, leading pupil conferencing and ethos walks.
- Good progress has been made on the issues identified on improvement in the last validation, particularly in developing the range and quality of worship and the pupils' opportunities for planning and participation.

### School details

<b>Name of school</b>	St Edmund Campion's Catholic Primary School
<b>Age range of pupils:</b>	4 – 11
<b>Gender of pupils:</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on roll:</b>	396
<b>Chair of Governors:</b>	Ed Robinson
<b>Headteacher:</b>	Patricia Opalko

St Edmund Campion's Catholic Primary School is an expanding school situated in Maidenhead. The school serves the parish of St Edmund Campion Church. The vast majority of its pupils are Catholic. The percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals is well below average and 10.6% of pupils have English as an additional language.

### Information about this validation

This report to the Bishop of the Diocese under Canon 806 of the Code of Canon Law is also the report to the governors of the school on religious education. For Catholic maintained schools, the report also fulfils the requirements of Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

#### Validation Team

Louise Buxton	Lead Validator
Paula Dix	Assistant Validator

#### Activities Carried Out as Part of the Validation

- Ethos walk.
- Discussion on the school's self-evaluation sheets.
- Discussions with various members of the school community.
- Observations of whole school and class worship.
- Observations of teaching and learning in RE, including joint observations with the headteacher and RE leader.
- Pupil work scrutiny.
- Feedback of key findings to the senior management team and chair of governors.

### Conclusion

The validators would like to thank the headteacher, RE leader, staff, governors, the parish priest, parents and pupils of St Edmund Campion's Catholic Primary School for their preparatory work for the validation, which forms part of the school's regular self-review cycle. They would also like to express their appreciation for the warmth of welcome they received and the support given during the validation process.