



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

Name of School: St Edward's Catholic Primary School

LA: Newham URN: 102769

Inspection Date: 5th May 2010

Reporting Inspectors: Mr. Anthony Castle and Ms. Colette Dawson

This Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of School: Primary
School Category: Voluntary Aided
Age range of pupils: 3 - 11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 454
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous Inspection: October 2006

School Address:
Green Street,
Upton Park, London, E13 9AX
Tel. No. 020 8472 4337
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Chair of Governors: Mr Richard Morgan
Headteacher: Mr. Christopher Mabey

Introduction:

The Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education (Schools) Act 2005 by inspectors appointed by the Diocesan Bishop at the request of the Governing Body of the School.

The Inspectors acknowledge and are appreciative of the full support, co-operation and courtesy they enjoyed from Governors, Headteacher, Staff and Pupils of the School both before and during the Inspection. The Inspectors wish to express their gratitude to all concerned.

The focus of the Section 48 Inspection was:

- Classroom Religious Education
- The Catholic nature of the School through;
 1. Worship
 2. Links with the Catholic and wider community
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

The Section 48 Report

**St Edward's Catholic Primary School,
Green Street,
Upton Park,
London,
E13 9AX**

Head Teacher: Mr. Christopher Mabey

Date of Inspection: 5th May 2010

Description of the School:

St Edward's Primary School is a voluntary aided Catholic school situated in the Newham Local Authority and in the Diocese of Brentwood. It is a larger than average two-form entry school, located close to the parish church of Our Lady of Compassion and next to the West Ham Football Club. St Edward's Catholic School was founded in 1902 and serves the families of the Parish of Our Lady of Compassion and takes in the overspill from the surrounding Parishes, mainly St Michael's and St Margaret's. St Edward's is a very popular school. "As a Catholic School we live by our Mission Statement. We value and nurture the unique gifts and talents of each individual, trying to develop each person (both children and staff) to their full potential, incorporating the five strands of 'Every Child Matters' to ensure our pupils are prepared for life in the 21st Century as followers of

Christ.” (SEF April 2010). All the pupils are baptised Catholics and 75% of the staff are Catholic. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups is 97.3%. There are currently over 37 languages spoken in the school. The school has achieved many awards, including Investors in People in 2008 and Artsmark Silver in 2009.

Record of Evidence Base:

Two Inspectors were in the School for the equivalent of two inspection days.

- The study of pre-inspection documentation including the Self-Evaluation Form/ Denominational Provision (SEF/DP).
- The observation of lessons.
- Scrutiny of pupils' work.
- Participation in a Parish Mass with Year 1 and Year 3 classes and a Head teacher's Assembly
- Meetings with the Head teacher and his Senior Leadership Team, the Parish Priest, the R.E. Subject Leaders, the Chair of Governors and the School Council.
- Observations of R.E. Displays in the Class rooms and around the school.

What the School does well:

St Edward's continues to be an outstanding Catholic School which displays numerous strengths. The school's capacity for improvement is also outstanding. It is outstanding in very area. It is firmly committed to developing its Catholic identity under the inspirational and outstanding leadership of its Head Teacher who is very well supported by his Leadership team, committed Governors, highly motivated Staff, pupils and the Parish Priest

R. E. is an area of high focus in the school. The **'Here I Am'** programme, recommended by the Bishop of the Diocese, is fully implemented. The 'Before You Begin' element of the process is securely embedded at the beginning of each topic. Staff focus on the key messages for each topic and reflect upon them. They clearly understand the **'Here I Am'** process and use it effectively to provide a high quality and stimulating curriculum. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is used effectively to enhance the quality of lessons. An excellent range of creative teaching strategies are used in lessons generally.

The overall quality of teaching and learning in R.E. is outstanding. Lessons are well planned and learning objectives are used to inform and direct the lessons. Success Criteria are explained at the beginning of the lesson and revisited at the end. A variety of creative teaching strategies and techniques are used to appeal to a wider range of learners. There is evidence of R.E. being taught through art, drama, music and literacy. In all of the lessons observed, pupils were on task, engaged, highly motivated, challenged and enjoying their R.E. Behaviour is outstanding. The children were enthusiastic and purposeful and worked well together.

Assessment in R.E. is consistent in all year groups. It is systematic, rigorous and informative. The pupils are involved in Assessment for Learning (AFL). There is a clear assessment focus for each of the **'Here I Am'** topics which gives excellent evidence of **'Relate'** knowledge and understanding. Pupils' work is well marked. Positive feedback is given to pupils and this enables them to make significant progress.

The leadership and management of R.E. by the R.E. Subject Leaders are excellent. They both have a sound theological background. Their leadership drives the assessment procedures used by all the teachers, R.E. lessons are monitored by the subject leaders, both of whom are very supportive of all staff, teachers and teacher assistants. Their line of management ensures that there are good links between R.E., the liturgical life of the school and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education. (PSHCE)

The School meets both the national and diocesan requirements for the allocation of curriculum time for taught R.E.

All the staff are confident in their teaching of other Faiths. Representatives from other Faiths have visited the school and visits are made to places of Worship. This emphasis has led to the children having a secure knowledge and understanding of other faiths.

Collective Worship, liturgical celebrations include the celebration of major Saints' feast days, Penitential services during Advent and Lent and Stations of the Cross. These and the school's links with the local Parish are all strengths of St Edward's school. The school attends the Parish Mass every Wednesday. This is arranged on a rota basis. There are excellent Chaplaincy links with Our Lady of Compassion Parish. The Parish Priest is dedicated and committed and gives total support to the school. The Assembly attended during the Inspection was outstanding. The participation by the children was inspirational. 'Wednesday Word', which is a resource that aims at sharing Sunday's Gospel with parents and families, is sent home each week. Parents are very appreciative of this. It is an excellent way of connecting Home, School and Parish with the Sunday Gospel.

St Edward's School promotes an outstanding and tangible Catholic ethos. This is subscribed to by all the stakeholders – Governors, the Head teacher and His leadership team, staff, pupils and their parents and carers. The school's Mission Statement is displayed in every classroom and around the school. **'Following Christ we reach our goals'** This informs everything that the school does.

The School provides outstanding opportunities for the pupils to develop a strong sense of community through activities which engender feelings of loyalty and belonging. The School continues to develop strong links with other schools in the Deanery and beyond both nationally and internationally. The emphasis on community is an outstanding strength of the school. St Edward's School is an outstanding exemplar of community cohesion. It has an outstanding Community Cohesion Action Plan in place.

Displays, the Prayer focus in every classroom and artefacts in R.E., in the classrooms and around the School, are outstanding. The displays use a wide and exciting range of styles which are unique to St Edward's school.

St Edward's Primary School values its links with parents and carers with every effort being made to improve and maintain communication with parents and carers as their children progress through the school. There is a weekly newsletter, a R.E. newsletter which informs parents and carers of the **'Here I Am'** topics and special feast days and events and the already mentioned 'Wednesday Word'. The governors of the school

are very dedicated, hardworking and supportive of everything the school does. They are regular visitors to the school.

Pupils are given every opportunity to become responsible citizens. This is evident in their concern for each other and for those who are in need. This is particularly evidenced by the work and role of the School Council. They are very articulate. They meet weekly and show real concern and interest in their school. Another strength of the school is the generous fundraising for the charities that the School supports which include the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society and CAFOD.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is an outstanding strength of the school. This was recognised by its recent Ofsted report "It is a most effective school where pupils' academic achievement and their personal development are outstanding.... Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent." (Ofsted Report June 2009) The Section 48 Inspectors endorse these judgements wholeheartedly.

What needs to be improved?

There are no specific areas requiring improvement other than ensuring that the areas highlighted by the Section 48 Self Evaluation Form continue to be addressed.

Overall, St Edward's Primary School continues to be an outstanding Catholic School which displays numerous strengths. The school's capacity to improve is also outstanding. It is outstanding in every area. It prepares its pupils so that they transfer to their Secondary Schools as happy, well-adjusted young people who are a credit to themselves, their parents and carers and their school. The school owes much of its success to the strong and committed leadership of the Headteacher and his Leadership Team and to the valued support and expertise of his staff and governors.