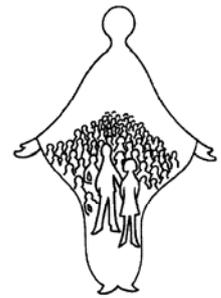


**SALFORD DIOCESE  
INSPECTION REPORT**

**ST.EDMUND'S  
ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Upper Monsall St. Miles Platting Manchester M40 8NG**



Inspection date May 2009  
 Reporting Inspector Mrs. K. A. Morris  
 Inspection carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School Catholic Primary  
 URN 105527  
 Age range of pupils 3-11  
 Number on roll 186  
 Appropriate authority The governing body  
 Chair of Governors Rev. Fr. Michael Buckley  
 Headteacher Mrs. Maureen Duffy  
 Religious Education Co-ordinator Miss Clare O'Neill  
 Date of previous inspection September 2006

<b>The Inspection judgements are:</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Explanation of the Grades</b>  1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3 = Satisfactory 4 = Inadequate
Overall effectiveness of the school	1	
Leadership and management of the Catholic life of the school	1	
The quality of Collective Worship	1	
Achievement and standards in Religious Education	1	
The quality of teaching and learning in Religious Education	1	
The quality of the Religious Education curriculum	1	
Leadership and management of curriculum Religious Education	1	
<i>The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements</i>		

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL**

St. Edmund's is a Roman Catholic voluntary aided primary school in the Diocese of Salford situated in Harpurhey a district approximately one mile north from the centre of the city of Manchester. It is an area designated as one of the most socially deprived districts in the country. The school serves the parish of St. Edmund in Harpurhey which is now amalgamated with the parishes of St. Malachy and St. Patrick in Collyhurst. The ages of pupils range from 3 to 11 and the indicative admission number is 25. There are 186 pupils on roll of whom 141 are baptised Catholics. 50% are known to be eligible for free school meals and 23 have been identified as having special educational needs with 3 having a statutory statement of special educational need. 41 children (23.4%) are from other ethnic backgrounds and 14 (7%) have English as an additional language. Of the 9.5 teachers 7 (78 %) are Catholics and 2 hold the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies or equivalent with 3 teachers studying for the qualification. 2 members of staff hold a Theology degree.

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL**

St Edmund's is an outstanding school with an exceptionally strong Catholic ethos and truly dedicated staff. Leadership and management ensure a warm, caring, vibrant and inclusive environment in which all aspects of the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are outstanding and where every child matters. The Religious Education programme is well planned and further enhanced by the provision for prayer and worship, the quality of relationships and the quality of teaching and learning. Teachers are well supported by the good deployment of teaching and support assistants, administrative and janitorial staff. All are dedicated and committed to the school. They are excellent role models for learners and demonstrate outstanding levels of care. Learners are exceptionally well behaved, friendly and polite. They have good attitudes to their learning and respond well to the excellent teaching they experience. Pupils, including gifted and talented and those children with special educational needs, achieve well as a result of the differentiated curriculum which meets the needs of all children. Strong home, school and parish links ensure learners and parents are well supported on their faith journeys.

### **Improvement since the last inspection**

The school has addressed all the issues arising from the last Section 48 inspection in September 2006. The assessment of learners' work is well established using the Salford diocesan guidelines. Pupils are now involved in the planning and delivery of prayer and worship and this is monitored by the co-ordinator for Religious Education and the headteacher. The school enjoys numerous new facilities including a newly built library and remodelled Foundation Stage unit and administrative offices. The school has been awarded Healthy Schools and the Active Mark.

### **Capacity to improve**

The school's self-evaluation is thorough, objective and realistic. The leadership and management of the school have a clear focused vision for the school. There is a genuine commitment to ensuring that all involved in the school community recognise the important part they play in the future development of this successful Catholic school as it lives out its Mission Statement. The school's capacity to improve is therefore outstanding.

### **What the school should do to improve further**

- There are no issues to address. The headteacher and governors are fully committed to continue to build upon their success and to address each developing initiative.

## **LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL**

The leadership and management of the Catholic life of the school are outstanding. The Mission Statement, reviewed annually by all stakeholders, permeates all aspects of the life of the school and is prominently displayed throughout the premises together with the children's version. The success of St. Edmund's is due chiefly to the exceptional team spirit pervading the school which enjoys strong leadership by the dedicated headteacher, hardworking deputy and wholehearted support of the staff. The school benefits to the full from an active, knowledgeable and supportive governing body which discusses and revises Religious Education policies on a regular basis. The parish priest, who is the chair of governors and the designated governor for Religious Education, and the vice chair are very regular visitors demonstrating excellent knowledge and understanding of school life. The headteacher and governors work well together as an effective team. They ensure that all pupils, regardless of race, religion, ability or social standing, have equal opportunities in a cohesive and supportive environment which is accessible to pupils with a wide range of additional needs. The school is firmly at the heart of St. Edmund's parish and enjoys links with other schools in the area and in particular with the associated Catholic high school. A shared vision for the ongoing development of the school as a Catholic community which is committed to providing an effective learning environment, good relationships and equality of learning for all is reflected in governor appointments of committed Catholic teachers to the staff and by the provision of funding for teachers to achieve the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. All teachers have a performance management target relating to Religious Education.

## **THE QUALITY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Provision for collective worship is outstanding. It is a key feature of the school pervading all aspects of its life and underpinned by the clear Religious Education policy which includes prayer and worship. The school offers learners, parents, staff and parishioners a range of rich and meaningful opportunities to develop their relationships with God whilst fostering an understanding of the needs of those in the wider community thus reinforcing the school's contribution to community cohesion. Whole school Mass is celebrated at the beginning and end of each term and on Holy Days and special occasions. Weekly class Masses are also celebrated. Assemblies and non-eucharistic services reflecting the liturgical calendar are celebrated with the parish priest, governors, parents and parishioners. These include Stations of the Cross during Lent, the Holy Rosary during October, honouring Our Lady during May and Advent and Christmas celebrations. Classes take responsibility on these occasions which are meticulously recorded by the co-ordinator for Religious education. Pupils, regardless of race, religion and culture and from all age groups and abilities, take part in the liturgy. No child is withdrawn from prayer and worship which is successfully linked to curriculum Religious Education and often linked through areas such as Literacy and Art. Children display confidence and pray with respect and reverence thus demonstrating a developing awareness of the importance of prayer in their lives. The beautiful Mass, which also celebrated the parish co-ordinator's 57 years profession as a nun, and during which pupils of all ages took part in readings, bidding prayers, offertory procession, and singing accompanied by the school's accomplished music group evidenced this during the inspection. Displays and focal areas throughout the school indicate that learners are encouraged to express their spirituality through prayer.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Achievement and standards in Religious Education is outstanding. Learners' prior learning and religious knowledge are generally lower than usual when they enter Foundation Stage. Excellent progress is made in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 by the end of which learners are able to relate verbally and in their pictorial and written work biblical stories they have heard and have good recall on Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They know that by Baptism that they are members of God's family and that He made and loves them. Progress by the end of Key Stage 2 is outstanding. Learners have excellent factual knowledge of their faith and the Gospels. They are familiar with the Old and New Testaments and are able to produce outstanding quality written work using appropriate language. They are aware of, and respect, the faiths and cultural diversity of their peers. They understand they have a responsibility to protect God's creation and they know the difference between right and wrong and are developing a strong sense of responsibility. Across the whole community there is a feeling of self-worth and self-esteem. This has been enhanced by the introduction of prefects, playground friends, prayer partners and pupil voice. A number of local and worldwide charities are supported. Very clear strategies and systems are in place to ensure that the religious aspect of the school's life and curriculum has been prioritised in order that high standards be achieved and maintained.

## **THE QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The inspector agrees with the school's judgement that the quality of teaching and learning in curriculum Religious Education is outstanding. Teachers show strong subject knowledge, use assessment well and use *REvision 2000 and Moving The Vision On* guidelines to provide carefully planned and challenging work that matches the learners' needs. Teachers have high expectations and work hard to deliver lessons which include interesting *and* practical learning activities. They capitalise on opportunities to make good cross-curricular links with other subjects including information technology to support teaching and learning and link Religious Education across the curriculum. Levelling of pupils' work using the latest Salford guidelines is in place and a profile of learners' work is readily available. Effective use of skilled teaching and support assistants aid particular groups of learners. Management and organisation in all classes are excellent. Learners' behaviour is exemplary at all times. During the inspection "hot seating" was used very effectively as a tool for learning how the apostles, especially Thomas, reacted to the news of the Resurrection of Jesus. "Bringing St. John's Gospel to life" was the objective in Year 6 lesson. The pace was excellent. The learners demonstrated their ability to use bibles very effectively and worked confidently, both independently of their teacher and collaboratively to achieve their goals. This lesson was to be dramatised at the whole school assembly. The younger pupils' lesson was "circle time" when they experienced looking into a "special" box, which reflected their image. This was to demonstrate that God made them special and that He loves and cares for us. Pupils demonstrated a mature attitude to their work and the teachers' approaches and skills promoted outstanding learning. No child is withdrawn for Religious Education lessons.

## **THE QUALITY OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM**

The Religious Education curriculum is outstanding. Religious Education features as a key element in both school improvement and financial planning. At least 10% of teaching time is allocated to the subject. Teacher's planning is thorough and, together with children's learning, is monitored by the headteacher and co-ordinator for curriculum Religious Education. As part of the school's contribution to community cohesion world faiths are taught using the diocesan recommended guidelines. Additionally there are themed days and "One World Week" when each year group follows life in a different country. Cultural festivals and visiting speakers also help learners gain insight into other cultures and faiths. A highlight of the year is the joining of other Catholic schools at Manchester Town hall to celebrate St. Patrick's Day where the pupils of St. Edmund's demonstrate Ceili dancing which is taught in school. The school also enjoys African culture awareness workshops provided by the City Council and the children learn about Divale, Chinese New Year and Hanakka. The diocesan guidelines *Moving the Vision On* have been introduced and supplemented by activities relating to the liturgical year. A range of other activities and learning experiences are linked to the SEAL programme. At the beginning of each week learners are introduced to that week's "Statements to Live By". An impressive range of extra-curricular learning opportunities further enhances the curriculum. This includes sport, music, choir, gardening/eco club and languages. A retreat day is provided by annually for Year 6 pupils.

## **LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF CURRICULUM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The school has assessed the leadership and management of curriculum Religious Education as outstanding. Inspection evidence gathered supports this judgement. The co-ordinator has impressive knowledge of her subject, a clear vision for her role within the school and provides strong leadership and direction. She leads by example and keeps excellent records of teaching and learning and prayer and worship. Records include the use of monitoring, assessing and tracking of pupils' work using the recommended guidelines from the diocese. The subject leader leads the staff through regular meetings and continues her own professional development by attending diocesan courses and through the involvement of the diocesan teacher advisers. She is fully supported by the headteacher, parish priest and the staff. Governors are kept informed of Religious Education and prayer and worship by written termly reports from the headteacher. The governors and parish priest visit the school frequently. The co-ordinator for curriculum Religious Education also presents regular updates to the full governing body. Resources for curriculum Religious Education and collective worship are excellent. Attractive prayer focal tables in classrooms and beautiful displays around the school premises reflect the faith life of St. Edmund's where Religious Education and prayer and worship have a high profile.