

DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH S48 VALIDATION REPORT



St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School

Altwood Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire. SL6 4PX

URN: 110030

Date of previous s48 validation 6th and 16th March 2015

Date of this s48 validation 27th November 2019

Overall effectiveness Previous s48 validation: **Outstanding**

This s48 validation: Outstanding

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

This is an outstanding school

- St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School is an outstanding example of a Catholic school community, where the spirit of the Gospel and the mission statement, “God is at the centre of everything we do,” is embedded in all aspects of the school’s life.
- Validators commend the school for its relentless focus on eco-awareness and pupils’ strong understanding of their role as stewards of God’s creation. One pupil said, “We want to be generous and look after God’s creation.”
- Relationships are excellent and all members of the school community are highly committed and active in living out the vision of the school.
- The co-headteachers’ have created a purposeful vision of education that is centred on Catholic values and recognises all as children of God.
- The school receives outstanding support from the parish priest, who offers pastoral support, advice to develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and leads liturgical celebrations.
- The school has developed a mutually supportive relationship with the parish, with staff and governors fully involved in the life of the parish.
- Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the Catholic life of the school, particularly the sense of welcome, inclusive atmosphere and positive relationships based on Gospel values.
- Pupils achieve high standards because of the consistently good teaching. They have very positive attitudes to RE (religious education) and are highly articulate in demonstrating their understanding of faith.
- The RE leader plays a pivotal role in ensuring RE maintains its high status and has effectively introduced the new assessment framework.
- A wide range of spiritual opportunities are provided which enable pupils and staff to reflect on and deepen their relationship with God.
- Personal development and pupils’ moral understanding is exemplary.
- Governors are dedicated and very supportive of the school.

What does the school need to do to improve further?

As already identified by the school, the following should be addressed:-

- Embed the principles of Catholic Social Teaching across all aspects of school life;
- Ensure a smooth transition of subject leadership in RE in order to maintain and develop further the quality of education in RE.

Full Report

The school as a Catholic community

The school community:

Outstanding

The wider community:

Outstanding

- The school's mission statement and Catholic vision permeates all aspects of school life. This is reflected in the outstanding relationships that have led to an open, loving and inclusive environment where all thrive and know they are valued as children of God.
- The vision of the school is shared, understood and actively lived out through the actions of all members of the community.
- There is a tangible sense that St Edmund Campion is one community focused on a common goal, which is to enable all its pupils to reach their potential.
- Overwhelmingly, parents hold the school in high regard. They appreciate and recognise the school's very strong Catholic ethos. One parent commented, "It is warm, positive, encouraging and has Christian values at its core."
- The school receives outstanding support from the parish priest, who is a frequent visitor to the school offering pastoral support, advice to develop understanding of the Catholic faith and leads liturgical celebrations.
- The school has developed a mutually supportive relationship with the parish, with staff and governors fully involved in the life of the parish.
- Validators commend the school on its focus on eco-awareness and sustainability and pupils' strong understanding of their role as stewards of God's creation. Younger pupils talk positively and with excitement about the eco-initiatives, including the opportunity to care for God's creation through making bird feeders and hedgehog homes in the school's eco club.
- Positive attitudes are underpinned by pupils' understanding of how to care for creation; the school should now broaden pupils focus to include the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

Curriculum religious education

Attainment and progress:

Outstanding

Quality of teaching:

Outstanding

Leadership and management of RE:

Outstanding

- RE in the school has a high status. The evidence in pupils' books, the consistently good and outstanding teaching have led to high standards and outstanding progress.
- Outstanding relationships create a positive learning environment where pupils are confident to contribute and through discussion demonstrate their secure depth of understanding in RE.
- In lessons observed, all pupils are fully engaged and are articulate in their responses to questions. RE knowledge and skills are reinforced and pupils' use feedback to improve their learning. Teaching Assistants offer high quality, but discrete support, ensuring all pupils are able to take part in lessons and achieve the learning objective. Thought needs to be given to ensuring that scaffolding in lessons doesn't hinder independence.
- Work in the pupils' books show the high standards that are achieved with pupils becoming more confident in linking their knowledge of scripture to how this affects their own and others' beliefs and actions. This is an area that the pupils' have the ability to develop further.
- The RE leader provides outstanding support for all staff through regular training and by keeping up to date with diocesan initiatives. Along with the parish priest, this has enhanced teachers' subject knowledge and confidence in teaching RE, leading to high achievement.

- When the school has fully embedded into the curriculum and pupils have a secure understanding of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, this will further deepen pupils' understanding of how to live as a disciple of Christ.

Spiritual and moral development

Spiritual development:

Outstanding

Moral development:

Outstanding

- The school provides a wide range of high quality worship, which allows all members of the school community to express their relationship with one another and with God, in a reflective and prayerful manner. The parish priest acknowledges the high “level of commitment from teachers to passing on the faith” and that pupils “have a good understanding and natural bond with the Gospel and a relationship with God.”
- Collective worships are engaging, relevant to the lives of the pupils and there is a clear link to the Gospel message. Pupils are reverent, involved in planning and leading worship and recognise prayer is important in maintaining their relationship with God.
- The parish priest works very effectively with the school to provide a wide range of liturgical celebrations. The school community value the time he gives to explaining the scriptures prior to services enabling all present to gain a deeper understanding. Staff and pupils commented on his invaluable support and the positive relationship he has nurtured between the school and parish.
- Personal development and pupils' moral understanding is exemplary. They treat each other with high degrees of respect and value the dignity of each other.
- Pupils demonstrate outstanding behaviour and Christian attitudes in their relationships and positive attitudes. Key factors promoting this include:
 - The outstanding role model of the staff;
 - The high expectations of pupils;
 - The consistent reinforcement of Gospel values;
 - The inclusive nature of the school; where all are welcomed and valued.
- Pupils are justifiably proud of the school, with one commenting that St Edmund Campion is “more like a family than a school. Everyone is welcome in a family.” They are proud of the work they do to look after the environment and recognise their responsibility to look after God's creation. The school is developing pupils' understanding of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to the care and support offered to other people.

Leadership and management:

Outstanding

- The co-headteachers provide an outstanding model of Christian leadership, demonstrating a strong sense of moral purpose and ensure all members of the school community are highly valued.
- Leaders, including governors, share a common Christian vision, are equal partners and through example inspire the community resulting in a highly collaborative and successful school.
- Governors act as supportive, critical friends of the school and know the school's strengths and areas for development in religious education. The time and commitment they give to the school is to be commended.
- The unique partnership of the school and parish enables insightful evaluation of the impact of the work of the school in supporting pupils' faith development.
- The school constantly challenges itself through rigorous self-review and aims for high standards in all aspects of school life. Validators would agree with the identified actions from the improvement plans, which will embed the exemplary provision at the school.
- Staff are well supported in their development needs and benefit greatly from collaborative work, training and the individual support and coaching they receive.

- Good progress has been made on the areas for development identified in the previous validation particularly in teaching, learning and achievement in RE.

School details

Name of school:	St Edmund Campion Cathedral Catholic Primary School
Age range of pupils:	4-11
Gender of pupils:	Mixed
Number of pupils on roll:	422
Chair of Governors:	Julia Evans
Co- Headteachers:	Patricia Opalko and Jennifer Camp-Overy

St Edmund Campion's Catholic Primary School is 2 form entry primary school situated in Maidenhead and is a member of the Frassati Multi-Academy Trust. 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

Lead validator	-	Ursula Clark
Assistant Validator	-	Catherine Hobbs

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 collective worship.
- Observations of teaching and learning in RE, including joint observations with members of the school leadership team.
- Pupil work scrutiny.
- Feedback of key findings.

Conclusion

The validators would like to thank the co- headteachers, shadow RE leader, staff, governors, parish priest, parents and pupils of St Edmund Campion 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.