



Archdiocese of Birmingham

Section 48 Monitoring Visit

ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Greenland Rd, Selly Park, Birmingham, B29 7PN

Inspection date 17th June 2014
Reporting Inspector Mary Baines

Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	4 -11years
Number on roll	418
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Paul Nutt
Telephone number	0121 464 1730
E-mail address	enquiry@stedward.bham.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	June 2009
DFE School Number	330/3355
Unique Reference Number	103447
Headteacher	Mr T Hughes
Previous inspection:	1
This inspection:	1





June 2014

Diocesan Education Service,
Don Bosco House,
Coventry Road,
Coleshill,
B46 3EA

Mr Tim Hughes
St Edward's Catholic Primary School
Greenland Rd
Selly Park
Birmingham
B29 7PN

Dear Mr Hughes,

Section 48 Monitoring Inspection: 17th June 2014.

Many thanks for the very warm welcome that you, your governors, parents, children and staff extended to me when I inspected your school on 17th June. Thank you also for the documentation that you forwarded to me and the additional evidence provided on the day.

In particular I would like to express my gratitude to the Parish Priest and governors for being so generous with their time.

The inspection was a 'light touch' monitoring inspection because St Edward's was deemed to be an outstanding school at the last section 5 inspection and because it is five years since the previous inspection.

The purpose of the inspection was to assess the quality and reliability of the school's self evaluation and improvement planning for Catholic life and the teaching of religious education. In order to make these judgements I read all the documents you provided including your own self evaluation document. I attended the weekly school Mass and also collective worship in the Foundation Stage. In addition I interviewed yourself and the RE leader as well as governors, pupils and parents, scrutinised the children's books and observed lessons in three year groups. I gathered a wide range of evidence from displays, from experiencing the excellent school ethos and general calm, purposeful atmosphere.

Catholic Life

In its self evaluation the school rightly judges all aspects of its Catholic life to be outstanding. This judgement is accurate because it is based on a process of regular audit, detailed monitoring and rigorous evaluation by senior leaders and governors. The findings from this cycle are fed into a detailed improvement plan which is under constant review in order to ensure consistent, effective development. The headteacher and subject leader have a great in depth knowledge of the school which is valuable in underpinning improvement in all areas of the Catholic life. There are excellent systems in place to enable all stakeholders to contribute to the thorough monitoring and evaluation schedule regarding the Catholic life of the school. Governors regularly and frequently attend a variety of meetings at school to engage with staff, parents and pupils: these include Sacramental preparation lessons, weekly celebration of Mass in school, learning walks and residential retreats. Their observations at all of these occasions and following reviews enable them to make informed and developmental decisions for the benefit of all. The pupils and parents are rightly proud of their school as evidenced in 'Pupil voice' interviews and parental questionnaires. They all acknowledge how much they value and benefit from the Gospel values promoted at school.

The parents spoke very positively about their 'forum,' a group which meets to discuss a variety of topics with the headteacher; they felt that their views are valued and are acted upon. For example, parental views



enabled the better use of 'prayer bags' as a means of family engagement. The staff consistently monitor the behaviour and attitudes of the children. They are collegiate in their approach to ensuring that respect is at the heart of harmonious relationships between pupils. Through a system of 'Faith friends', an international celebration, visits to the elderly and a wide variety of fundraising events there is much ongoing informal monitoring and evaluation. The RE leader attends Diocesan cluster meetings, which provides an opportunity to reflect upon and evaluate the Catholic life of the school in relation to other Catholic schools. The parish priest is a regular visitor to school on both formal and informal occasions. He takes every opportunity to reflect on the collective worship provision, pupil response to it, and how improvements can be effected in order to deepen the spiritual experience for pupils, staff and visitors. The subject leader, senior staff and parish priest follow a systematic, planned self review cycle; this includes review of planning for Catholic life activities and thorough evaluation to determine approaches and remain consistent with the wider church. There is open dialogue about RE and Catholic life provision amongst the whole school community which enables the school as a worshipping, faithful and respectful community to move forward under their intended mission of putting Jesus at the centre. There are ongoing audits of displays and devotional areas in the classrooms, corridors and the prayer garden to ensure that the liturgical year is known and celebrated by all. The school website is a well used and valued resource which facilitates information about and reflection on the various religious celebrations that take place. There is a firmly embedded programme of collective worship for both whole school and key stage provision. Staff development is closely monitored and evaluated so that all staff receive the best possible training from diocesan advisers and other relevant providers. New staff are inducted and supported very well in relation to the Catholic life of the school. At this school the provision for the Catholic life of the whole community is unquestionably outstanding and is recognised as a great blessing by all.

Religious Education

The school has judged the monitoring and evaluation of RE to be good, however I find this judgement to be somewhat cautious and judge it overall to be outstanding. There is a rigorous and thorough system for assessing attainment and progress in RE, which consists of in depth tracking covering all the assessment strands, a well documented evidence base of work from all units, regular monitoring of teaching and learning carried out by subject leader, headteacher and governors as a joint monitoring exercise. This is complimented by learning walks, scrutiny of planning, monitoring of books to include marking and gap tasks and also informal drop-ins.

There are pupil interviews and pupil progress meetings with staff so that individual needs can be identified and planned for. The school judges provision in RE, curriculum and spiritual, moral and cultural to be good. Again I find this judgment to err on the side of caution and consider that this area is outstanding. All teaching is good and better: the needs of all pupils are met through innovative interventions, higher order questioning is used throughout, high quality resources and a range of teaching approaches appeal to all pupils. Good use is made of scripture and the children demonstrate an excellent knowledge of the Bible, knowing many characters and stories. The RE curriculum is firmly based on the Diocesan Curriculum Strategy with emphasis on both learning about and learning from religion. The curriculum is enhanced through the use of themes, stories, homilies, art and drama so that the children can learn more about the history of the Church and the lives of the saints. Much cross curricular work takes place in order to promote the teaching of Gospel values. The school has a rich and diverse community which is celebrated through exploration of other faiths, visits to interfaith places of worship, fundraising for a variety of charities some local but also global appeals.

Governors are informed about all aspects of RE by personal visits and also formal reporting by the headteacher and subject leader, they are rightly proud of their school especially now that they have achieved their aim to bring all pupils and staff onto one site in a wonderful new building for which they are to be congratulated.



The governors and senior leaders have successfully identified all necessary areas for improvement and development and through meticulous planning have ensured the capacity to remain an outstanding Catholic school where children thrive and grow in their faith and love of God.

This school is a most valued and valuable part of the parish and is a testimony to all governors, pupils, staff and parents who continue to build on the tremendous legacy that has been handed down from the Sisters of Charity of St Paul whose convent it adjoins.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Baines
Diocesan Inspector