



INSPECTION REPORT OF DENOMINATIONAL CHARACTER AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005)

ST EDWARD'S VOLUNTARY AIDED CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Eastleigh Road, Kettering, MNN15 6PT

DfE School No: 928/3408

URN: 122047

Head Teacher: Mrs P Cuddihy

Chair of Governors: Mr R Hill

Reporting Inspector: Mrs R Jones

Associate Inspector: Mrs K Williams

Date of Inspection: 6 July 2016

Date Report Issued: 27 July 2016

Date of previous Inspection: November 2010

The School is in the Trusteeship of the Diocese and
in partnership with Northamptonshire Local Authority

Information about the school

St Edwards is a small primary school with 211 pupils on roll. It serves the parish of St Edwards in Kettering. 61% of the pupils are baptised Catholics, 10% of the pupils are on the SEN register, while 18% qualify for pupil premium funding. 50% of the teaching staff are Catholic. There have been a number of significant staff changes to the school since the last inspection including a new headteacher and new religious education subject leader.

Key grades for inspection

1: Outstanding 2: Good 3: Satisfactory 4: Unsatisfactory

Overall effectiveness of this Catholic school

Grade 2

St Edwards is a good Catholic school. The headteacher and newly formed senior leadership team understand the school's strengths and are aware of the areas in need of further development. Working with governors, they are highly motivated to further strengthen the Catholic life of the school and raise standards in religious education. The quality of religious education teaching at St Edward's is good overall. Pupils enjoy their learning and value the teachers "who treat everyone equally and with respect". They describe the school community as being 'like a family'. Provision for spiritual and moral development is good. The school mission statement is known and lived out by the whole community, with teachers leading by example and acting as excellent role models to their pupils.

The school's capacity for sustained improvement

Grade 2

The school's capacity for sustained improvement is good. The areas identified for improvement at the last inspection have been addressed. The senior leadership team have ensured that all planning for religious education incorporates tasks for the more able pupils and allows for independent learning. This is an ongoing focus of the monitoring and evaluation cycle.

The school's self-evaluation document for religious education [SEF-RE] clearly identifies areas for further improvement. Classroom religious education is monitored by the senior leadership team and subject coordinator through the scrutiny of planning, pupils' books and through lesson observations. The school has implemented an assessment and moderation system working in collaboration with the other schools in the St Luke's Academy Trust. Feedback on this and other aspects of classroom religious education are shared with staff and governors on a regular basis. Teacher subject knowledge is generally good. Support is given to non-Catholic members of staff through the chaplaincy team. All new teaching staff have a mentor. Links between home, school and parish are good. The senior leadership team are committed to ensuring that standards continue to improve in the school.

What the school should do to improve further

- further raise teacher expectations regarding the quality and quantity of pupils' work
- improve the quality of teaching in RE enabling all children to make at least good progress
- implement a policy of clear guidance for both staff and pupils to raise standards of presentation in books and encourage greater pride in RE work.
- continue to embed the new assessment system ensuring evaluation of its effectiveness.

Outcomes for pupils**Grade 2**

Pupils benefit well from the Catholic life of the school. They have a growing understanding of the Catholic faith and the importance of religious beliefs and values. Pupils understand key liturgical events which are regularly celebrated and involve pupils, parents and parishioners. Pupils are encouraged to live their lives by following Jesus' example; this is reflected in the generally good behaviour and positive attitudes of the children. A system of new school rules based on the Beatitudes was introduced in September 2015. These are prominently displayed and promoted well throughout the school. Children respond to the needs of people in the wider community and have raised funds for local, national and international charities. The school is making good use of the diocesan prayer bags, further strengthening home-school links.

Prayer and worship contributes well to pupils' spiritual and moral development and to their growing experience of faith. They respond well when they are involved in leading collective worship and liturgies. Pupils act with reverence and respect during times of prayer and worship. Children's achievements are recognised and celebrated within the life of the community.

Chaplaincy across the school provides effective spiritual and pastoral support to pupils and staff. Team members are effective and make a significant contribution to the well-being of staff and pupils. In addition, the team offers good, practical support to non-Catholic members of staff in their work with the children.

Pupil achievement in religious education is mainly good. Where standards are good the teaching is effective with challenging and engaging tasks. As a result there is good learning and good work in pupils' books. However, this is not consistent across the school. Pupils generally behave well in lessons and are keen to learn though, at times, work lacks depth and challenge for pupils across all ability ranges. However for the more able pupils, tasks are generally set to extend their learning. During the inspection, inspectors saw an effective use of scripture. Pupils were aware of the importance of scripture and its relevance to their daily lives.

Leaders and managers**Grade 2**

The senior leadership team have a clear vision for the school. There is a development plan for religious education which reflects a drive to improve standards further. The team are good role models who support the school community well. Leaders are aware that further consideration needs to be given to ensuring the quality of religious education teaching across the school is consistently good or better. Analysis of data obtained through tracking is beginning to enhance pupil progress and attainment.

The governing body offers good support to the school and provide constructive challenge to the leadership team. Governors are actively involved in the life of the community. They receive regular input and feedback from the senior leadership team to enable them to fulfil their role. Governors access training from the Diocese.

Provision**Grade 2**

The quality of collective worship is good. Pupils are encouraged to pray with reverence and develop their relationship with God. Whole school assemblies take place three times a week. During inspection the pupils sang with enthusiasm. The school has established good links with the parish and prepares children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Parents are well informed about RE topics and teaching. They have many opportunities to share in prayer and celebrations in the school. The newly formed St Luke Academy Trust provides opportunities for staff to share ideas and expertise in the teaching of religious education.

The quality of teaching is good overall with the majority of pupils making at least expected progress. However, there is not currently sufficient challenge and support to enable pupils to achieve at the highest level and produce their best quality work. The

new assessment system is in an early stage of implementation and once fully embedded should be rigorously evaluated.

The school devotes 10% of teaching time to Religious Education and uses the diocesan recommended religious education programme 'Come and See'. The curriculum is enhanced through effective links with the local parish. Prayer partners have recently been established in the school with members of the parish and Year 3 pupils preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Resources are used well to support learning and the school allocates funding to ensure RE is appropriately resourced.

The inspectors wish to thank the staff and pupils for their welcome and contributing to their informative and enjoyable visit.