

Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Interim Monitoring Visit

1 July 2019

St Edward's Catholic Primary School Kettering (URN: 122047)

St Edward's is a small Catholic primary school with 198 pupils on roll. It serves the parish of St Edward's in Kettering and is part of the St Luke's Academy Trust. 67% of pupils are baptised Catholics and the school chaplain, Canon John Koenig visits the school on a regular basis. The mission statement 'Let all you do be done in love' drives the ethos and is reflected in the quality of relationships both in school and in the wider community. The school has made significant progress in addressing the action points following the last Section 48 inspection. The new assessment system is embedded in the monitoring schedule and a policy has been implemented giving clear guidance for staff and pupils to raise standards in RE books. The headteacher is well supported by the governing body, ensuring that the school has a good capacity for sustained improvement.

The school's self-evaluation documentation is detailed and accurate, providing clear evidence of actions taken and their subsequent impact. There is a comprehensive three-year school improvement plan with clearly defined priorities and interim points for governors to monitor the impact of teaching and learning. The SEF-RE reflects the richness of the Catholic Life of the school and the RE action plan contains specific objectives alongside key outcomes.

The school has very strong links with the parish church of St Edward's and Mass is celebrated both in school and in the parish setting. Sacramental preparation for Holy Communion and Confirmation takes place in Years 3 and 6 respectively and the Masses are shared with a linked primary school within the Trust. Prayer is an integral part of the school and the pupils were both engaged and reflective in collective worship. The prayer tables in classrooms are well cared for and class saints are celebrated in each area. The school's 'Beatitudes' reflect the Catholic values which pupils demonstrate both in and outside of the classroom. Pupils are aware of the needs of others less fortunate than themselves and are engaged in a variety of projects including the NSPCC, ChildLine and Mary's Meals.

The leadership and quality of religious education in the school is good. The headteacher has a clear vision for the school, ably supported by the subject leader. Expectations are high for all pupils to achieve their potential. Support and guidance given to less experienced staff, coupled with NORES training, has ensured confidence in delivering the *Come and See* programme. In the lessons observed, pupils were eager to share their ideas and were active participants in their learning. They were keen to show their work and spoke enthusiastically about their RE lessons. Year 4 pupils were proud of the work they had completed on 'Building Bridges' and Year 6 spoke about how they could apply the theme of 'Courage' to their everyday lives. The pupils' books reflected an increasing pride in their work and there was evidence in most of progression since the start of the year.

Areas for further improvement:

- To further improve the quality of work in books, particularly in lower Key Stage 2
- Use the new assessment criteria to engage pupils at greater depth
- Continue to provide support for less experienced staff in the teaching of RE

The diocesan reviewer would like to thank the headteacher, staff and the pupils for the warm welcome and hospitality throughout the visit.

Frances Topa on behalf of the Diocese of Northampton

