



# EAST ANGLIA DIOCESAN SCHOOLS' SERVICE

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## Interim Monitoring Visit

St. Alban's Catholic Primary School, Cambridge

27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

The school is a one form entry school for pupils from 4 to 11 years situated in Cambridge city centre and serves the parishes of Our Lady and English Martyrs, St. Philip Howard and Sawston. There are 210 pupils on roll of which 99.5% are Catholic. The school receives pupils from a range of social backgrounds, with a significant number from advantaged professional families. The percentage of Catholic teachers is 50% of which two have a Religious Education (RE) qualification. Within the 10% of pupils identified with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND), there are five pupils with a SEND statement.

The interim monitoring visit timetable included a welcome, a meeting with the headteacher, RE leader and chair of governors, who became chair in September 2018; an RE learning walk including observations of RE lessons in the majority of classes; a whole school Collective Worship; a meeting with pupils from EYFS to Y6; scrutiny of pupils' RE workbooks with three levels of ability from each year group; a meeting with the RE leader, and a feedback meeting with the headteacher and RE leader.

(The areas to improve are in italics). The visit lasted approx. 5 hours.

RE Denominational Inspection May 2016 Improvements:

*Embed the new RE assessment format so continuing to monitor RE curriculum coverage and pupils' progress so that any attainment gaps recorded can be actioned.*

The school has piloted the age-related Standards in Religious Education, with portfolios of work from a selection of pupils within each year group to monitor their progress and attainment. To further enhance assessment of pupils' progress and attainment, this practice is being extended to include the diocesan 'I Can' statements for pupils to monitor their learning, which link the standards to the diocesan curriculum plan and feed into the class grid for teachers to assess learning and further actions required. Therefore this improvement is **continuing to be embedded**.

*Continue to moderate pupils' RE outcomes within and across schools to raise teachers' confidence in their judgements.*

The subject leader carries out regular scrutiny of pupils' work books with pupil attainment discussed in staff meetings. Drop-Ins are also carried out and the RE leader attends the local and diocesan network meetings. The two RE leaders from the Cambridge Catholic primary schools started to look at moderation of pupils' work across the two schools, but, although this has had to temporarily be put on hold, due to personal circumstances, this practice will be reinstated when possible. Impact of the actions taken for this target has been that there is greater consistency across the school and staff are focussing on new expectations and looking for pupils producing greater depth of learning. Evidence of the impact is seen in the high quality and quantity and presentation of pupils' work across the school in their workbooks, Special books and in the vibrant RE displays. Pupils speak about their work with great pride and knowledge of links and comparisons within scripture and the links to the world today.

This improvement **has been embedded**. However the school wish **to continue to embed** this target further, in light of more recent national changes and working with the age-related standards, **and the inspector agrees with this action**.

*Increase pupils' involvement in planning worship by providing opportunities for groups of pupils to prepare and present short acts of worship within their class setting.*

Pupils involvement in the planning and delivery of collective worship has been fully embraced with the appointment of Blue and White Chaplains, who are Year 6 pupils, and who lead worship confidently using at times their own prayers and ideas in class or in whole school worship. They meet weekly with the RE leader.

This action **has been embedded**, with the school deciding to **further develop** this target by providing wider opportunities for more pupils with the establishment of the new liturgical group, and ***the inspector agrees with this action.***

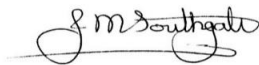
The Catholic life of the school including RE and collective worship continues to offer pupils rich opportunities in their faith and education, which is fully supported by the new governing body, the high aspirations and vision of the RE leader and senior leadership team. The RE leader successfully drives the action planning, monitoring and evaluation of standards and achievement in RE and ensures teaching staff are fully supported in the teaching of RE.

The school's mission statement and motto "Believe, Achieve and Succeed" is fully embraced by the pupils within the school and they stated that they enjoyed exploring and growing in their own faith and growing in knowledge of other World faiths.

There is a great depth of respect between pupils and their peers, and staff and pupils. The positive learning environment is extremely conducive to pupils achieving well.

Feedback regarding the interim monitoring visit was that it had been useful to the school.

I would like to thank everyone at St. Alban's school for such a warm and friendly welcome.



Jan Southgate, Diocesan S48 Inspector