



# **DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION REPORT**

incorporating Section 48 and Canonical Inspection under Canon 806 on  
behalf of the Archbishop of Southwark

**URN 142731**

**St Chad's Catholic Primary School**

**Alverstons Gardens**

**South Norwood**

**SE25 6LR**

**Inspection date: 9 December 2022**

**Chair of Governors: Yvonne Ndifor**

**Executive Headteacher: Shirley Hulme**

**Inspectors: Colette Doran-Hannon**

**Angela Pitcher**

## **EDUCATION COMMISSION**

St Edward's House, St Paul's Wood Hill, Orpington, Kent BR5 2SR  
Tel 01689 829331

**Interim Director of Education: Angela Cox OBE**



### Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding	Grade 3	Requires improvement
Grade 2	Good	Grade 4	Inadequate

## FULL REPORT

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St Chad's Catholic Primary School is an academy. It is situated in the Croydon Deanery of the Archdiocese of Southwark. The principal parish which the school serves is St Chad's Catholic Parish though some pupils come from other local parishes. The proportion of baptised Catholics is 57%. The school roll has fallen since the last inspection and in the Early Years the school is now a one form entry.

The school enrolls children from age 3-11 years. The number of pupils currently on roll is 299. The proportion of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium grant is 25%. The percentage of pupils with a special educational need is 23%. The community is diverse with 50% of pupils from Black African heritage, 14.1% Black Caribbean, 4.1% White British, 9.8% Other white and 3% Asian. The proportion of the curriculum given to Religious Education is 10% in Key Stage 1 and 10% in Key Stage 2.

Date Published: 11th January 2023



## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FOR PARENTS AND PUPILS

St Chad's is an outstanding Catholic school because:

- Senior leaders and governors have a shared vision for the school and for excellence in Catholic education. Pupils see themselves and others as having a role 'We live out our mission to follow the steps of Christ'. Parents feel part of the school community and strongly value the Catholic education it offers
- Pupils are presented with exceptional opportunities in religious education which deepens their understanding and develops their religious literacy.
- Collective worship is reverent and respectful, with a clear message for pupils to take out into their own lives. Prayer is central to school life. Pupils are familiar with the traditional prayers of the Church and are at ease with composing and contributing their own prayers. The school has excellent relationships with its local parish and the parish priest is very supportive and a regular visitor to the school.

## WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL NEED TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

- Involve pupils in the evaluation of the Catholic life of the school
- Embed recently introduced methods of pupil evaluation to ensure consistency.



## Overall Effectiveness

How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education.	1
--	---

### Catholic Life

	1
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.	1
The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school.	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school.	1

### Religious Education

	1
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.	1
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education.	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education.	1

### Collective Worship

	1
How well pupils respond to and participate in the schools' Collective Worship.	1
The quality of provision for Collective Worship.	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship.	1

## CATHOLIC LIFE

1

**The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.**

Pupils at St Chad's appreciate that they have a mission in life to 'Grow in love and live in peace' and they aim to live the mission every day and in every part of school life. All pupils have the opportunity to support charities locally, nationally and globally. The school's CAFOD club ensures that pupils have a strong understanding of overseas development. As a result, the pupils are full of empathy for others and take leading roles in trying to improve the lives of those who are less fortunate. The pupils are joyful in their service of others. The courtesy they extend to one another and to the adults in the school is exceptional. They recognise themselves as being made in the image and likeness of God and treat each other with the respect that this brings. They know that forgiveness is important when they have disagreements and are always willing to move on. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the Catholic life of the school, acknowledging a sense community in belonging to St Chads. Parents feel welcomed to the school and enjoy the family feel. The school is highly valued by the parish priest and the parishioners of St Chad's for the contribution the pupils make to parish life. Appropriate to their age, pupils have an excellent understanding of relationships, sex, and health education.

**The quality of provision of the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.**

The school community works towards achieving their mission every single day. All staff are fully committed to the vocation that working at St Chad's brings. The quality of relationships between staff is very strong and they are all supportive of the mission. As a result, St Chad's is a truly joyful community where everyone works towards common goals for the good of all. Staff are very positive about the support they receive from leaders and are grateful that their pastoral needs are well catered for. Catholic Social Teaching is central to the curriculum of the school, both through formal learning and informal opportunities. Pupils refer to Catholic Social Teaching when talking to one another, when they are thinking about others and when they are looking after the environment. As a result, they take their leadership roles in school seriously, recognising their purpose. To further improve provision, pupils should be encouraged to evaluate using adults as facilitators what they do so that they can recognise what the next steps are.



**How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.**

School leaders are passionate about the school mission and are fully committed to the Church's educational mission. Their work is a source of inspiration for the whole community. Governors are involved in the evaluation of the Catholic life of the school and keenly support improvements. They are supportive and challenging in equal measure and are highly ambitious for the school. The website accurately reflects the Catholic life of the school and is a very good method of communicating all the work that the school is involved in. Leaders also make very good use of social media to communicate and celebrate their achievements. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the heads of school and recognise their visible leadership as a significant strength of the school. One parent commented 'My children love going to this school with Catholic life being an integral part'. School leaders respond well to the initiatives and directives of the diocese.

Date Published: 11th January 2023



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

### **How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education is outstanding.**

Pupils thrive in their religious education lessons at St Chad's. Behaviour for learning in lessons is exceptional and pupils are confident and happy. Their contributions to class discussions are very strong and they are challenged in their thinking. Consequently, the pupils achieve very well, and make outstanding progress from their starting points. Their understanding of scripture and their ability to support their thinking using scripture passages is exceptional. Pupils are interested in their lessons and are not afraid to ask questions which leads to a greater depth of understanding in their topic areas. The work in pupil books is consistently outstanding across the school. The pupils take great pride in their work, recognising that the books are very important.

### **The quality of teaching and assessment in Religious Education is outstanding.**

Assessment is used to plan lessons that are stimulating and interesting for the pupils in St Chad's. Leaders are aware when staff need support and step in to provide coaching and mentoring when needed. Continuing professional development is well planned so that staff are confident in the subject knowledge and delivery of the subject. Leaders are approachable and teachers who are less confident know where they can turn for support. Pupil progress is tracked exceptionally well and used to ensure planning meets the needs of learners. As a result, pupils make more than expected progress during their time at the school. Feedback and marking allows pupils to know what they need to do to improve and deepens their understanding further. Pupils' work is celebrated and as a result they are highly motivated. A range of teaching methods are employed by staff to ensure that all pupils are engaged and motivated by learning. During the inspection, interpretation of art, drama as well as the creative use of scripture were used to engage learners based on their starting points. The school has recently introduced pupil self-assessment of religious education, where this is used well children demonstrate that they now how well they are achieving. In order to further improve the school should make sure that the approach is used consistently across the school.

### **How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education is outstanding.**

Leaders are astutely aware of the areas for development and the strengths in religious education. Self-evaluation of the subject is thorough and provides an accurate reflection of the current context of the school. The curriculum leader has inspired the staff to reach the highest standards of teaching and learning possible because of their expertise and passion for the subject. As a result, teaching is consistently good and often outstanding. Tracking of assessment in the school by the subject leader ensures that monitoring and evaluation systems are effective and robust.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

**How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship and Prayer Life is outstanding.**

Daily prayer is an integral part of life at St Chads. All pupils are keen to be Faith friends and have the opportunity to lead worship in classrooms. Staff are skilled in developing pupils' ability to prepare and deliver high quality worship in which all pupils can be involved, the impact of which is a reverent and respectful attitude towards prayer at the school. The liturgical year is celebrated extremely well at St Chad's and this ensures that the pupils have access to worship that is well planned for and delivered. Displays in the school reflect this and pupils' work on the displays reflects the importance that is placed on worship in the school. Prayers learned by the pupils are age appropriate. Pupils are also encouraged to pray spontaneously and during lessons are able to connect the topic with their self-led prayers. The pupils are proud of their Catholic school. They acknowledge that because they attend a Catholic school they know how to make the right choices in life. They show a great respect for people of other faiths and this is shown not only in their work but in their prayer life.

**The quality of provision for Collective Worship and Prayer Life is outstanding**

Praying together for all parts of the school community is a daily occurrence. Collective worship is strongly based upon the liturgical year and staff have an excellent understanding of how it should be shared with pupils at an age appropriate manner. Parents are welcomed to the school frequently to share in the collective worship. They appreciate this and are complimentary about the work that goes into to achieving high standards with their children. They believe that 'children's spiritual development is very strong'. Pupils in Year 4 have the opportunity to engage in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which builds reflection into their prayer life.

**How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship and Prayer Life is outstanding**

Leaders at all levels understand the importance of collective worship and its role in this highly successful Catholic school. They give every opportunity possible to the pupils to plan, deliver and lead the prayer life of the school.

Leaders ensure that pupils are given the opportunity for worship at the local Catholic church. The parish priest delights in the confidence shown by the pupils in asking and answering questions. Collective worship is valued by every member of the school community. Displays around the school show the significant contribution that Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has in the school and the impact that it has on the pupils. Consequently, leaders have plans to ensure that more pupils have access to this special reflection time.