

assembly, and in classrooms where learning and pupil engagement was still very evident. The office team were very welcoming and gave me the support I needed during the visit.

My meeting with the Chair of Governors and the Executive Principal gave clear insight into the supportive bond between the schools within the Academy Trust. The Secondary school within the Trust is a designated 'Learning School' and is involved in sharing best practice and leading learning for pupils and staff. St John Rigby School is an important member of this vibrant 'learning school' community and has developed a 'non-positional' approach to sharing professional development. Every member of staff is encouraged to share outcomes of training and be a 'leader of learning'. As a team, the Trust looks outward and staff from St John Rigby have been involved in leading training in schools across the Diocese as well as locally.

The school works closely with the local churches especially the Holy Cross Parish Church. Worship is an integral part of school life and the local priests regularly visit and are part of the school's identity as a faith school. Mass in school is offered each term and acts of worship and Christian celebrations such as Harvest and Ash Wednesday are carefully planned. The Hosanna Room is a special prayer area and is used by pupils, staff, parents, and friends of the school. Pupils also learn about other faiths and are very respectful of the faith diversity within Bedford and beyond. They visit other places of worship gaining understanding and knowledge about other traditions.

The Headteacher had prepared meticulously for the assessment days and the portfolio of evidence and the Self-Evaluation Report gave detailed evidence of the inclusive ethos and practice within the school. The website was being updated during the time of the assessment but this work is now complete and provides a very attractive and accurate account of the school and its commitment to inclusion.

During the assessment days, I met with a wide range of stakeholders including pupils, parents, teaching and support staff, and governors. The headteacher was always at hand to clarify information. The success of the school is built on high expectations of achievement, team work, and a commitment to serve all members of the school community, especially the most vulnerable. These qualities are underpinned by the strong Christian principles which govern the way pupils, staff, and parents respond to one another and reach out to the wider community. I would like to thank the headteacher, staff, pupils and parents for the warm welcome I received and for their openness during our meetings.

It is my view that St John Rigby Primary School fully meets the standard required by the Inclusion Quality Mark. I recommend that the school be awarded the Mark and be reassessed in 3 years' time.

Assessor: Mary Hewitson

Findings confirmed by Inclusion Quality Mark (UK) Ltd:



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Joe McCann MBA NPQH
Director of Inclusion Quality Mark (UK) Ltd