

Inspection of a good school: St Mary Magdalene CofE Primary School

Rowington Close, Warwick Estate, Paddington, London W2 5TF

Inspection dates:

4 and 5 May 2022

Outcome

St Mary Magdalene CofE Primary School continues to be a good school.

What is it like to attend this school?

Leaders and school staff create a positive and nurturing environment for their pupils. Pupils show respect for adults and each other. They behave well in and out of lessons. Leaders act swiftly and appropriately should any incidents of bullying occur. Pupils are happy and safe in school. They know they can speak to school staff if they are worried about anything.

Leaders' work to promote pupils' personal development is of high quality. They provide a wide range of opportunities for pupils to broaden their horizons beyond what is available in the local area. These include various programmes designed to inspire pupils to have high aspirations for their futures. For example, in partnership with an outside organisation, leaders provide pupils with access to a range of professional career mentors. These mentors encourage pupils to plan their pathway to achieving their desired career.

Leaders have high ambitions for what pupils can achieve. Leaders actively prioritise equality and inclusion. Leaders think carefully about the curriculum and how to ensure all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), access all that the school has to offer. For example, leaders work closely with pupils and families to ensure all pupils participate in outings and visits.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

Pupils study a range of subjects in line with the national curriculum. Leaders take account of the backgrounds and interests of pupils when designing the curriculum. Leaders consider what the most important knowledge is that they want pupils to know and remember by the time they leave the school. They structure and sequence this knowledge from the early years to Year 6. Leaders check that teachers teach the right things in each subject. Teachers provide opportunities for pupils to recall the knowledge that they learned previously. They help pupils to link what they learned before with what they are learning now. For example, in mathematics in Year 4, pupils used their prior knowledge of tenths to help them to understand decimal numbers. Sometimes teachers do not use

pupils' recall of prior learning to identify any gaps in pupils' knowledge and plan what pupils need to learn again or review. As a result, on occasion important knowledge is not securely embedded in pupils' long-term memory. Leaders have appropriate plans in place already to address this.

Reading is given a high priority. Leaders provide many opportunities for pupils to read throughout the day. They choose books carefully, with the aim to inspire and motivate pupils. Pupils borrow books from school to read at home. Leaders keep a close check on how much pupils read. They provide extra-reading sessions in school for any pupils who do not read as much as they should. Teachers and teaching assistants receive training to teach phonics. Phonics sessions take place daily from the start of the Reception Year. Teachers check that children learn phonics securely. Any pupils who struggle with early reading quickly receive extra phonics teaching. As a result, all pupils keep up with the phonics programme. The school's commitment to reading helps pupils gain the necessary knowledge and skills to become fluent and confident readers.

Leaders train teachers and teaching assistants to identify any pupils with SEND. Leaders work with parents, carers and a range of external professionals including educational psychologists, and speech and language therapists, to provide support for pupils. Expert therapists provide additional, specific training for some teachers and teaching assistants so that they have specialist knowledge to support pupils well. Pupils with SEND learn the curriculum alongside their peers. Teachers adapt learning and provide additional resources for pupils with SEND so that all pupils access the same curriculum. On a few occasions, support and/or resources for pupils with SEND are not matched to pupils' needs precisely enough to help them to keep up with their peers.

Pupils are motivated and eager to learn. Any low-level disruption does not negatively impact learning the curriculum. Pupils are taught about rights and responsibilities. Pupils elect representatives to be eco-warriors, head pupils, and to join the rights-respecting committee and participate in the pupils' parliament. The parliament votes and makes decisions for the school, including which charitable organisations to support. Leaders and teachers teach pupils about different types of bullying, including online bullying. Pupils are taught about relationships issues including consent and sexual abuse in age-appropriate ways. This includes through workshops delivered by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Leaders and governors lead and manage the school well. They consider regularly how to make the school even better. They prioritise the right things. Governors seek the views of staff and act to help them to manage their workload and support their well-being.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders provide safeguarding training for all staff. Staff know the signs that indicate a pupil may be in need of help. Staff report concerns to leaders should any arise. Leaders act on these appropriately. They seek advice from external safeguarding partners where

necessary. Leaders work closely with families and pupils to make sure they get the right help.

Leaders are alert to any concerns in the local area. They use this knowledge to make sure pupils are taught about risks and how to keep themselves safe from harm. For example, leaders use books and mentoring programmes to educate pupils about gangs. Pupils know how to report any concerns.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Sometimes teachers do not use their checks on what pupils know and remember to identify and adjust what pupils need to learn next. Occasionally, as a result, pupils have gaps in the important knowledge that they need to remember long term. Leaders must make sure that teaching uses assessment information to identify and address any gaps in pupils' knowledge.
- Occasionally, adaptations to the delivery of the curriculum for pupils with SEND are not tailored precisely enough to meet their needs and ensure they keep up with their peers. Leaders must make sure that pupils with SEND receive carefully tailored support and/or resources to enable them to access the same curriculum as their peers and keep up in all subjects.

Background

When we have judged a school to be good, we will then normally go into the school about once every four years to confirm that the school remains good. This is called a section 8 inspection of a good or outstanding school, because it is carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. We do not give graded judgements on a section 8 inspection. However, if we find evidence that a school would now receive a higher or lower grade, then the next inspection will be a section 5 inspection. Usually this is within one to two years of the date of the section 8 inspection. If we have serious concerns about safeguarding, behaviour or the quality of education, we will deem the section 8 inspection as a section 5 inspection immediately.

This is the second section 8 inspection since we judged the school to be good in October 2012.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

If you are the school and you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

Unique reference number	101135
Local authority	Westminster
Inspection number	10204483
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Gender of pupils in sixth-form provision	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	180
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chairs	Felicia Asiedu and Matthew Champkin
Headteacher	Tonnie Read
Website	www.st-marymagdalene.westminster.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	13 December 2016, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- St Mary Magdalene's is a Church of England school under the Diocese of London.
- Since the school's previous inspection, there have been changes to the leadership structure of the school.
- The headteacher has taken on the role of executive headteacher. She is the executive headteacher of three schools: St Mary Magdalene Church of England Primary, St Stephen's Church of England Primary and St John's Highbury Vale Church of England Primary.
- The previous deputy headteacher has taken on the role of head of school.
- Some children on roll at St Stephen's Church of England Primary School are in the Nursery and Reception Year classes at this school.
- The school does not use any alternative providers.
- The school's last section 48 inspection took place in March 2018.

Information about this inspection

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- The inspector held meetings with the executive headteacher, head of school and other senior leaders.
- The inspector also met with a representative from the local authority, a representative from the diocese and representatives of the governing body.
- The inspector carried out deep dives in these subjects: early reading, mathematics and geography. For each deep dive, inspectors discussed the curriculum with subject leaders, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work.
- The inspector also spoke to leaders about the curriculum in some other subjects.
- The inspector spoke with leaders, staff and pupils about safeguarding and pupil welfare. The inspector reviewed the pre-employment checks that are carried out before staff start working at the school. The inspector also checked safeguarding records and documentation.
- The inspector analysed staff and parent responses to Ofsted's online surveys.

Inspection team

Andrea Bedeau, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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