

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**

### **19 October 2016**

#### **St Edwards School**

1. St Edwards RC Primary School has been selected to appear in the 2015/16 edition of *The Parliamentary Review*. Established by former minister The Rt Hon David Curry shortly after the 2010 general election, *The Parliamentary Review's* September release has become a key fixture in the political calendar.
2. St Edwards RC Primary School features alongside The Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Philip Hammond, and a small number of outstanding schools in the Primary Education North of England edition. The main aim of *The Review* is to showcase best practice as a learning tool to the public and private sector, with this edition aimed particularly at leading policymakers and executives within Primary Education.
3. The document is sent out to tens of thousands of leading policymakers. The articles in *The Review* act as both a blueprint for success and a template for reform.
4. Director of *The Parliamentary Review*, Daniel Yossman, said: "It's been an utter privilege to work with a range of schools from across the country in this year's *Review*. Without their input, our aims of spreading expert knowledge and raising standards simply would not be achievable. They'll be a hard act to follow and next year's schools will have to be on the top of their game to meet the challenge."
5. Editor of *The Parliamentary Review*, The Rt Hon David Curry, said: "Each of the representatives brings something very different to the table, while at the same time capitalising on the collective wisdom of their industry. There may be choppy waters ahead but organisations across the country would be well-advised to keep an eye on the representatives in this year's *Review* when deciding how to set their sails."
6. Mary Brown Head teacher was invited to the House of Commons on 23 September to meet with Parliamentary figures and to launch the review at a gala event. Mary was very proud that the school's achievements have been recognised and said:
7. "The idea is to demonstrate how leadership and innovative thinking can turn around organisations or continue to be outstanding in their field; how a leader can consistently keep an organisation/school outstanding. It was a huge honour but daunting and I felt I couldn't refuse the invite! However, it was an opportunity for the town and of course the school."

8. The review can be read at:  
<http://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/editions/pdfs/TPR2016-Education-Primary-North.pdf>

### **Great practice in Middlesbrough schools**

9. Many other schools have received some extremely high results this year. Head teachers have responded positively to a request to write a case study of some of the practice which they believe has contributed to the success of their school. These will now be shared with schools on the Middlesbrough Achievement Partnership website, along with the Parliamentary review.

### **Schools receiving Support**

10. In order to ensure that all schools move towards the Middlesbrough ambition to be outstanding within the next 4 years, some schools are attending meetings with the Local Authority during the first part of the Autumn term.
11. The School Standards Monitoring group is a strategic body on which the Executive member for Learning and Skills and the Executive Director for Wellbeing, Care and Learning sit. They are supported by councillors, such as the chair of the education scrutiny committee and by senior officers responsible for school improvement, and where appropriate representatives of partner organisations such as the Diocese.
12. The role of this group is to meet termly to review school standards across the town and to meet with the Head teachers and chairs of governors of schools where there are concerns.
13. Some of the main areas for discussion with primary schools this year include the recent introduction of new tests and assessment systems which have seen National turbulence in pupil achievement levels, the high mobility experienced in Middlesbrough with some of our schools experiencing more than 25% of the pupil population being mobile often including many international new arrivals, and lack of school readiness with a high focus on early years teaching. The new school readiness strategy is a huge step forward in aiming to ensure that a multi-agency approach is in place pre-birth to ensure that parents can support their child to be ready for school learning.
14. During the meetings, schools are encouraged to identify barriers and the group works together to suggest mechanisms to overcome them. Schools are offered support which the LA can broker through the services within Middlesbrough Council, the specialist teaching and leadership support from Teaching schools, Special schools offering outreach and external agencies such as the Bungalow project.

**Councillor Janice Brunton**  
**Executive Member for Education & Skills**