



**DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION  
REPORT (Section 48)**

**St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School**  
**Wigton**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION  
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

**THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL  
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**School:**

**St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School**

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Wigton  
Cumbria  
CA7 9HZ**

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**School URN:**

**112310**

**Headteacher:**

**Mrs Ann-Marie Handford**

**Chair of Governors:**

**Mrs Clare Donohue**

**Lead Inspector:**

**Mrs Adrienne Delaney**

**Team Inspector:**

**Mrs Rachel Ballard**

**Date of Inspection:**

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St Cuthbert's is a Catholic voluntary aided primary school in the Diocese of Lancaster. It is situated just outside the town of Wigton, in the borough of Allerdale, Cumbria. It is a small primary school with currently 79 pupils on roll, of which approximately 22% are baptised Roman Catholics. Other pupils come from no faith or other Christian backgrounds. Most pupils are of White British heritage with a small minority of pupils from other cultural backgrounds.

Approximately 23% of pupils are on the SEND register.

The school has begun to utilise the surrounding land creatively and successfully.

PUPILS	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	7	15	5	13	17	12	10	79
Catholics on roll	2	0	2	3	0	3	2	12
Other Christian denomination	1	4	1	4	3	4	1	17
Other faith background	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
No religious affiliation	3	11	2	5	9	4	3	36
No of learners from other ethnic groups	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	5
Total on SEND Register	0	0	1	3	5	3	4	18
Total with EHCP		1			1		1	3

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent		Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	12.1			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Cuthbert's	12

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2.25	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	9.75
% of teaching time	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

TEACHING TIME FOR ENGLISH	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	30
% of teaching time	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%

TEACHING TIME FOR MATHS	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	30
% of teaching time	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%

<b>STAFFING</b>	
Full-time teachers	3
Part-time teachers	3
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	4
Classroom Support assistants	15
Number of Catholic teachers FTE	50%
Number of teachers teaching RE	4
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	1
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0
Chaplaincy staffing	0

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	4
Average class size KS1	9
Average class size KS2	13

<b>EXPENDITURE (£)</b>	<b>Last financial year 2020-21</b>	<b>Current financial year 2021-22</b>	<b>Next financial year 2022-23</b>
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	£1869.55	2995.11	Not set
RE Curriculum allowance from above	£93	£150	
English Curriculum allowance from above	£ 149	£239	
Total CPD budget	£1200	£1958	
RE allocation for CPD	£400	£652.66	

<b>How the school has developed since the last inspection</b>
<p>All aspects for improvement since the last inspection have been addressed and have had a positive impact on achieving high standards. A baseline assessment and detailed tracking system across school are in place and governors are informed and able to monitor attainment and progress in curriculum RE.</p> <p>The school has an outstanding capacity to maintain the current high standards. The firm commitment of the leaders and all staff demonstrate the capacity to facilitate continuous improvement. Inspection has shown that self-evaluation is clear and accurate.</p>

## INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

### OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

### CATHOLIC LIFE

1

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

### OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

St Cuthbert's is an outstanding Catholic school that demonstrates rapid improvement. It is a very welcoming, creative and inclusive learning environment; pupils enjoy attending and they have positive attitudes to learning. One Year 6 pupil described the school as a place where 'We learn how to be compassionate to others and we respect people'. Pupils deepen knowledge of the Catholic faith throughout their time at St Cuthbert's and gain a firm understanding of Catholic practice. The school lives out its mission statement that states that they '*Live, love and learn together and let the light of Jesus shine in our school*' and pupils can speak about the importance of Gospel values. Governors fully support the headteacher's vision for the school in the community that it serves. The new leadership has enabled recommendations since the last inspection to be addressed successfully. The headteacher and RE subject leader have been tireless in their efforts to ensure that the Catholic Life of the school and curriculum RE are outstanding. The work of the leaders, supported by teachers and support staff, has been instrumental in rapidly raising standards in curriculum RE and the Catholic Life of the school. This dedication is a strength of the school.

The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding and the commitment from the headteacher, the governors, staff, and parish clergy and laity to support pupils in their prayer life and faith development has remained a priority during times of change. Staff set good examples, are proud of their school and work well together. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is excellent and has an impact on everyday life at St Cuthbert's. This can be seen through pupils' responses to each other and to their understanding of the common good. The pupils actively and willingly become involved in a variety of activities supporting their own and the wider community. For example, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils spoken to on the day of inspection spoke about their involvement in Mini Vinnies and Laudato Si groups. One pupil stated that 'Everyone respects the environment because of Laudato Si'. This participation contributes to their social, emotional and moral development. Gospel values permeate school life and pupils are helped to grow in faith, make the most of their abilities and become the best they can be.

Opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy are outstanding; pupils act with reverence, join in prayers confidently and sing joyfully. They make full use of resources available to them and appreciate the opportunities offered e.g. Masses and liturgies in church and school.

The quality of curriculum RE is outstanding and pupils are provided with an excellent range of learning opportunities to help deepen their faith, to understand Catholic traditions and practices, and to make progress in their learning. Pupils enjoy RE lessons and many aspects of the curriculum are outstanding. Clear action plans are in place to continue to raise attainment and progress from low starting points is outstanding.

Teachers' subject knowledge is outstanding and has a positive impact on the delivery of curriculum RE. They are well supported in terms of professional development. The curriculum meets the needs of all learners in line with diocesan and national recommendations.

Governors and leaders take full account of the '*Fit for Mission? Schools*' guidance and HRSE teaching is embedded.

### **WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER**

To improve further the school needs to:

- Improve outcomes for all pupils by:
  - Providing more opportunities for pupils to understand other world faiths, particularly those of monotheistic traditions, across all key stages, in order to ensure that pupils are prepared for life within culturally diverse communities.
  - building in more time for pupils to record their reflections in learning, particularly in Key Stage 2, in order that they can evidence their understanding in RE.
- Celebrate successes by:
  - Building on the now established good practice in teaching and learning, monitoring and evaluation so that the outcomes for pupils continue to be outstanding.
  - Continuing the practice of differentiation in tasks so in order that greater depth of understanding can be evidenced.
  - Continuing to involve parents in celebrations and acts of prayer and liturgy as restrictions caused by the pandemic begin to lift.

## PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

### THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

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

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Inspection agreed with the school's judgement that the Catholic Life at St Cuthbert's is outstanding.

All staff members at St Cuthbert's are wholly committed to supporting the Catholic ethos of the school and its mission and this culture is embedded in the life of the school family.

The pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Life of the school is greatly enhanced by their participation in and contribution to all aspects of school life. Pupils know that they belong to St Cuthbert's Catholic parish family and are proud to be part of the school and parish. Pupils' leadership of Prayer and Liturgy is outstanding. From the Foundation Stage onwards pupils develop their ability to share their own faith through whole class Prayer and Liturgy. This skill is developed throughout Key Stage 2 where pupils plan and share their own Prayer and Liturgy.

Pupils understand that their Catholic faith is different from other faiths and share this distinctiveness with other Catholic schools. Activities that have enabled this understanding are the celebration of Mass with the parish, fundraising with the parish and collecting money for Breast Cancer Research and CAFOD.

Pupils at St Cuthbert's articulate their belief in letting the 'light of Jesus shine'. This encourages best behaviour and focused learning at all times. Catholic principles and practices, such as the adoption of a reward for adhering to Catholic values, underpin behaviour and relationship policies, resulting in a strong, shared vision for the Catholic Life of the school.

The Parish Priest, lay helpers in school (including those from the neighbouring Cor et Lumen Christi Community), governors, school leaders, teachers and support staff are fully committed to fulfilling their role in ensuring outstanding provision for the Catholic Life of the school. They have high expectations and are actively working together to implement the Catholic philosophy of education and gospel values which permeate all aspects of the school. An example of this is the use of prayer bags which go home with children and that include resources, prayer diaries, suggested prayers and scripture readings. The headteacher provides these opportunities which are given the highest priority, providing for the spiritual and moral development of pupils and

their families. Her teachers and her staff have a strong vision for the school that is articulated through their actions.

The governors, leaders and managers are fully committed to partnerships with the diocesan family of parishes and schools. The school has links with the local Catholic primary schools and, despite distance, endeavours to work with a wider family of schools to provide opportunities to celebrate their faith.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. St Cuthbert's is a welcoming, inclusive, friendly and creative community with a strong family ethos where everyone is valued and pupils and staff flourish. Governors, managers and staff have high expectations and a shared vision with regard to the Catholic mission and ethos. There is a palpable sense of family and community in all aspects of school life and this is evident in the quality of relationships that exist between all stakeholders.

The school is a prayerful community that provides a creative and stimulating learning environment to reflect the school's mission and Catholic character. Staff and governors work hard to develop and enhance the school for the benefit of everyone at St Cuthbert's. Older pupils take part in, lead and prepare prayer and liturgies with enthusiasm and confidence. Younger pupils plan elements of the Prayer and Liturgy within the class. All pupils sing hymns joyfully and during the inspection were observed singing a new school hymn, composed by a parent who is a member of staff. The Parish Priest is a regular visitor to school and together with the headteacher has been instrumental in facilitating opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy.

## PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education
- How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education
- The quality of provision in Religious Education

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Inspection adjudged that RE at St Cuthbert's is outstanding.

The majority of pupils enjoy RE, are religiously literate and engaged in their learning. Through active participation in prayer and liturgies, together with outstanding curriculum coverage, pupils show excellent knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. They understand that Christ is at the centre of all school life and are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. The majority of pupils make rapid and sustained progress in RE, from a low baseline when they join St Cuthbert's in Foundation Stage. They develop and apply a range of skills throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 including independence and imagination. This is built upon in Key Stage 2 where pupils reflect upon their own gifts and talents that enable them to forgive, love and respect. One child interviewed said 'When we fall out here we always say sorry. We learn this in RE – to be good and kind towards each other'. They are able to reflect on the notion of justice and the common good. A Year 5 and Year 6 lesson observed on the day of inspection demonstrated that children could engage with questions of faith, they could use Bibles for correct reference and discuss the meaning of forgiveness.

The RE curriculum meets all the requirements of the Bishops' Conference and is informed by the Curriculum Directory and the diocesan document 'Fit for Mission? Schools'. RE is at the centre of the school's curriculum and is given priority in the improvement planning where targets are clearly identified and acted upon. A culture has been created in the past few years where a common vision and commitment to high standards have been prioritised and established. This is largely due to the excellent practice of the headteacher and the subject leader who ensure that pupils continue to make progress in their religious literacy. Pupils now need to access more opportunities to learn about other faiths and traditions, particularly those of monotheistic traditions.

Professional discussions during staff meetings explore how enthusiastic and imaginative teaching motivates pupils and deepens their understanding of the subject.

Since the last inspection, a system has been developed to improve standards, including monitoring lesson plans, book scrutiny, lesson drop ins, conversations with pupils, alongside pastoral and behaviour support; these activities have made a

significant impact on the improvement of teaching in RE. The practice of differentiation of RE tasks and the provision of tasks that demonstrate children's greater depth of understanding also needs to continue to be fully embedded. Pupils also now need some time to be built in to their study in order to reflect on, and respond to, feedback on their written tasks.

Teachers' planning is based on the diocesan curriculum wheel and teachers confidently enrich the curriculum using other valuable resources e.g. *The Way, the Truth and the Life* and CAFOD's *Universal Church* topics. Staff subject knowledge is very good due to their own drive for excellence in RE and to the opportunities offered to them. Governors are informed of the curriculum through reports at meetings and regular visits to school.

Pupils' progress in RE in each of the attainment targets, (knowledge and understanding of religion and an ability to reflect on meaning), is in line and often above national expectations and is reported to parents in termly reports alongside other core curriculum subjects. Communication with parents is a strength of St Cuthbert's; it has a very informative website that openly promotes the school's Catholic values and aspirations. Parents are happy with their children's school.

Pupil attainment and progress in RE is outstanding and is in line with standards in English and Maths. Since the last inspection the headteacher and the subject leader have ensured that staff have received relevant training. Analysis of the progress of all groups of learners enables success to be celebrated.

The school serves a community where many children have no faith background and yet it is one where pupils have the utmost respect for each other and the faith that they are learning about. Good quality teaching and effective learning are present in RE lessons and pupils enjoy RE because teachers make their lessons engaging, interesting and relevant.

The quality of provision in RE is outstanding. Since the last inspection the parish priest, governors, headteacher, teachers, and support staff have enthusiastically continued to seek opportunities to reflect on the teaching of RE and the Catholic Life of the school. This contributes to excellent subject knowledge and confidence in teaching RE: they inspire pupils and make sure that they make exceptional progress as independent and collaborative learners. Resources are used effectively and creatively and the quality of displays around the school is very high. For example, the Catholic Values are on display in the hall, together with the golden hoodies that the pupils who may display a particular value that week are given to wear. Pupils achieve well in RE at St Cuthbert's because of the support provided by dedicated and caring staff; consequently, pupils are well motivated and enjoy their learning in RE.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

<b>Overall Effectiveness</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Capacity for sustained improvement</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Catholic Life</b>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well leaders and managers promote and ensure provision for the Catholic Life of the school through monitoring and evaluation.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The quality of provision in Religious Education.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>

	<b>Pupil Outcomes</b>	<b>Leadership &amp; Management</b>	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Overall</b>
<b>Catholic Life</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>