

# DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH

Inspection of Religious Education  
Collective Worship  
and  
The Catholic Life of the School



**School:** Saint George's R.C. Primary

**Address:** Overdale  
Eastfield  
YO11 3RE

**URN:** 8153631

**Headteacher:** (Acting) Miss Denise Mc Groarty

**Chair:** Mrs Kate Boyes

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**Inspector:** Mrs Morita Metcalfe

**Date of Last Inspection:** 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Grade of Last Inspection:** 4 Inadequate

**Overall Grade for this Inspection:** 2 Good

## INTRODUCTION

This inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

The report of the inspection is produced for the Bishop of Middlesbrough (Code of Canon Law 804 and 806) and for the governors of the school. The Inspection reviews, evaluates and plans further improvements in the school's witness to the Catholic faith and Curriculum Religious Education . This process begins with the school's own self-evaluation. The Inspection schedule follows criteria set by the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers.

### What Inspection Grades mean

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	These features are highly effective. An outstanding Catholic school provides exceptionally well for its pupils' needs.
Grade 2	Good	These are very positive features of a Catholic school. A school that is good is serving its pupils well.
Grade 3	Requires Improvement	These features, though of adequate quality, require improvement to be good.
Grade 4	Inadequate	These features are not of an acceptable standard. An inadequate Catholic school needs to make significant improvement in order to meet the needs of its pupils.

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## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL**

Saint George's is a smaller than average voluntary aided Catholic Primary school, situated on the outskirts of the coastal town of Scarborough within the Middlesbrough Diocese. The proportion of pupils eligible for pupil premium is below the national average. Almost all of the pupils are of white British background. Approximately 36% of pupils and five out of the seven teachers are baptised Catholic. The local church is St George's, Eastfield which is now linked to Saint Mary's in Filey.

Since the last inspection Saint George's has experienced a significant and turbulent time. The newly appointed Headteacher of September 2013 went on sick leave in November 2013 and has in recent weeks tendered her resignation to the Governors. The Deputy Headteacher new to the position and the school in 2012 is acting up as Headteacher with the support of the Governors. The school is situated in pleasant surroundings and has large playing fields with well-equipped outside play areas. There is a large Foundation Stage Unit on the site which is not attached to the school.

## **Information about the Inspection**

### **The Inspector:**

- observed 4 lessons.
- held discussions with the School council.
- held discussions with the pupils; at lunchtimes, on the way to assembly and during lessons.
- considered all the written information that was supplied from the school.
- viewed several documents including Religious Education Action Plan, Religious Education and Collective Worship policies .
- conducted a book scrutiny of R.E books.
- met and held discussions with parents.
- met and held discussions with the R.E governor who is also the Chair of Governors.
- met and held discussions with governors including the Chair of Governors.
- met the Chaplain from the feeder comprehensive and held a conversation with the Parish priest.
- entered into several discussions with the Headteacher who is also R.E subject Leader.

**Pupil Catchment:**

Number of pupils on roll: 118

Planned Admission Number of Pupils: 15

Percentage of pupils baptised RC: 36%

Percentage of pupils from other Christian Denominations: 51%

Percentage of pupils from other World Faiths: 0

Percentage of pupils with no religious affiliation: 13%

Percentage of pupils with special needs: 8%

**Teaching Staff:**

Full-time Teachers: 7

Part-time Teachers: 0

Percentage of Catholic Teachers: 71%

**Support Staff:**

Full-time Classroom Support Staff: 0

Part-time Classroom Support Staff: 5

Percentage of Catholic Classroom Support Staff: 20%

Percentage of teachers with CCRS: 0%

**Percentage of learning time given to R.E:**

10% in all Key Stages

**Parishes served by the School:**

Saint George's, Scarborough and Saint Mary's, Filey

# 1. OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

2

## MAIN FINDINGS

Saint George's is a good Catholic school. Catholic Life and faith are now at the core of the organisation and the curriculum of the school. Governors, Leaders and staff have a strong commitment and an expressed aim to live out a shared vision

"With Christ as our light we work together to make our school a happy successful place of faith, growth and learning."

In recent years the school has been through a period of turbulence and change but is now looking towards an improved future. There have been significant staff changes which have had a positive impact on launching Saint George's towards the good judgement. The acting Headteacher and Governors are instrumental in effectively maintaining and developing the school's Catholic identity. Pupils now receive an education that is wholly Christian and Catholic enabling them to develop their individual talents and abilities to the full. The Headteacher appointed in September 2013 has been on long term sick leave since November 2013 and has now formally resigned. The Deputy has been acting up as Headteacher giving new leadership and has full support of the Governors, Middlesbrough Diocese and the Local Authority. Saint George's is now looking towards the future with real hope and a strong determination to be a highly regarded Catholic school for the local community and the parish of Saint George. This vision is shared by all stakeholders and is in evidence through the teaching, learning, Collective Worship and by the beliefs and values that inspire and draw together every aspect of the Catholic Life of Saint George's.

The partnership between home, parish and school is strengthening and actively sought due to the hard work and commitment of Governors and staff therefore Saint George's is now a community of faith providing appropriate spiritual experiences for its pupils and staff. The parents hold the school in high regard and believe it to be a good school that is improving in its reputation and status within the school and parish community. They feel very much welcomed and are well informed of the Religious Education in the school through newsletters, invitation to events within the school and announcements at church.

A new Mission Statement has been drawn up, to which pupils and all stakeholders contributed and to which all subscribe. Both outcomes for pupils and the quality of provision are good.

### **What the school needs to do to improve further:**

Improve the teaching and learning:

- ensure differentiation and appropriate levels of challenge are integral in lessons.
- increase the quantity of R.E work pupils produce in all Key Stages.
- improve presentation of pupil's work.
- ensure staff continue to use Reveal/Explore /Respond elements of Come and See

Continue to raise standards in Religious Education:

- ensure consistency of practice in tracking, target setting and assessment procedures.
- ensure there is sufficient progress of Religious Education learning for high, average and low attaining pupils.
- ensure marking strategies are consistent throughout the school and aid pupil's learning.
- building in correction time for pupils in order for them to improve aspects of their learning.

Improve Professional Development opportunities to support teachers in the delivery of Religious Education

- identify training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education
- provide internal and external Professional Development of Religious Education for all staff especially for those new to teaching and new to Come and See.

## 2. PUPILS

### How good outcomes are for pupils, taking into account of variations between groups.

Pupils contribute well and benefit greatly from the Catholic Life of the school. Saint George's pupils are keen to learn and are confident and comfortable discussing and questioning their faith and beliefs. The older children enjoy taking on responsibilities and participate constructively in the Catholic Life beyond routine lessons and activities.

Standards of behaviour are excellent; pupils are confident and comfortable talking to adults, displaying politeness and respect. This is because the behaviour strategies used by teachers and support staff are exemplary and rooted in the teaching of the Gospels.

Pupils respond extremely well to Collective Worship. They gather quietly and respectfully responding well to prayers and questions. All pupils sing enthusiastically and joyfully. There is also a school choir who regularly practice and enhance Collective Worship. During Pentecost celebrations the whole school was sent forth with paper flames of hope distributed by the Y6 pupils. Pupils have an understanding of the importance of key celebrations throughout the liturgical year and they are considerate to others and caring towards those in apparent need through their charity work and collections.

Pupil's attainment has improved recently and is now average in Religious Education. Moderation of pupil's work against the national levels of attainment in R.E is conducted within the North Yorkshire Cluster of schools and is developing and improving the subject leaders ability in collating and analysing assessment data, the results of which are disseminated to staff. The school has fully embraced the Come and See primary religious programme. Teachers use the variety of resources available really well including God's Story and Church's Story books alongside video clips and music compact discs. However there is a distinct lack of quantity in Religious Education work from the pupils, considering two hours of Religious Education is taught each week. There is also a need for improving marking and presentation in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. This is hindering pupil progress especially in the beginning of Key Stage 2 although there is evidence of marked improvement in these areas for older pupils this term. Marking and use of 'I can' statements although in place is inconsistent and almost confusing for pupils. Leaders are aware of this and are planning to improve this area which is included in the Religious Education action plan. Pupils' attainment especially for the More Able and talented is also hindered by lack of differentiation in R.E lessons. Teachers need to understand the effectiveness of appropriate differentiation to provide good teaching and learning for their pupils.

• The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school	<b>2</b>
• How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	<b>3</b>
• How well do pupils respond to and participate in the schools' Collective Worship	<b>2</b>

### 3. PROVISION

#### How effective the provision is for Catholic education

Pupils benefit well from teaching that is good and occasionally outstanding. Teachers have strong subject knowledge which inspires and contributes to pupils learning. Four lessons observations took place instead of the planned five as one temporary member of staff was ill during the inspection and did not attend school the two days of inspection. In the lessons observed pupils were keen to learn, concentrated well and achieved to a reasonable standard. They enjoy learning in R.E especially hearing about the miracles of Jesus. Good and imaginative use is made of resources, including technology to aid learning further. The school makes good use of the interactive whiteboard including within acts of worship. Talk partners are a strong feature of lessons.

The school has embraced the elements of Collective Worship presented to them through professional development by the Diocesan Education Adviser. Collective Worship linked to the liturgical year is well presented to the pupils and is strength of the school's Religious Education provision, offering pupils varied opportunities to reflect and celebrate with reverence. The younger children were encouraged to take deep breaths to breath in the Holy Spirit.

The school supports the church based preparation of the sacrament of the Eucharist and plays an active part within Saint George's parish including display within the church. R.E display throughout the school is appropriate and effective relating well to Come and See and the liturgical year. Each class has a dedicated worship area that pupils are very aware of and treat with respect knowing that it is special. One pupil in Early Years Foundation Stage chose to work in the 'worship area' as 'it is a quiet place to work.' The school's thoughtful and wide ranging promotion of pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development enables them to thrive in a supportive highly cohesive learning community.

The quality of provision for Catholic life within the school is good. Leaders and teachers are committed to bringing about the improvements identified in the school's Religious Education action plan through self-evaluation and monitoring. There is an obvious shared desire to move the school even further forward in all aspects of Religious Education.

The school is beginning to develop and implement a variety of partnerships with other providers, organisations and services for the benefit of pupils and teachers. The recent involvement of the Chaplain from the Feeder comprehensive school is having an impact and this is becoming beneficial for Y6 transition.

• The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education	<b>2</b>
• The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum promotes pupils' learning	<b>2</b>
• The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school	<b>2</b>
• The quality of provision for the Catholic life of the school	<b>2</b>



## 4. LEADERS, MANAGERS AND GOVERNORS

### How effective leaders, managers and governors are in developing the Catholic life of the school

Leadership and management of Religious Education are good because leaders have a clear direction and understanding of what is needed to bring about improvement.

Governors and Leaders are deeply committed to ensure the pupils of Saint George's receive an education that is wholly Christian and Catholic. Knowledgeable and supportive Governors are driving the school towards excellence by their hard work, commitment and dedication to the task. They are fully involved in promoting, monitoring and evaluating the provision for the Catholic life of Saint George's. Governors are informed through Headteachers' report, R.E action plan and information presented to them by the acting Headteacher. In addition to the regular Governors' meeting a set of proactive Governors set up a strategy planning group to improve certain elements of the school's organisation. They now meet fortnightly with the acting Headteacher and this is having a real impact including the rewriting of the Mission Statement. The new Mission Statement involved all stakeholders and provided the school with the necessary baseline to secure R.E provision, whilst sustaining the driving force for the Catholicity and spirituality of Saint George's. Plans to present the Mission Statement in a more child friendly manner are in place.

The Religious Education subject leader who is also the acting Headteacher is leading and managing Religious Education extremely well by working with staff on monitoring the teaching and learning, scrutinising planning and observing lessons. Her attendance at the cluster moderation meetings is developing the awareness of levels within pupil's work. The recent self-evaluation of Religious Education through the action plan presented to Governors and staff identifies strengths and areas for development whilst ensure all stakeholders are fully informed. Leaders and Governors are realistic in the areas requiring improvement. The planned networking visits to other Catholic schools judged outstanding will support the procedures for the development of Religious Education further. The parish priest is a regular visitor to the school and provides spiritual guidance.

The school is now in a strong position as a Catholic school and a true faith community due to the involvement and support of Governors in unison with the dedicated and hard-working staff. Saint George's is now ready for 'the rebirth' and the bright future that this good school truly deserves.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well leaders, managers and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school, including collective worship, and plan improvement to outcomes for pupils</li> </ul>	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well leaders, managers and governors monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan for improvement to outcomes for pupils</li> </ul>	2