

St John Bosco RC Primary School

Bradford Avenue, Town End Farm, Sunderland, SR5 4JW

School Unique Reference Number: **108844**

Inspection dates:	10 – 11 November 2015
Lead inspector:	Mrs Jane Weatherall

Overall effectiveness	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
Catholic Life:		Outstanding	1
Collective Worship:		Outstanding	1
Religious Education:		Outstanding	1

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FOR PARENTS AND PUPILS

St John Bosco RC Primary School is an outstanding Catholic school because:

- The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding – it is central to the life of the school, is well planned and led by pupils and staff who confidently use a variety of forms of prayer.
- The Religious Education in school engages and enthuses its pupils. Lessons are creatively planned and challenge pupils to think about their faith and how to live their lives. Pupils develop skills and knowledge which enable them to engage very positively with religious ideas.
- The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding because the mission and ethos of Catholic education underpins all that the school does. The well-being and personal development of all pupils and staff is at the heart of this faith community. St John Bosco is an inspirational school which lives out its Catholic mission.

FULL REPORT

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

- St John Bosco is a smaller than average primary school which serves the parishes of the Sacred Heart and St John Bosco, Sunderland and is in an area of social deprivation.
- The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for the pupil premium is above average whilst the proportion of pupils supported at school action is average.
- The vast majority of pupils are from white British heritage.
- St John Bosco is a teaching school and has previously been in a soft federation.

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL NEED TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER?

To further develop the leadership of Religious Education by:

- Developing further the skills of the school governing body.
- Sharing skills and expertise of its experienced governing body members to empower all to monitor and evaluate throughout the school.

To further enhance the prayer life of the school by:

- Increasing opportunities for all involved with the school, especially parents to fully participate in Collective Worship.

CATHOLIC LIFE

THE QUALITY OF 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.
- The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school.
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for 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 is outstanding.

- Pupils, staff and families have a powerful sense of belonging to this vibrant Catholic community and are proud of their exceptional school.
- Behaviour is exemplary, they support each other and are quick to praise and celebrate the achievements of others in their school.
- All pupils demonstrate a good understanding of how they live their lives and how they treat others and are very aware that respect is earned through actions and is to be valued.
- Pupils are happy to come to school and confident to share their experiences with others. They are regularly involved in parish and diocesan events and speak confidently of their own vocation and sharing their gifts with others.
- Pupils are at the very centre of the school. They talk confidently of the charity work which they support including Christmas gifts for those less fortunate than themselves through their work supporting the Apostleship of the Sea and on-going support of their partner schools in Kenya and Malawi. The school hopes to extend this support to a primary school in the parish priest's home community in India.
- Pupils are enthusiastic to embrace new challenges and opportunities to help others, such as the Mini Vinnies group.
- Pastoral care is exceptional and shows a definite commitment to support the most needy and vulnerable within the school community in very concrete ways. Parents spoke of school being "a rock" to go to for support when families are experiencing difficulties. The work which the school does in the area of family learning continues to empower parents.
- Parents and members of the community speak highly of the school, "Catholic values are not only taught but lived out every day."

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.

- Relationships are inspirational between colleagues and pupils. School expectations are high, and pupils live up to them.
- St John Bosco is committed to Catholic tradition and ethos. Throughout the school environment signs everywhere point to its distinctive Catholic character.
- Clear policies and practices are in place to reflect the Catholic Life of the school for both pupils and staff.

- The sex and relationships education programme (SRE) is delivered effectively following the diocesan model.

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.

- Leaders are a source of inspiration for staff, pupils, their families and governors. They see the continuing development of the Catholic life of the school as core to their role, and give it the highest priority. They self-evaluate accurately and reflectively. Effective monitoring provides clear and accurate evidence about the strengths and areas for development within the school.
- Catholic formation is given high priority, with staff supporting and school resourcing the children's liturgy at Mass.
- Established governors are keen to share their expertise with the newer members of the governing body. They are highly ambitious for the school and see their role as service.
- Governors have felt that the school has benefited greatly from its work in supporting other schools and that this has been part of its Catholic mission.
- The priests and school work reciprocally, fundraising and supporting each other in what they feel is their joint mission to promote the Catholic Life at St John Bosco.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

THE QUALITY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

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- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship.
- The quality of provision for Collective Worship.
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship.

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How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship is outstanding.

- St John Bosco is a prayerful community where pupils and staff engage in a variety of prayers, liturgies and reflection times regularly.
- Pupils are reverent and attentive. They fully engage in worship with high levels of participation and are joyous in their response in song and prayer.
- Pupils of all ages create an atmosphere conducive to prayer and speak enthusiastically about enjoying the responsibility for the preparation and leading of their own liturgies. As a consequence their spiritual and moral development is outstanding.
- Pupils have an excellent understanding of the Church's liturgical year, seasons and festivals and use this knowledge to help them prepare meaningful and relevant worship experiences.

The quality of provision for Collective Worship is outstanding.

- Collective Worship is central to school life. From their earliest days pupils are taught how to create an atmosphere for prayer, and praying together is a key part of the daily experience for staff and pupils.
- Staff are skilled at creating quality worship experiences for the school community including staff liturgies.
- There is a palpable sense that this is a Christ centred, praying community and there are many and varied opportunities for its pupils to develop their spirituality.
- Opportunities are also planned to attract attendance by families and the school plans to develop this further.
- The Collective Worship policy provides a clear structure for staff to ensure there are a variety of opportunities for staff and pupils to pray together regularly.

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship is outstanding.

- Leaders are models of outstanding practice. Liturgical and spiritual development is seen as a priority. This expert knowledge has been shared with staff to empower them to provide quality Collective Worship for children.
- Staff share outstanding practice and support each other in order to further improve the worship experience for the pupils at St John Bosco. They have benefited from effective diocesan training as well as high quality induction training when starting at the school.
- Throughout school there is a strong sense of the traditions of the Church and that the school journeys through the Liturgical year. Displays celebrate the school's Catholic heritage.
- Views of pupils and their families are regularly sought and guide future developments alongside monitoring and evaluating by the senior leadership team and governors.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

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How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education is outstanding.

- Pupils enjoy and understand the value of Religious Education, they demonstrate very positive attitudes towards their learning and view it as important. They work diligently and at a good pace.
- Behaviour for learning is outstanding.
- There is rapid and sustained progress from entry into nursery for all groups of pupils and those with any additional needs are supported well.
- Due to the state of transition in level expectations across all diocesan schools, the current averages for attainment and progress are not reliable benchmarks. Therefore no judgement will be made in this report against diocesan averages for attainment or progress.

The quality of teaching and assessment in Religious Education is outstanding.

- Teaching is outstanding overall. Teachers demonstrate strong subject knowledge and have high expectations for their pupils. Pupils are set challenging tasks which are well matched to their learning needs and which ensure achievement at the highest levels.
- Teachers skilfully question groups of pupils and individuals during lessons which maximises the learning for pupils of all abilities.
- Effective differentiation means that the needs of all pupils are addressed and this challenging questioning directs pupils to their next steps in learning.
- Continuous assessment informs teachers' planning and means that children have a sense of how well they are doing and how they can further improve.
- The 'Come and See' programme is being used imaginatively and effectively across the school.
- Parents speak of their appreciation for the staff and pupils speak enthusiastically of the creative and varied activities in Religious Education lessons.

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education is outstanding.

- Leaders use data and other rigorous monitoring to drive continuous improvement.
- All areas for development from the previous inspection have been addressed.
- Leaders regularly seek the views of parents and staff. The responses are highly valued and lead to further improvements.
- There is an imaginative and stimulating Religious Education curriculum enriched by a wealth of opportunities. The Religious Education curriculum meets the requirements of the Bishops' Conference.
- Religious Education is well resourced and staff are given many and varied opportunities to continue their professional development.
- The sacramental policy is in line with diocesan guidelines. Outstanding sacramental preparation is ensured and is given extremely high priority by leaders.
- The Religious Education coordinator has embraced this key role with enthusiasm and passion, monitoring and accurately assessing provision and where to plan for future development.
- The key governors of St John Bosco are extremely supportive and knowledgeable and discharge their statutory and canonical duties well.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

HOW EFFECTIVE THE SCHOOL IS IN PROVIDING CATHOLIC EDUCATION:**1****CATHOLIC LIFE:****1**

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.

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The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school.

1

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school.

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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP:**1**

How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship.

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The quality of provision for Collective Worship.

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How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**1**

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.

1

The quality of teaching and assessment in Religious Education.

1

How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education.

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SCHOOL DETAILS

School name	St John Bosco RC Primary School
Unique reference number	108844
Local authority	Sunderland
This Inspection Report is produced for the Rt. Reverend Séamus Cunningham the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle Diocese under canon 806 of Canon Law. For voluntary aided schools it also fulfils the responsibility the Governing Body has to inspect the school under s48 of the Education Act 2005.	
Chair of governors	Mr Ian McDonough
Executive head teacher	Mrs Anne Mackay
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