



DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Harrington

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

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

School: Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School, Harrington

Address: Holden Rd
Salterbeck
Workington
CA1 45LN

Telephone Number: 01946 830433

Email Address: stmarys.sch@btconnect.com

School URN: 112338

Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Pearson

Chair of Governors: Mr Eddie Byrne

Lead Inspector: Mrs Adrienne Delaney

Team Inspector: Mrs Angela Hill

Date of Inspection: 11th October 2017

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St Mary's is a Catholic voluntary aided primary school in the Diocese of Lancaster. The school mainly serves the former parish of St Mary's, which is now the parish of Christ the Good Shepherd. It is a below average-sized primary school with 154 pupils on roll, of which approximately 24% are baptised Roman Catholic and 55% are from other Christian backgrounds. Most pupils are of White British heritage with one pupil coming from another cultural and religious background. A high percentage of pupils are located in areas classed as being the top 10% in England for deprivation.

The school has undergone change in the past two years, including the death of a loved and valued staff member who was the husband of the headteacher. There have also been significant governing body and teaching staff changes.

The proportion of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities is 13%. 5% of pupils have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

PUPILS	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	25	29	30	33	37			154
Catholics on roll	2	12	12	7	5	5	3	35
Other Christian denomination	12	4	8	12	10	9	8	63
Other faith background			1					1
No religious affiliation	11	7	12	8	5	8	4	55
No of learners from ethnic groups								3
Total on SEN Register	2	0	2	5	6	1	4	21
Total with Statements of SEN	1			3	1	1	1	8

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	E and E*			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Mary's (now Christ the Good Shepherd)	34

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2 hours including continuous provision	2 hrs	16					
% 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)	7 hours 20 mins + continuous provision	5hrs	5hrs	5hrs	5hrs	5hrs	5hrs	25
% 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	7	25%
% of teaching time	25% +	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	8
Part-time teachers	0
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	0
Classroom Support assistants	9
Number of Catholic teachers FTE	40%
Number of teachers teaching RE	7
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	0
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0
Chaplaincy staffing	
Teachers with CTC	0

ORGANISATION	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	5
Average class size	30

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2016	Current financial year 2017	Next financial year 2018
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	£20000	£35000	25000
RE Curriculum allowance from above	£2.000	£3000	£5.000
English Curriculum allowance from above	£5000	£3000	£2000
Total CPD budget	£5000	£7000	£5000
RE allocation for CPD	£2000	£2000	£2000

How the school has developed since the last inspection
<p>All aspects for improvement since the last inspection have been addressed and, during a period of change over the past two years, the school has maintained standards. An improved baseline assessment and a more detailed tracking system across school have been put in place and the established and newly appointed governors are well informed and now able to monitor attainment and progress in curriculum RE.</p> <p>The school has a good capacity to sustain these improvements. The dedication of the governors together with the commitment of the leadership team and all staff, demonstrate the capacity to improve further. Inspection has shown that self-evaluation is good and issues arising from in-house moderation meetings have identified areas for development in curriculum RE.</p>

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

2

CATHOLIC LIFE

2

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a good Catholic school. It is very welcoming and has inclusion for all as a central goal and a shared vision: pupils enjoy attending and they have positive attitudes to learning. On the day of the inspection a Year 6 pupil described his Catholic education in the school as one where 'we learn to be like a family like Jesus wants us to be'. Pupils deepen knowledge of their faith throughout their time in school and gain a firm understanding of Catholic practice. The school lives out its Mission Statement daily which states that it 'intends at all times to make Christ's commandments central to every aspect of school life'. Governors play a significant part in leading the strategic direction of the school in the community that it serves and new appointments will strengthen the resolve to make stronger parish links. The retiring head and her senior leadership team (SLT) have enabled recommendations since the last inspection to be actioned. The established governors, the headteacher in her role as RE subject leader, established teachers and support staff have ensured the school remains good during difficult times.

The commitment of governors, senior leaders, staff and parish clergy has ensured that the Catholic life of the school is good and that pupils are supported in their prayer life and grow in their faith. The quality of Catholic life in the school has remained a priority as the school has undergone changes. Staff show good example to pupils, are proud of their school and support each other. They work very well together, sharing good practice. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is good and has an impact on everyday life at St Mary's School. This can be seen through pupils' responses to each other and in their understanding of the notion of the Common Good. They enthusiastically become involved in a variety of activities supporting their community which contributes to pupils' social, emotional and moral development. Gospel values permeate school life and pupils are helped to make the most of their abilities and become the best they can be.

Opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy are good. Pupils act with reverence and join in prayers confidently. They were observed singing hymns joyfully on the day of inspection. They make full use of resources available to them and appreciate the opportunities offered. There are plans to celebrate more Masses in the parish church and with the parish community and this practice needs to become more embedded.

The quality of curriculum RE is good and pupils are provided with appropriate learning opportunities to deepen their faith, to understand Catholic traditions and practices, and make good progress in their learning. Pupils enjoy their RE lessons and clear action plans are in place to continue to raise attainment and achievement.

Established teachers' subject knowledge has a positive impact on the delivery of curriculum RE and newly appointed teachers are very well supported in terms of professional development. The curriculum is being developed to meet the needs of all learners in line with diocesan and national recommendations.

Governors and leaders take account of the '*Fit for Mission? Schools*' guidance and whole staff training has taken place on Human relationships and Sex Education (HRSE). Very good progress is being made in the teaching of HRSE.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

To improve further the school needs to:

- Improve outcomes for all pupils by: embedding opportunities for the celebrations of Mass and liturgical celebrations with the school community and wider parish community.
- Further develop the curriculum in terms of links with the wider community and the cultural and religious practices of others. This would give pupils a greater understanding of local, national and global issues and help prepare them for life in modern Britain, whilst enhancing their learning in Gospel values.
- Celebrate successes by:
 - Ensuring that the School's Evaluation Form (SEF) succinctly and accurately celebrates the Catholic Life and Curriculum RE in St Mary's.
 - Ensuring that the Catholic legacy left by the retiring headteacher is celebrated and its continuation directly impacts on the Catholic life and curriculum RE in future.

PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

2

- 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

2

2

2

Pupils make a good contribution to the Catholic Life of the school and greatly benefit from it. 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. They are at the heart of an embedded culture of care and concern promoted by leaders, managers and the staff team. Despite the impact of the death of a staff member and significant changes in teaching personnel, this ethos has been upheld and promoted. Pupils' behaviour is good and they are polite and considerate to each other. A positive behaviour policy emphasises personal responsibility. This practice is rooted in a culture of praise, respect, choices and rewards. It encourages forgiveness and reconciliation and leads to good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Despite the fact that there are many pupils who are not Catholic, pupils in the school are proud of their beliefs: they are reflective and respectful of those with beliefs different to their own. They are aware of the needs of other people and seek to support others through fund raising. Pupil behaviour is very good and a strong pastoral team supports vulnerable children and their families. This is underpinned by good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils treat others with respect and acknowledge that their behaviour always has consequences. There is an atmosphere of reconciliation where pupils learn to forgive and start each day afresh, recognising good in everyone as they grow together in faith and love to serve the community. One Y5 pupil stated that 'We pray to God. We are all God's children'.

Governors and school leaders are committed to the Church's mission in education as expressed in the *'Fit for Mission? Schools'* document. The fruit of this is that they work together with clergy and support staff to ensure that the Prayer and Liturgy of the Catholic Church are central to the life of the school and a key part of school celebrations. They plan the school calendar around the liturgical seasons and feasts, bringing them to life and deepening knowledge and understanding of them. Pupils are assisted and supported in their prayer life and they are becoming confident in preparing and leading communal prayers. Pupils enjoy school liturgies and they appreciate being given time to pray, to celebrate and to reflect. On the day of the inspection Year 6 pupils were able to discuss the Catholic Life of the school with inspectors. Themes for prayer and liturgy are often chosen by pupils and these show a good understanding of the Church's mission and include the

spiritual aspirations of all pupils. Established governors make a significant contribution to the Catholic Life of the school and they possess the experience needed to drive the school forward. The newly appointed governors are also committed to their school and able to challenge as well as to support where necessary. They are involved in monitoring and evaluating the Catholic Life of the school. Continued professional development is having a positive effect and staff meet regularly to share ideas and plans and to moderate work. All staff are supported in developing the Catholic Life of the school and have attended training from a Diocesan Leader of Education and cluster training.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is good. St Mary's school is a welcoming, friendly community with a family ethos where everyone is given an opportunity to grow in faith and to use their individual gifts in order to flourish as children of God. The school is a harmonious community, focused on responding to the fundamental needs of the human person in terms of spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and social growth. There is an expression of the relationship between faith and action where pupils are encouraged to understand that the Catholic community is one of love and forgiveness, welcome and celebration, tolerance and care for all in our world. Resources are used well to achieve set priorities.

Staff set good examples, are proud of their school and work well together. There are positive relationships with the priests, parish, parents, governors, staff and pupils that everyone works hard to develop. The school has worked closely with successive parish priests since the last inspection to prepare pupils for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. The present parish priest is a regular and welcome visitor to the school, encouraging and supporting the prayer and liturgies that are planned for special times in the school and liturgical year. He and foundation governors are instrumental in taking the school forward with plans for regular Masses. This is an area for development and is acknowledged by governors and leaders. The school develops and expresses its ecclesial dimension through partnership with the diocesan family of schools and there are plans to develop more links with the wider community. However, links with other cultures and faith communities is an area to be developed.

PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2

- 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

2

1

2

The majority of pupils enjoy RE. They speak confidently about their RE lessons and have a positive attitude towards their learning. On entry to Foundation Stage, baseline assessment of children shows that most have very little knowledge or understanding of the Catholic faith, or of its traditions. However, they make good progress throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage One and enter Key Stage Two generally in line with expectations. This progress is maintained in Key Stage Two.

Leadership and management of the RE curriculum is well organised. The headteacher has supported the staff in her vision to continue improvement. New and established governors and school leaders are dedicated to raising attainment and have high expectations of pupils. The headteacher, in her role as RE leader has provided valuable support to her successor and all staff. The Staff show resolve in improving their subject knowledge and practice. They work well with the governors and SLT in using a range of monitoring activities relating to provision and outcomes in RE. Good marking, assessment and tracking systems are in place and continue to be embedded and honed. Governors have a good understanding of attainment and progress in RE through termly curriculum meetings and regular visitors to the school and to individual classes.

The quality of teaching and learning observed during the inspection was good and effective use is being made of experienced support staff to enhance opportunities for learning. Teachers have developed sound subject knowledge that contributes to the pupils' progress as learners. They avail themselves of CPD opportunities and value the support of governors and SLT. The evaluation of planning and lesson observations carried out by senior leaders is clearly having a positive impact on raising the quality of teaching and learning. As a result, in lessons pupils concentrate, are eager to learn and achieve well. There is good quality marking evident and the progress of pupils is enhanced as comments encourage pupils to further their learning. This good practice is secure across the school.

Governors and school leaders are committed to RE and its place in the school's Catholic mission. The delivery of curriculum RE takes account of the Curriculum Directory and the diocesan document '*Fit for Mission? Schools*' and provides pupils with an insight into the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the relationship between faith and life. By using a variety of strategies teachers ensure that all pupils

are able to make progress. Governors and leaders are well aware of the requirements of Catholic curriculum RE. They use a range of teaching and learning activities and resources to ensure breadth and balance to the curriculum. The newly purchased 'Come and See' scheme is being used to enhance achievement over all expected attainment strands. There is a good variety of resources for RE and teachers use them well to provide a stimulating learning environment. The displays in the hall, in classes and around the school are of a high standard. In addition, teachers provide good opportunities for good spiritual and moral development.

Plans incorporate some opportunities to deepen pupil's understanding of differing cultural and faith practices and these could be extended. For example, pupils could celebrate their own varying faith practices and could link with communities that share faith and cultures different from their own.

Communication with parents is good; newsletters inform parents of topics to be covered in RE so that support can be given from home. The school's new website keeps parents well informed. The school has a Facebook page. Parents appreciate the work of the school, as shown in the parents' questionnaires returned to the diocese for the inspection. They state that their children are happy in school and they are very happy with the provision of RE in the school.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Overall Effectiveness	2
Capacity for sustained improvement	2
Catholic Life	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders and managers promote and ensure provision for the Catholic Life of the school through monitoring and evaluation. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school. 	2
Religious Education	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision in Religious Education. 	2

	Pupil Outcomes	Leadership & Management	Provision	Overall
Catholic Life	2	2	2	2
Religious Education	2	1	2	2