

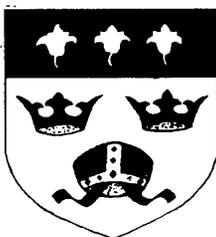
**Report of Denominational (Section 48) Inspection**  
**Carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005**

**St Felix Roman Catholic Primary School**

School Lane, Haverhill,  
Suffolk. CB9 9DE  
Telephone No. 01440 703775

URN 124769

For the Catholic Diocese of East Anglia



Chair of Governors: Mr G. Mills

Headteacher: Mrs J. W. Lashmar

Diocesan Inspector: Mr. Anthony Hedges

Date of Inspection: 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010

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## **Description of the School**

St. Felix Catholic Primary School, Haverhill serves the parish of the same name, together with neighbouring areas in the counties of Cambridgeshire, Essex and Suffolk. It is maintained by Suffolk Education Authority and subject to Suffolk's School Organisation Review towards a two tier system. From being a First School, St Felix is growing into a full range Primary over the next two years. The school is currently having extensive building work to accommodate this development.

There are 232 pupils on roll, 50% of whom are Catholic. 21% are from other Christian denominations. The majority of the pupils are of white British descent. For about 3.9% English is an additional language. The percentage of pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities is below the national average.

### *Key for Inspection Grades*

*Grade 1 Outstanding; Grade 2 Good; Grade 3 Satisfactory; Grade 4 Unsatisfactory*

## **Overall effectiveness of this Catholic School**

**Grade 2**

St. Felix Catholic Primary School is a good school. It has a strong Catholic identity with very effective and efficient provision for Catholic education to meet the needs of the pupils. The outstanding leadership of the Headteacher, along with the support of the Chaplain and Religious Education Co-ordinator, results in the fulfilment of the school's Mission Statement. All the staff are committed to maintaining the Catholic ethos and providing a rich, broad and balanced curriculum. Spiritual and moral development is given a high priority. The pupils are safe, happy and achieve well. Their behaviour and attitude are very good. The sacramental and prayer life of the school is outstanding, as is the effectiveness of the home, school and parish partnership.

## **Improvement since last Inspection (November 2006)**

**Grade 2**

The judgement of the previous inspection was that the school provides a good Catholic education. Key issues raised were linked to ICT (Information and Communication Technology) opportunities in RE (Religious Education); monitoring; assessment and marking. These development issues have all been addressed with reasonable success. ICT resources have been purchased, catalogued and are being used. Monitoring has enabled the Co-ordinator to offer advice and support to address development needs. Assessment remains an area of ongoing development with plans to use 'an assessment grid for each child as in other subject areas to ensure progression'.

## **The capacity of the school community to improve and develop**

**Grade 2**

The school's capacity to improve is good. Through self-evaluation the Headteacher, Link RE Governor and RE Co-ordinator are aware of the developmental issues. The school works closely with the other Catholic schools in the area to share good practice. The Governors and Headteacher are liaising closely with the Diocese on the impact of the provision of Catholic education in the area due to reorganisation. The role of the Headteacher, supported by the Chaplain, who is a Governor, is important in sustaining the improvement and development of RE.

## **What the school should do to improve further**

- Continue to embed the procedures of assessment of Religious Education using Levels of Attainment.
- Ensure that the marking of pupils' work addresses the need to provide pupils with a clear understanding of their next steps for learning. This should develop as the school grows into a full Primary.
- Develop the distinctive role of Governors in supporting the Catholic life of the school.

## **The Catholic Life of the School**

### **Leadership and Management**

**Grade 2**

The leadership and management of the Catholic life of the school are good. The Headteacher gives outstanding leadership in developing the Catholic life of the school. The Chaplain/Governor provides active support to both the Headteacher and RE Co-ordinator, including Inset to support the Catholic mission of the school. The vision of the school is articulated in the Mission Statement and shown throughout its policies and practice. Relationships throughout the school are good. Pupils show care and respect for each other and adults. Parish links are strong and the school enjoys parental support. On the day of Inspection, parents of one class joined their children for lunch in a caring and sharing atmosphere. There are excellent links with the other Catholic schools in the area.

### **The Sacramental and Prayer life of the School**

**Grade 1**

The prayer life of the school is outstanding. Pupils are encouraged to compose their own prayers and these are used in daily worship. A School Prayer book has been compiled to help families become familiar with the prayers most commonly used in school. Regular visits by the Parish Priest means he is well known to staff and pupils. The Chaplaincy Team gives strong support to Sacramental life of the school. The school benefits greatly from the commitment and contribution of the Chaplain. Mass is celebrated regularly, both in the school and at the Parish Church. There are opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Key Stage 2 pupils each term. Pupils were attentive and prayerful during worship and the use of signing to support their singing adds to the active nature of the prayer life. There is a prayer focal point in each room. A monthly prayer intention is being set in response to the 2009/10 Year of the Prayer. Children are encouraged to write prayers and they are displayed in the Prayer Book. Inset is being given on the 'Rejoice' section of 'Here I Am'. Following the completion of the building work the Prayer Garden will be restored to use.

### **Community Cohesion**

**Grade 2**

At St. Felix School there is a common sense of belonging. The leadership has developed a Community Cohesion plan that outlines present and future actions. A number of community cohesion activities take place including visits by the Imam and a cultural evening organised by the Indian community. Parents from different backgrounds are encouraged to be involved as fully as possible in the life of the school. Within the school, the policies and practice support the development of each child and their value within the community. Pupils are friendly and very welcoming to visitors. There are examples of involvement in local, national and international charities, e.g. Haverhill Food Bank. The school makes its facilities available to the local Parish.

## **Achievements and Standards in Religious Education**

### **How well do the learners achieve**

**Grade 2**

Pupils achieve age-appropriate levels of attainment and make good progress. There are no significant variations between groups of learners. Pupil interviews show that they have a good understanding of what has been taught and how to apply it to their everyday lives. The majority of pupils enjoy RE lessons and engage enthusiastically in the tasks and activities set. Pupils are encouraged to think both spiritually and ethically about issues presented in RE, assemblies and in other curriculum areas. Their behaviour is good and generally they seek to produce their best work.

### **Quality of Teaching and Learning in Religious Education**

**Grade 2**

Teaching is good overall. The vast majority of lessons observed were good; several with outstanding features. In the best lessons, differentiation was by both task and outcome. Marking is positive, but needs to develop how pupils can improve, especially as the school grows with Year 5 and 6 pupils. Assessment against National Levels of Attainment is being developed. As this becomes embedded, pupil progress will be clearer. Parents are informed frequently about Religious Education topics covered and how they can support their children's learning. Homework tasks encourage family involvement.

### **Quality of the Religious Education Curriculum**

**Grade 2**

Religious Education is clearly at the heart of the life of the school. Displays around the school and in classrooms give clear evidence of supporting and enabling the spiritual and moral development of pupils. The Religious Education Curriculum is planned effectively using the 'Here I Am' scheme, supplemented with other materials. The time allocation for Religious Education meets the requirements of the Diocese. The pupils learn about other Faiths in a variety of ways, including welcoming visitors from the local community.

### **Leadership and Management in Religious Education**

**Grade 2**

The RE Co-ordinator provides effective support and leadership to other teachers and is always available to give advice. She offers clear guidance to staff on the topics covered in the RE programme. She is well supported by the Headteacher and Chaplain. The use of Assessment in improving teaching and learning has begun. This should continue to be developed to promote pupil progress. Financial and physical resources are well managed. The Religious Education budget is in line with that allocated to other core subjects. The use of ICT has become an integral part of the teaching and learning in RE. The Parish Priest is effective in his support of teaching throughout the school.

## **EAST ANGLIA DIOCESAN SCHOOLS' SERVICE**



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**April 2010**

**Dear Pupils**

### **Diocesan Inspection of St Felix School, Haverhill**

Thank you very much for the warm welcome you gave me when I visited your school. I enjoyed the day. It was lovely to see so many happy faces. I saw several Religious Education lessons, an Assembly, looked at some of the work in your books and talked to several of you. A special 'thank you' to those children who showed me around the school and to those children who talked to me in the library.

**I saw many good things about your school. They include:**

- That you feel safe, secure and are well cared for.
- That you behave well and help each other.
- That you help other people for example the Haverhill Food Bank.
- That you work hard in lessons.
- That the school is very well led by your Headteacher, Mrs. Lashmar.
- That your school Chaplain, Fr. Michael, helps you a lot.
- That you have enjoyable celebrations of Mass and other services.
- That you enjoy your Religious Education lessons.

Even schools like yours have things they can do better. I have asked your teachers to make a few improvements to make your learning in Religious Education even better. I have asked them to even more carefully look at your work and mark it so that you know what to do next to improve your learning.

Thank you again for the ways in which you helped me to get to know your school. I wish you all the very best for the future and look forward to seeing your new buildings.

**Yours sincerely**

**Mr Anthony Hedges.**

**Diocesan Inspector**