

DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH S48 VALIDATION REPORT



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

St James Square, Bournemouth, Dorset. BJ5 2BX

URN: 113845

Date of previous validation 2 June 2015

Date of this validation 11 February 2020

Overall effectiveness	Previous s48 validation: Good
	This s48 validation: Outstanding

The school community:	Outstanding	Attainment and progress in RE:	Outstanding
The wider community:	Outstanding	Quality of teaching in RE:	Outstanding
Spiritual development:	Outstanding	Leadership and management of RE:	Outstanding
Moral development:	Outstanding	Leadership and management:	Outstanding

This is an outstanding school

- The school’s mission statement, ‘*Joyfully, unique in Jesus’ family, we learn to use our special gifts to love, serve and make the world a better place*’, is firmly embedded in the life of the school, with all members of the community taking an active part in living it out.
- Excellent relationships between all members of the community lead to a loving and trusting environment where all are encouraged and supported to achieve their full potential.
- The acting headteacher and acting deputy headteacher (RE leader) have a strong and ambitious Catholic vision for the school which is known and actively supported by all in the community.
- The school plays a pivotal role in the local Catholic community. The parish priest and the sisters of The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart are strong in their support for the school, offering weekly mass and guidance on leading worship which all contributes to the pupils’ spiritual well-being and to the life of the parish.
- Religious education (RE) is central to the life of the school. The outstanding support of the RE leader, together with the strong support given by the acting headteacher, helps ensure teachers deliver good quality teaching, leading to outstanding progress and high standards in the subject.
- Pupils are outstanding ambassadors for the school and speak about their school with pride. One commented, ‘*Corpus Christi has loads of children all unique in their own way, but part of one body which is Christ.*’ Their outstanding behaviour and attitudes are underpinned by their knowledge and living out of the school’s mission statement.
- Parents are very supportive of the school. A very large majority was positive about all aspects of school life, particularly the school’s role in the local Catholic community, the sense of welcome and the strong relationships based on Gospel virtues.
- Leaders, including governors, provide a very strong and highly effective model of Christian leadership, where all are valued and supported.
- The outstanding spiritual life of the school is very much at its heart. Pupils are provided with a wide range of spiritual opportunities which they value and embrace with enthusiasm. Older pupils are excellent role models to the younger children.
- Pupils in the school demonstrate outstanding behaviour and Christian attitudes, giving of their time and talents to support those in need.

What does the school need to do to improve further?

- Embed the developing vision for the school which seeks to promote a Catholic approach to the whole curriculum, with a clear emphasis on Catholic Social Teaching.
- Ensure there is a consistent approach to assessment in RE, including marking and feedback, throughout the school.

Full Report

The school as a Catholic community

The school community: Outstanding

The wider community: Outstanding

- The mission statement, *'Joyfully, unique in Jesus' family, we learn to use our special gifts to love, serve and make the world a better place'*, is central to the life of the school. The vision of a faith filled community striving to live out the values and virtues of the Gospel so all, regardless of starting point or background, can succeed is inspiring to all in the community.
- Relationships are strong in the school and help ensure all feel welcomed and supported, with the centrality and importance of the Catholic ethos given a high prominence.
- The Catholic ethos is strongly evident within the school environment. High quality displays, contribute to an attractive and purposeful community of learning.
- The vast majority of parents hold the school in very high regard. One commented, *'I would like to commend the school on its outstanding provision for children in living the faith.'*
- There are very good systems of communication, ensuring all stakeholders are well-informed and regularly updated. The school's newsletter and website reflect the importance placed on the Catholic life of the school.
- The school benefits from support from the parish priest and sisters. The sisters provide valued support for the planning of RE lessons and guidance for both staff and children on planning and leading worship; they are frequent visitors to the school.
- Corpus Christi school is an important link with the parish, being a visible presence at mass every Wednesday with children and staff participating in reading and joining in as the choir.
- All members of the school community demonstrate their full commitment to the principles of discipleship through the work of groups such as Pupil Chaplains, Mini Vinnies, Caring Cadets and Eco Warriors and through their support for CAFOD and local and national initiatives.

Curriculum religious education

Attainment and progress: Outstanding

Quality of teaching: Outstanding

Leadership and management of RE: Outstanding

- Religious education in the school has a very high status. All in leadership roles, including governors, recognise the importance of RE and share the RE leader's passion in seeking the highest quality of RE for the pupils in the school.
- The evidence in pupils' books, class books, the consistently good or better quality of teaching, the high levels of achievement and discussions with pupils all combine to show that attainment and progress in RE are outstanding.
- The RE leader's passion and drive for the subject underpin her outstanding support for all staff. This enables teachers to deliver lessons with confidence and enthusiasm and ensure that standards in RE are high. Her strong knowledge and experience gives her the confidence and skill to adapt the school's approach to the subject in order to continually seek improvement.
- On the day of the visit, all classes were being taught about other world faiths, a key component of the diocesan RE scheme. Throughout the school, children were engaged, interested and quick to demonstrate their very good subject knowledge and religious vocabulary.
- In the best classes, learning was modelled effectively. In all lessons learning was age appropriate and clear explanations were given to allow progress in learning. An example of this was in the Foundation classes where they were making Sikh bangles.
- Very good learning behaviours in class were evident. Learning is supported by well-organised environments, well-chosen resources and targeted support from teaching assistants.
- Children's knowledge and use of scripture is a key strength. Pupils are able to take the key messages from the Gospel and apply them to real life situations.

- Planning is comprehensive and has a clear RE focus, allowing definite evidence of progression across the school. There is a variety of tasks ensuring learning is clearly based around scripture and Catholic beliefs, practices and traditions. In some classes there can be an over-reliance on extended writing as the means to capture pupils' responses.
- Currently there are some inconsistencies across the school in how RE is assessed and recorded, this includes the approach to marking and feedback.
- The RE subject leader and acting headteacher rigorously monitor RE through observations of teaching and work sampling. Findings are carefully considered and, where appropriate, action taken and appropriate support provided. Governors are regularly kept informed of the strengths and areas for development within the subject. The RE governor offers outstanding support.

Spiritual and moral development

Spiritual development:

Outstanding

Moral development:

Outstanding

- The school provides a wide range of high quality worship, which allows individual and collective members of the school community to express their relationship with one another and with God, in a reflective and prayerful manner. Strong examples include:
 - The range of celebrations linked to the liturgical year.
 - The many opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship in the school.
- During the visit two worships were observed, one a Key Stage Two liturgy, led by the headteacher, and the second a Year 1 class worship. In both, a reverent and spiritual atmosphere was created, those participating were encouraged to reflect on scripture and a clear message was communicated for them to take away and put into action.
- The presence of the school at weekly mass along with the opportunity for Adoration in the convent deepens the children's relationship with Jesus.
- The children also have the opportunity for pilgrimage as seen in their recent visit to the beach.
- The Pupil Chaplains and Mini Vinnies are a real presence in the school supporting both the prayer life and also having an impact on outreach to others, for example, the collection of food for those in need.
- There is a strong commitment to Catholic Social Teaching throughout the whole school community, which is quickly becoming embedded. An example of this can be seen with the formation of the Eco Team, a key member of which is the site manager.
- Caring Cadets also enhance the playground by helping all feel part of the community.
- Pupils are justifiably proud of their school, commenting, '*At Corpus Christi we follow Jesus and God who give meaning to our curriculum and our community*'.

Leadership and management:

Outstanding

- The personal witness to the faith provided by the acting headteacher and RE leader provides a strong vision and direction for the work of the school.
- Leaders, including governors, provide a very strong and highly effective model of Christian leadership, where all are valued and supported. There is a constant drive for improvement and insistence on high standards in all areas. Staff are encouraged and supported in taking on new roles and initiatives.
- The governors interviewed were enthusiastic supporters of the school and are knowledgeable about its strengths and areas for improvement. They also offer challenge where appropriate.
- The school has a robust approach to self-review. Very good progress has been made since the school's last s48 validation and the areas for development have been successfully addressed. The validators would like to acknowledge the contribution of the previous headteacher in moving the school forward during the period between the two validations.

School details

Name of school:	Corpus Christi
Age range of pupils:	4 - 11
Gender of pupils:	Mixed
Number of pupils on roll:	425
Chair of Governors:	Anna Murphy Sullivan
Acting Headteacher:	Simon Lennon

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary school is larger than average and is situated in Boscombe, Bournemouth. The school mainly serves the parish of Corpus Christi and is in the Avon Stour Pastoral Area. The vast majority of its pupils are Catholic (78%). The percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals is 11.8%. The proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language is 56.9% and the percentage of pupils who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities is 14.7%

Information about this validation

This report to the Bishop of the Diocese under Canon 806 of the Code of Canon Law is also the report to the governors of the school on religious education. For Catholic maintained schools, the report also fulfils the requirements of Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Validation Team

Lead Validator:	Nuala Oster
Assistant Validator:	Patricia Opalko

Activities carried out as part of the validation

- Ethos walk.
- Discussion on the school's self-evaluation sheets.
- Discussions with various members of the school community.
- Observations of collective worship.
- Observations of teaching and learning in RE, including joint observations with members of the school leadership team.
- Pupil work scrutiny.
- Feedback of key findings.

Conclusion

The validators would like to thank the acting headteacher, acting deputy headteacher, who is also the RE leader, staff, governors, parish priest, parents and pupils of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School for their preparatory work for the validation, which forms part of the school's regular self-review cycle. They would also like to express their appreciation for the warmth of welcome they received and the support given during the validation process.