



ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

INSPECTION REPORT

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

RAINFORD

Tuesday 20 October 2009

Inspectors Rev. D. Melly Miss. J. Mosinski

URN 104814

Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School	Catholic Primary
Age range of pupils	3 -11
Number on roll	151
Chair of Governors	Mr. I. Ashton
School address	Old Lane, Rainford, St Helens, WA11 8JF.
Telephone number	01744 678102
Fax number	01744 678103
E-mail address	joyce.cottrell@sthelens.org.uk
Date of last inspection	16 January 2007
Headteacher	Mrs. J. Cottrell

Introduction

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

The report of the inspection is produced for the Archbishop of Liverpool (Code of Canon Law 804 and 806) and for the governors of the school.

The inspectors are members of the Christian Education Department and their associates approved by the Archbishop of Liverpool for this purpose.

Description of the school

Corpus Christi School is a smaller than average primary school serving the parish of Corpus Christi in Rainford. It is situated in Rainford Village. The school is part of the St Helens Local Authority. The majority of learners come from relatively advantaged backgrounds. There are 151 learners on role of whom 130 are baptised Catholics, 21 come from other Christian denominations and there are no learners from *Other Faith* traditions. The number of learners eligible for free school meals is below average, as is the number with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are 8 members of staff all of whom are Catholic. Two of the 7 teachers teaching Religious Education have the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies qualification and four are in the process of obtaining the CCRS.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

© 2009 copyright – Archdiocese of Liverpool. This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Further copies of this report are obtainable from the school.

Overall effectiveness of the school

Corpus Christi is an outstanding Catholic school. It is a loving and Christ centred community where all are enabled to achieve their potential, working in partnership with the homes, the parish and the wider community. A very strong Catholic ethos is certainly evident in the caring and secure learning environment, which has been created for work. Outstanding relationships have obviously been established by working closely with home, parish and the local and global community. All are valued, respected, cared for and affirmed. Standards are outstanding. Learners achieve well and make outstanding progress. Teaching is outstanding. Assessment is in place and is being developed. The curriculum planning is outstanding and results in an outstanding delivery of the *Here I Am* programme. Learners' behaviour is outstanding. The Religious Education programme, Collective Worship and the Catholic life of the school make an outstanding contribution to the learners' spiritual and moral development. The school is outstanding in promoting community cohesion. The headteacher and senior management team have a clear understanding of the school's strengths and a vision of how to meet development needs.

Grade: 1

Improvement since the last inspection

Following the last Inspection in January 2007 the school has taken effective steps to address the issue highlighted in the last report. The Mission Statement now has clear aims and objectives. Eighty percent of teaching and learning is good or above. Differentiation is evident in all good lessons. The learning objectives and key words are shared and explored. Resources have been updated and are excellent and very tasteful. The Collective Worship Policy has been re-written with guidelines.

Grade: 1

Capacity to improve

The school's self-evaluation is accurate and comprehensive. The priorities for both the improvement of Religious Education and the Catholic life of the school stem from the self-evaluation and the school development plan. The leadership has a clear understanding of what needs to be developed and is committed to improvement. There is an outstanding capacity for further improvement.

Grade: 1

What the school should do to improve further

- Continue to implement the targets set out in the school self-evaluation document.

Achievement and standards

Learners' attainment on entry to the school is about that expected of children for their age. Learners make outstanding progress in the school and by Year 6 meet or exceed the expectations of the *Here I Am* programme. Standards in Religious Education overall are outstanding. There are no significant differences in performance by learners of different gender. Learners with special needs make outstanding progress in Religious Education with the provision of differing tasks and the help provided by the teachers and learning support assistants. The school checks on the progress made by all through rigorous assessment in line with that recommended by the Department for Christian Education. The development of this work is a priority for the school. Learners' work is always marked with constructive and challenging comments that affirm and support the learning process and highlight strengths and ways to further improve. Learners are very confident and articulate in discussion and are not afraid to ask questions. They ask good questions which show good knowledge and understanding of Religious Education. Learners are given opportunities to record their knowledge and understanding and express their own thoughts and feelings in a variety of styles. They are very independent young people.

Catholic beliefs and values are at the heart of learners' spiritual development. The school celebrates achievements in lessons and assemblies. Children throughout the school are confident and obviously enjoy work. They have a good understanding of the life and teaching of Jesus and his Church and are able to apply this to their own lives and experiences. Learners' behaviour is outstanding. They all have a very good sense of right and wrong and a love of justice, particularly the school council. The Gospel values of love, respect, tolerance and forgiveness underpin the provision for learners' moral development enabling learners to make an outstanding contribution to the school community. Teachers and learners show genuine care, concern and respect for each other. All are polite and helpful.

Grade: 1

Quality of Provision for Religious Education

Teaching and learning

The quality of teaching is outstanding overall. All teachers are secure in their knowledge and understanding of the *Here I Am* programme and this is reflected in their thorough planning and excellent delivery of the topics. *Here I Am* is extremely well used and with great enthusiasm. Outstanding use is made of information communication technology and especially the interactive white board. Question and answer techniques in all classes are very skilful and challenging recalling previous learning very well. The response of the pupils to the questioning is very enthusiastic and shows great understanding. There is some excellent use of *God's Story* and *The Church's Story*. Excellent use is also made of role-play and talking partners. Children's

behaviour and relationships are outstanding in all lessons. Learners are obviously valued in class. They are listened to and treated with respect, not just by the teachers and support staff but also by their peers. Affirmation is used to great effect to support children's learning. The tasks observed on the day were exciting and differentiated and received with enthusiasm by the children. The differentiated tasks supported the less able and challenged those who are more able, leading to discussion at a very high level. Because of this approach the children are able to learn, make exceptional progress and have fun. There is very good structure to all lessons, which, together with the diligence of the teachers and other adults, helps learners stay focussed. Monitoring of teaching and learning through observation of planning and learners' workbooks has been put in place and is outstanding. Excellent use is made of teaching assistants and other adults to support learning and inclusion. The learning objective is shared at the beginning of all lessons and is sometimes revisited at the end. This ensures that the sharp focus of the lesson is adhered to and the work recommended in the *Here I Am* programme is covered. Learners' work is always marked, with comments that are affirming and encouraging, giving ideas of how the learners can make further progress. The work is formally assessed once a term, following the directions of the Department for Christian Education. This is being developed

Parents and carers are enabled to become involved in their children's Religious Education in a variety of ways. An abundance of newsletters are sent to the homes throughout the term. These include a Religious Education newsletter outlining the religious elements of the curriculum and the ways the parents can be involved in, and support the religious education of their children. Parents are also invited to open evenings and to attend school Masses, assemblies and special celebrations. The school also has a text messaging service which brings urgent notices to the attention of the parents. The school also reports on progress in Religious Education. Replies to the parents' questionnaire show that parents are appreciative of the work of the school.

Grade: 1

Curriculum

The school is effective in meeting the Religious Education curriculum needs and interests of learners. Through using the *Here I Am* programme recommended by the Archdiocese the school meets the requirements of the Curriculum Directory for Religious Education. A whole school approach is used and appropriate levels of the programme are being followed in different classes. This ensures complete Religious Education entitlement for each child and meets national and diocesan requirements. Of the total curriculum time approximately 10% is allocated to Religious Education, which is a requirement of the Bishops of England and Wales. The Religious Education curriculum makes a outstanding impact on learners' spiritual and moral development.

Grade: 1

Leadership and Management

Religious Education

The leadership and management in Religious Education are outstanding. There is a vision for the subject within the mission of the school, which is shared by all and is reflected in the very positive relationships throughout the school. The Headteacher and the Religious Education coordinator are extremely committed to the cause of Religious Education. They are making an outstanding contribution in leading and supporting staff. An excellent handbook guides and directs all staff in their delivery of Religious Education. Monitoring through scrutiny of planning, teaching and workbooks is in place and is very rigorous. The process of assessment recommended by the Department for Christian Education has been put in place. The development of this is a priority for the school. Two of the 7 staff teaching Religious Education have the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies qualification and four are in the process of obtaining the CCRS. Teaching assistants are very effectively deployed. The coordinator attends coordinators' meetings and information is disseminated to all staff during staff meetings. Priorities for the subject are clearly identified and targets set. Religious Education is well funded and money has obviously been well spent. The Religious Education coordinator keeps governors informed on matters relating to Religious Education. Governors are keen to discharge their responsibilities effectively. They are very involved in the life of the school and are both supportive and at times challenging.

Grade: 1

Catholic Life of the School

There is outstanding leadership and management in developing the Catholic life of the school through the Mission Statement. Corpus Christi certainly lives the vision of Jesus, celebrating and nurturing each individual in partnership with the parish and the wider community. The learners are obviously valued, affirmed and respected. This helps them to be confident and happy. The Mission Statement has been revised since the last inspection and is outstanding. The children have chosen the motto 'A caring creative community'. The Mission Statement and motto are well known and understood by all, especially the learners. Outstanding aims, flowing from the Mission Statement with practical objectives showing how the aims are to be achieved, are also in place.

Grade: 1

Collective Worship

The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding. The school provides Collective Worship in a variety of ways for each child daily, in class, key stage or whole school gatherings. This fulfils government and Archdiocesan

guidance. An outstanding policy and guidelines to support the planning, delivery and nurturing of Collective Worship is in place. Acts of worship included music and outstanding focus tables to create a prayerful atmosphere. There is prayer both formal and informal. Very good use is made of power-point to aid reflection where the pupils were obviously very comfortable. God's Story was extremely well used. There was some enthusiastic singing. The learners and teachers present responded well to the warm and affirming worship experience. Focus tables and displays in each classroom are colourful, attractive and well presented, expressing well the topic of *Friends*. This enhances the delivery of the curriculum and Collective Worship. Collective Worship makes an outstanding contribution to the spiritual and moral development of the children.

Grade: 1

Community Cohesion

The school's leadership and management in promoting community cohesion are outstanding. There is a shared vision and commitment to serve the common good. Leadership at all levels respects difference, values diversity and ensures equal opportunities for all. It is obvious that every person matters, particularly the disadvantaged. Collective Worship celebrates, reflects and respects the diversity of belief within the school. The use of the Religious Education programme, *Here I Am*, supports community cohesion. The school is very much involved in the life of Rainford Village particularly the Walking Day, the Art Exhibition and the Rainford Athletics. Close links have also been developed recently with De La Salle High School. Learners have explored the beliefs and values of Judaism and Islam. They have made visits to places of worship and had visitors come into the school to share their faith with the children. All show a concern for the well being of those less fortunate than themselves in their support of CAFOD, Books to Africa and Samaritans Purse 'Operation Christmas Child'.

Grade 1