



DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

St Pius X Catholic Primary School

Barrow

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

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

School:

St Pius X Catholic Primary School

Address:

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School URN:

909/3606 112365

Headteacher:

Mr Kevin McGoldrick

Chair of Governors:

Mr David Gallagher

Lead Inspector:

Mrs Adrienne Delaney

Team Inspector:

Mrs Sharon Barnett

Date of Inspection:

8th November 2019

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St. Pius X is a Catholic voluntary aided primary school in the Diocese of Lancaster. It is a slightly below average-sized primary school with currently 169 pupils on roll, of which approximately 38% are baptised Roman Catholics. Other pupils come from no faith or other Christian backgrounds. There are a small number of pupils from other world faiths. Most pupils are of White British heritage. A number of refugees have recently joined the school.

Approximately 20% of pupils are on the SEND register.

The school is popular in the area and is experiencing growth in pupil applications. The school building is well maintained and surrounded by a large amount of land. The closure of the parish church has meant that pupils and parish can benefit from celebrating the Eucharist together in school time.

PUPILS	YN	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	24	21	24	28	24	24	20	28	169
Catholics on roll	6	7	9	15	12	7	5	9	64
Other Christian denomination	2	1	2	5	11	5	4	6	34
Other faith background	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	5
No religious affiliation	16	13	12	9	6	9	6	9	64
No of learners from ethnic groups	0	0	2	3	2	2	0	2	11
Total on SEN Register	0	1	4	3	6	4	5	11	34
Total with Statements of SEN	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	6

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	2,1			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Our Lady of Furness	64

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	19
% 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)	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	46
% of teaching time	23%	23%	23%	25%	25%	25%	25%	24%

TEACHING TIME FOR MATHS	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	35
% of teaching time	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	9
Part-time teachers	3
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	10.5
Classroom Support assistants	14
Number of Catholic teachers FTE	54%
Number of teachers teaching RE	8
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	4
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	1
Chaplaincy staffing	1
Teachers with CTC	1

ORGANISATION	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	24
Average class size KS2	24

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2018-19	Current financial year 2019-20	Next financial year 2020-21
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	£ 35,813.88	£ 26,711.60	£ 37,914.41
RE Curriculum allowance from above	5029.47	5014.65	5000
English Curriculum allowance from above	6806.00	7000	7000
Total CPD budget	3000	3500	3000
RE allocation for CPD	1250	1500	1200

How the school has developed since the last inspection
<p>The majority of aspects for improvement since the last inspection have been addressed and have had a sustained and positive impact on raising standards. An embedded baseline assessment and a tracking system across the school are in place. Governors are informed and are monitoring attainment and progress in curriculum RE. Improvements are now consistently identified and acted upon through marking, monitoring and assessment.</p> <p>The school has a good capacity to sustain this continuous improvement. The dedication of the governors together with the commitment of the leadership team and all staff, demonstrate the capacity to facilitate continuous improvement.</p>

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

2

CATHOLIC LIFE

1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

St Pius X is a good and rapidly improving Catholic school. It is very welcoming and has inclusion for all as a central goal and a shared vision. The school's Mission Statement 'Restore all things in Christ' is lived out daily; pupils enjoy attending their school and articulate positive attitudes to learning. One pupil interviewed described St Pius X School as a place where 'People forgive each other because that's what Jesus told us to do'. Pupils deepen the knowledge of their faith throughout their time in school and gain a firm understanding of Catholic practice. Governors play a significant part in leading the strategic direction of the school in the community in which it serves. The Religious Education governor, together with established and more recently appointed governors, are dedicated to ensuring that there are strong parish links and that a broad RE curriculum is being accessed by pupils. The headteacher and his leadership team have ensured that recommendations since the last inspection have been addressed. All leaders and staff place great emphasis on raising standards and putting the Catholic Life of the school at the forefront of their plans for St Pius X Catholic Primary School. This united and focussed determination is a strength of the school.

The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding and the commitment shown by the headteacher, governors, staff, Parish Priest and parish laity to support pupils in their prayer life and to help them grow in faith has remained a priority during periods of change in school and parish. Staff work well together, set good examples, support each other and are proud of their school. Many of the staff are new to teaching and to Catholic education but show a great willingness to learn from their more experienced colleagues. The Parish Priest is a regular visitor to the school. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is very good and has an impact on everyday life at St Pius X. This can be seen through pupils' responses to each other and in their understanding of the notion of the common good. The pupils willingly become involved in a variety of activities supporting their own and the wider community. They have raised funds for CAFOD, Shoe Box Appeal and local charities, such as the local food bank. This contributes to pupils' social, emotional and moral development. Parents appreciate the school and they welcome opportunities to participate in school life. Gospel values permeate the school and pupils are helped to grow in their spirituality, make the most of their abilities and nurture their faith.

Many opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy have been introduced and there are plans to extend and hone the good practice. Pupils act with reverence and join in prayers confidently. Prayer and Liturgies observed in Key Stage 2 demonstrate that children prepare and plan these with thought and care. Pupils make full use of resources available to them and appreciate the opportunities offered, for example, use of the Prayer Room, Masses and liturgies in school.

The quality of curriculum RE is good overall and pupils are provided with a range of learning opportunities to deepen their faith, to understand Catholic traditions and practices, and to make progress in their learning. Pupils enjoy RE lessons and many aspects of the curriculum are good. Clear action plans are in place to facilitate attainment and progress. The monitoring and assessment of all strands is in place and has begun to have a positive effect on evaluation of the provision of curriculum RE. The headteacher and prospective RE leader have plans to enhance the provision further and to hone the present directives for assessment.

Recently appointed teachers' subject knowledge is improving and there is a strong resolution from all staff to share good practice and avail themselves of training in RE. This firmness of purpose is having a positive impact on the delivery of curriculum RE. Teachers are well supported in terms of professional development. The curriculum meets the needs of all learners in line with diocesan and national recommendations.

Governors and leaders take full account of the '*Fit for Mission? Schools*' guidance.

The HRSE recommendations are being acted upon and the policy is in place. Elements of the HRSE are incorporated into the curriculum.

The school's capacity to maintain improving standards is good.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

To improve further the school needs to:

Strengthen outcomes for all pupils by:

- sharing the best practice that exists in the teaching of RE, so that all staff consistently deliver good and outstanding lessons;
- ensuring that all pupils have more opportunities to learn about faiths and cultures other than their own, particularly those of a monotheistic tradition;

Celebrate successes by:

- Continuing to devise a curriculum unique to the needs of the school that fits the diocesan and national directives.
- Embedding the role of Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator to help staff and children enrich their knowledge and understanding and appreciate the importance of prayer life.

PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- 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

1
1
1
1

Inspection has found that the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding and pupils contribute to and benefit from it.

Governors, leaders, teachers and support staff at St Pius X are committed to supporting the Catholic ethos of the school and its mission and this culture is embedded in the life of the school family.

The pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Life of school is greatly enhanced by their participation in and contribution to many aspects of school life. Pupils know that they belong to Our Lady of Furness Catholic Parish family and are proud to be part of the school and parish. For example, a pupil interviewed said of RE 'Teachers will always give you time and find something to help you understand'. On the day of the inspection pupils in Key Stage 1 volunteered excellent responses to the Gospel during Mass in school and behaved with reverence at all times joining in with responses enthusiastically. Key Stage 2 pupils led prayer with pupils from Key Stage 1 in the prayer room. The elements of prayer and liturgy were present and the pupils interacted with each other in a mutually trusting and sympathetic manner. From the Foundation Stage onwards pupils are beginning to demonstrate their ability to share their own faith through whole class prayer and liturgy. This was demonstrated in children observed in Reception class where children readily volunteered responses and their own thoughts and reflections. They were able to understand the concept of Mary as Jesus' mother and their mother. These skills are developed throughout Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Year 2 were guided and supported skilfully in a reflection on 'Remembrance'. All children were invited to take an active role and were positive contributors; confident, respectful and with a good understanding. Children observed in Year 4 on the day of inspection delivered their own liturgy for the class. They elicited responses about the Gospel reading and a discussion ensued. The class sang the "Alleluia!" joyfully. In Year 6 pupils responded immediately to a 'call to prayer'. The word of God was proclaimed with reverence and pupils led their class in silent prayer and stillness.

Pupils understand that their Catholic Faith is different from other faiths and that they share this distinctiveness with other Catholic schools. They share activities and Masses regularly with schools in the Catholic cluster. Activities that have enabled their understanding of wider community and the common good are the

celebration of Mass with the parish, many of whom were there on the day of inspection, fundraising with the parish and collecting money for CAFOD. The very active '*Laudato Si*' group could articulate why we need to take care of God's world and one child said: 'Pope Francis wants us to look after our environment. We are a caring school'. This articulation of ethos encourages best behaviour and focused learning. Catholic principles and values are apparent throughout the school.

The children's ability to articulate the Gospel values is exemplary and throughout school children and staff constantly articulate and model these values and relate them to their actions. During inspection one child volunteered how she had shown 'love and compassion' to one of her peers and related this to how Jesus had shown love and compassion for the people around him.

The Parish Priest, lay helpers in school, governors, school leaders, teachers and support staff are fully committed to fulfilling their role in ensuring that provision remains outstanding for the Catholic Life of the school. Their expectations are high and they are working together to implement the Catholic philosophy of education. The headteacher provides a clear direction for the Catholic Life of the school and the spiritual and moral development of pupils.

The governors, leaders and managers are fully committed to partnerships with the diocesan family of parishes and schools. The school has good links with the primary and secondary schools in the local Catholic cluster. Leaders should continue to give new staff members opportunities for catechesis and Catholic formation.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. St Pius X is a very welcoming and friendly community with a strong family ethos where everyone is valued and pupils and staff appear to flourish. There is a palpable sense of family and community in all aspects of school life. This is evident in the quality of relationships that exist between all stakeholders.

The school is a prayerful community that provides a stimulating learning environment to reflect the school's mission and its Catholic character. Staff, the Parish Priest and governors work hard to develop and enhance the school for the benefit of everyone. Staff INSET has ensured Continuing Professional Development in RE and staff subject knowledge has been strengthened through reflection and through training from the headteacher and teachers who support in leading RE.

PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- 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
2
2
2

Inspection found that the extent to which pupils enjoy and achieve in Religious Education is good.

The majority of pupils at St Pius X enjoy RE, are religiously literate and engaged in their learning. They are able to remain on task when entering into discussion and working independently. Through active participation in prayer and liturgies, together with good curriculum coverage, pupils show a good knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith. They now need to be given further opportunities to learn about faiths and practices other than their own, in particular Judaism; this will teach them about the roots of monotheistic cultures. They understand that Christ is at the Centre of all school life and are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. For example, one pupil said: 'We know that Jesus is God but fully human. When we pray we connect to him. This helps you know how to behave'.

Many pupils are beginning to make rapid progress in RE from a low baseline when they join St Pius X in Foundation Stage. Pupils develop and apply a range of skills throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 including independence and imagination. This is built upon in Key Stage 2 where pupils reflect upon their own scriptural knowledge of, for example, the notion of the values in the Gospel. This knowledge enables them to forgive, love and respect and to reflect on the notion of justice and the common good.

Tracking demonstrates that pupils' attainment is good overall. The headteacher has introduced a comprehensive system of tracking, whereby groups of pupils are highlighted and targets are set for further improvement. This analysis shows that all groups make at least expected progress.

Pupil attainment and progress is good and exceeds standards in other core subjects. Pupils have a great respect for each other and can discuss their faith. They now need to be given further opportunities in Key Stage 2 to learn about the faith of others and to enhance their knowledge of monotheistic traditions.

Good quality teaching and learning was observed on the day of inspection. Pupils enjoy their learning because teachers make their lessons relevant and interesting. Pupils' progress in RE in each of the attainment targets is good and pupils know what to do to improve through understanding of the assessment sheets in their books.

Parents are happy overall with their children's progress. This is shared with parents through formal and informal meetings, regular reports, and alongside other core subjects. Newsletters are sent home and the website is updated to inform parents of curriculum RE and Catholic Life. The school has a Facebook page and a RE blog.

Inspection found that leadership and management in RE is good and has improved. Changes introduced have been supported by leaders, governors, teachers and support staff, ensuring that good practice is sustained and leads to best outcomes for pupils. The headteacher has an accurate view of the quality of teaching and learning, monitoring and evaluation in St Pius X. He understands the improvements needed and, supported by governors, assistant headteachers and staff he is moving ahead with programmes of study, new means of assessment and monitoring of RE.

Curriculum RE is at the forefront of teaching. Modelling teaching of RE, monitoring of lesson plans, formal and informal observations together with book scrutiny and conversations with pupils are carried out by senior leaders in the school, ensuring that teaching has remained good during periods of change.

The RE curriculum meets all the requirements of the Bishops' Conference and is informed by the Curriculum Directory and the Diocesan document 'Fit for Mission? Schools'. The headteacher and prospective RE leader are planning a programme of work that incorporates relevant and varied teaching materials, for example, CAFOD materials and other schemes. This helps to ensure progression of tasks and good outcomes for pupils.

Teaching in RE is good and inspection found provision to be of a good standard. Support staff are deployed effectively to assist pupils with additional needs. In lessons observed, teachers showed good subject knowledge built on prior learning and differentiated tasks to suit the needs of all learners. The ongoing practice of peer tutoring and observation of good practice should greatly enhance teaching and learning and secure good and outstanding teaching across the key stages.

The quality of displays around the school is very good and reflects the pupils' learning. The well-used and resourced Prayer Room adds to the pupils' religious understanding. The newly appointed Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator should enhance pupils' teaching and learning in RE.

The headteacher, assistant headteachers, governors, teachers and support staff have sought opportunities to reflect on the teaching of RE and the Catholic Life of the school. The headteacher has ensured CPD for his staff and has modelled good practice in order to instil confidence in teaching and good subject knowledge in his staff. Resources are used effectively and enhance teaching and learning in St Pius X School.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Overall Effectiveness	2
Capacity for sustained improvement	2
Catholic Life	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school. 	1
<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. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school. 	1
Religious Education	2
<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. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision in Religious Education. 	2

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