



# Archdiocese of Birmingham

## Section 48 Inspection

### ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dudley Road, Ladywood, Birmingham B18 7QW

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Inspection date 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
Reporting Inspector Rose Brookes  
Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

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Type of School Voluntary aided  
Age range of pupils 4-11 years  
Number on roll 206  
Appropriate authority The Governing Body  
Chair of Governors Ms Maja Szeliga  
Telephone number 0121 247 3947  
E-mail address enquiry@stpatrc.bham.sch.uk  
Date of previous inspection 26th - 27th November 2012  
DFE School Number 330 3346  
Unique Reference Number 103439

**Headteacher** **Mary O'Friel**

Previous inspection: Good

This inspection: Good

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## **Evidence**

- The inspection was carried out by one Diocesan Inspector.
- The focus of the inspection was on the quality, leadership, and impact of the school's provision of Catholic life, collective worship, and religious education (RE).
- The inspector observed teaching across seven RE lessons to evaluate the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. All of these lessons were conducted jointly with senior leaders.
- The inspector completed a work scrutiny and held discussions with pupils to evaluate their understanding of Catholic life, worship, and the impact of teaching on their learning over time.
- Meetings were held with the chair of governors, the headteacher, the RE subject leader and the parish priest.
- The inspector attended a class Mass and a whole school assembly. Whilst observing lessons across the school, she undertook a learning walk to look at aspects of learning and teaching in RE, the presentation of the Catholic life of the school and pupils' behaviour.
- The inspector reviewed a range of documents including the school's self-evaluation, data about pupils' attainment and progress, Analyse School Performance (ASP), the school development plan, teachers' planning, and learning journals.

## **Information about the school**

- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is one of two federated Catholic primary schools in the parish of St Patrick's in Birmingham. It shares a single executive headteacher and a governing body with St Edmund's Catholic Primary School. Each school has its own head of school. St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is a one form entry school.
- The percentage of pupils from minority ethnic origins and pupils with English as an additional language is significantly higher than the national average.
- The percentage of Catholic pupils is currently 60%.
- The percentage of disadvantaged pupils is significantly higher than the national average.
- The percentage of pupils with special educational needs is above the national average.
- Attainment on entry is well below expected levels.
- Since the last inspection, a number of changes have taken place. A new assistant headteacher has been appointed and there has been a new RE subject leader. There has been a high turnover of governors including a new chair of governors in June 2016. The school has also had a number of changes of parish priest. Another new parish priest has recently been appointed.

## **Main Findings**

- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is strongly led by the dynamic and faith-filled example of a very experienced executive headteacher. She is supported by a dedicated head of school who is also the RE subject leader. They are both totally committed to the Catholic mission of the school. They set very high standards for everyone to aspire to.
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is part of a two-school federation. It is also part of a larger group, Caritas Christi, comprising of ten Catholic primary and two

Catholic high schools. St Patrick's Catholic Primary School works effectively with both of these groups to improve its Catholic life, worship and RE. This leads to the sharing of RE strategic planning, improved staff development, and networking support for RE subject leaders and class teachers.

- The governing body is outstanding in its commitment to the Catholic mission of the school. The RE subject leader ensures that they are systematically informed about all areas of Catholic life and RE. The governors' mission and strategy committee is very pro-active.
- The school strongly teaches Catholic virtues through a focus on faith, hope and love. Systematic school developmental planning has led to half termly theme based worship for all classes.
- Sacramental preparation Masses are celebrated jointly with St Edmund's Catholic Primary School. This liturgical worship, together with the parental and pupil catechesis, is an outstanding strength of this two-school federation.
- The school's teaching and learning about Catholic heritage is outstanding.

## **THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL**

### **Catholic life, collective worship and spiritual, moral and vocational development: provision and outcomes**

- The Catholic life of the school is outstanding.
- Leaders promote the Catholic life of the school in the local community and within the school very effectively. The headteacher and governors share a strong commitment to the Catholicity of the school.
- Pupils are proud of their backgrounds and beliefs and have a strong sense of personal worth. Year 6 pupils are able to make thought provoking connections between issues in society and the way they live their lives as Christians. For example, reflecting on deforestation, pollution, rubbish, slavery and the hunting of wild animals led pupils to think about recycling and respecting their local environment.
- The school holds an annual refugee week. All staff, children and families are involved with researching, meeting and supporting refugees in Birmingham through contact made with St Chad's sanctuary. Pupils spoke very movingly about how this event inspires them to respect the rich diversity of cultures in their local community.
- In Year 4 the teacher is an outstanding role model for the school community. Every Friday afternoon she volunteers to teach refugees English at St Chad's sanctuary. This year, the school intends to develop this and become a 'School of Sanctuary'.
- The school has developed an excellent whole school annual Catholic history week. As a result, pupils have a good knowledge and understanding of the traditions and history of the Catholic Church and the significant role it has played in society. Catholic life activities have included visits to local churches and convents.
- Each class has taken part in a very successful RE inspire workshop. During the workshops, parents are encouraged to pray and take part in religious activities with their children. Parents and pupils enjoy these workshops and, as a result, they are well attended.
- The school's behaviour policy is based on repentance and forgiveness. Classroom rules and contracts promote tolerance, mercy, love and kindness. These virtues are seen in the consideration and respect that pupils show for themselves and others.
- Pupils fundraise for a number of charities such as CAFOD, Fr Hudson's, Macmillan Cancer, local food banks and a women's refuge.

- Collective worship is good with many outstanding features.
- There is a co-ordinated Gospel centred programme of whole school and class worship. This has been effectively developed around the virtues of faith, hope and love.
- Effective links are continually made between the virtues and the RE curriculum. During the inspection forgiveness was consistently used as a focus for class and whole school worship and it was taught in all lessons. When talking to the inspector, pupils spoke with conviction about the importance of forgiveness in their lives.
- St Patrick's pupils regularly prepare and lead worship from their earliest years in a variety of gatherings. During the inspection reception pupils responded positively when they were shown how to stand up and lead the class in worship. Reception pupils were able to pray in silence whilst deeply reflecting on how they can forgive others. Year 3 pupils led a whole school assembly about forgiveness with confidence, reverence and enthusiasm.
- Collective worship is regularly evaluated by children, staff and governors. Questionnaires and learning walks show that pupils enjoy worship and they continually apply what they have learnt to their own lives. As a result of this evaluation, staff have received support in developing the use of music in liturgy. Inset has included working with Saviour Soul, CJM and in-house training.
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School always ensures that the liturgical year is celebrated. There are daily dedicated whole school liturgies during both Holy Week and Advent. Pupils are able to recall the active part they have played in these liturgies.
- Whole school and class Masses are frequently celebrated. Sacramental preparation Masses are celebrated jointly with St Edmund's Catholic Primary School. This liturgical worship, together with the parental and pupil catechesis which happens after Mass, is an outstanding strength of this two-school federation.
- The parish, led by the dedicated Spiritan Fathers, are instrumental in ensuring that the school community grows in faith. They provide parents and pupils with the unique opportunity to return to the Mass within the context of the parish.
- Vocational development is starting to be taught in some classes. There has been a recent whole staff retreat on the theme of vocation. Vocation needs to be embedded into the Catholic life of the school. Pupils and staff need to develop their understanding of vocation in their own lives.

## **LEADERSHIP**

### **Leadership of Catholic life and Collective Worship**

- The leadership of Catholic life and collective worship is good with some outstanding features.
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is strongly led by the dynamic and faith-filled example of a very experienced executive headteacher. She is supported by a dedicated and able head of school, who is also the RE subject leader. They are both

totally committed to the school and they set very high standards for everyone within the school family to aspire to.

- The school is part of a larger group called Caritas Christi, comprising of twelve Catholic primary and two Catholic secondary schools. Together the headteachers plan and share ideas about how they can develop the Catholic life of each school. Part of this planning includes an annual retreat day for newly qualified teachers. All plans are implemented effectively and reviewed to evaluate the extent to which pupils benefit from them.
- During the inspection, two headteachers from Caritas Christi spoke about the outstanding impact that strategic planning has had on the provision for staff induction, in-service training and the spiritual, moral and vocational development of staff.
- School developmental planning for Catholic life and collective worship is systematic and strategic. It includes both schools in the federation. Currently, the school development plan is focused on giving all pupils the opportunity to plan, lead and evaluate class based collective worship. As a result, a growing number of pupils are able to speak with confidence about how they have led worship.
- Staff development is systematic and focused. Catholic life, RE and worship form part of staff performance management targets. These targets are clearly informed by the school development plan.
- In the last year, governors have become more involved in monitoring the Catholic life of the school and the quality of pupils' learning.
- Each governor has recently been linked to a specific year group. The school acknowledges that this development needs to become embedded. This will help governors to be more regularly involved in the formal monitoring of Catholic life and collective worship.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **Leadership, outcomes from and provision for religious education**

- The leadership, outcomes from and provision for RE are all good with some outstanding features.
- The school is very well supported by the new parish priest. He supports the parish based sacramental first communion and confirmation programmes for both schools in the federation. As part of this programme, parents are taught how to pray with their children.
- Teachers from both schools in the federation work together to moderate pupils' work in RE. Teachers from the same year groups, across the federation, also work closely together to share RE planning and resources. This has helped improve standards in RE.
- The RE curriculum is based on the diocesan scheme, *'Learning and Growing as the People of God,'* and follows its recommendations in terms of planning and assessment.
- The teaching of RE is good overall and some teaching is outstanding. Senior leaders have accurately monitored standards of teaching and provided support for recently qualified and newly qualified teaching. This enables teachers to quickly develop confidence.

- At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School staff are passionate about teaching RE and most have excellent subject knowledge.
- Pupils enter foundation stage with little or no understanding of RE. However, due to outstanding teaching they quickly begin to make rapid progress.
- The evidence from lesson observations and work scrutinies confirms the school's judgment that from Years 1 to 6 the majority of pupils meet diocesan expectations in RE and half the pupils exceed these expectations.
- Boys make very good progress during the academic year, so that by the end of the summer term their attainment is broadly in line with girls. However, the number of girls making above expected attainment is still higher than for boys, especially in Key Stage 2.
- Senior leaders and teachers need to improve their analysis of assessment data to better inform future lesson planning. This is important for all groups, but specifically for boys, to help close the gap in attainment.
- The governors fulfil their statutory and canonical responsibilities regarding RE. They ensure that the requirements of the Bishops Conference are met in terms of curriculum time for RE and the priority that RE is given in the school.
- The mission and strategy governors' committee have an active role in monitoring standards in RE. They have taken part in work scrutinies, where a need to focus on the key learning objectives from the diocesan RE scheme was identified. This area for development was then included in the school development plan and specific staff training has been scheduled to be provided.
- The school ensures that all pupils learn about other faiths on a four-yearly cycle. Pupils are respectful of other faiths during lessons and visits to places of worship.
- The teaching of relationships and sex education is taught in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

## **Recommendations**

### **In order to improve the school should:**

- Ensure pupils and staff have a clear understanding of vocational development.
- Use assessment data analysis to better inform teachers' planning for all groups, but specifically for boys, to help close the gap in attainment and progress.
- Focus all teaching on the key learning objectives from the diocesan RE scheme.
- Increase the opportunities for pupils to plan and lead collective worship.
- To further improve governor knowledge and evaluation of the Catholic life, worship and RE in the school by becoming more involved in formal monitoring.