
The Diocese of Hallam Section 48 Report

The Catholic Life of the School and Religious Education

Diocese of Hallam



SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Lady and St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

School URN	106942
Name of Chair of Governors	Mr Mark Janvier
Name of Head teacher	Mrs Helen McLaughlin
Date of inspection	Thursday 8 th October 2015
Section 48 Inspector	Peter Davison

“ An enthusiasm for the things of God”

Introduction

Description of the School

Our Lady and St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is an average sized primary school in the ex-mining community of Wath-upon-Deane in South Yorkshire. It is a school rooted in its community, serving successive generations of families, with a large, diverse urban catchment. It is a predominately white community with a small but growing number of ethnic children in school (EAL 6.2%). 10 % of the children have SEN support, 2 of whom have a statement of educational needs. Children come from a variety of economic circumstances and backgrounds (27.9% FSM). Generally, children are just below age related expectations when they enter FS1.

The school holds Healthy School and Bronze Eco schools status. The school runs a breakfast club on site.

Type of School	Primary
Age profile of students	3-11
Number on roll	237
Number of students on Special Needs and Disabilities Register	15
Number of students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs	2
Number of Catholics on roll	105
Number of Other Christian Denominations	132
Number of other Faiths No religious affiliation	2
School Address	Our Lady & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Fitzwilliam Street Wath-upon-Deane Rotherham South Yorkshire S63 7HG
Telephone Number	01709 760084
Email	olasj@rotherham.gov.uk
School Website	www.ourlady-stjosephs.rotherham.sch.uk/

SUMMARY JUDGEMENTS

OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS

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THE PROVISION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

1

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

1

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

The overall effectiveness judgement is based on all the evidence available.

- Outcomes for pupils,
- The provision for Catholic Education
- Leaders and Managers

OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS

How good outcomes are for pupils, taking into account variations between groups.

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school.	1
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.	2
How well pupils respond to and participate in the schools' Collective Worship	1

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school is outstanding

- Pupils are proud to be members of Our Lady and St Joseph's community. They talk freely and enthusiastically about their faith and sense of belonging. They value and respect the Catholic tradition of the school and its links with the parish community. The Catholic Life of the school is evidently at the heart of the school's ethos and mission; as a result, pupils' spiritual and moral development is outstanding.
- Standards of behaviour are high, rooted in gospel values. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school. They speak highly of the many opportunities they have to be involved in the Catholic Life of the school, for example receiving regular invitations to Acts of Worship.

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education is good

- All pupils make good progress. Assessment data shows pupils are attaining generally above average standards of attainment. Very good moderation work has been undertaken with other schools in the St Pius learning community to ensure teacher assessments are accurate.
- Pupils are keen to do well and perform their tasks with great enthusiasm, generally seeking to produce their best work. Work seen in books and on display is of a very good standard.
- Pupils are aware of individual targets and are keen to meet them. Their knowledge, understanding and skills are developing well helping them to become more independent in their learning.
- The 'Come and See' programme is used very effectively. Pupils acquire a good knowledge and understanding from first entry to the school and use this as a firm foundation to further their progress.
- Pupils speak positively about their lessons – as one said "Teachers make lessons fun so we don't get bored!"

How well pupils respond to and participate in the schools' Collective Worship is outstanding

- Pupils show interest, respond well and actively participate in Collective Worship. In an observed Gospel assembly, the Year 1 children led a very lively liturgy with great enthusiasm using a range of multimedia to enhance the experience. All the classes sang hymns with joyful gusto. This weekly celebration is very well attended by parents, carers and grandparents.
- They are reflective and focused during Collective Worship and from the earliest age pupils participate fully in prayer. Older pupils work with the school chaplain to plan and lead prayer and worship for younger pupils and clearly demonstrate their understanding of the Gospel message.
- There is a range and variety of prayer opportunities provided thereby ensuring that prayer is at the heart of the school community. The pupils have a good understanding of religious seasons and festivals and the colours of the liturgical season are used well to enhance displayed work.

PROVISION

How effective the provision is for Catholic Education

The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education.	2
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum promotes pupils' learning.	1
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.	1

The Quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education is good

- The level of challenge in the teaching has risen significantly this year through Religious Education being a major focus of school development. Lessons observed were at least good and some showed outstanding features.
- Records of attainment are good and recent developments in assessment data are providing sound information to inform the next steps in pupils' learning.
- Staff meet before the start of each topic to plan together using the 'Come and See for Yourself' resource. The subject leader ensures that teachers have a good grasp of the aims and objectives of the theme being explored.
- Staff have good subject knowledge. Pupils are positively affirmed throughout their lessons and marking now informs them of their progress and increasingly identifies how they can improve. Effort and achievement are celebrated.
- In lessons observed, pupils were thoughtfully encouraged to understand ideas related to the theme of 'Belonging' from the *Come and See* programme. Careful planning, challenging questions, guided discussion and quality resources encouraged pupil's enthusiastic responses.
- Teaching assistants provide excellent care and support to pupils. They are deployed effectively and show sensitivity to pupils' needs.

The extent to which the Religious Education Curriculum promotes pupils' learning is outstanding

- Pupils clearly enjoy Religious Education lessons and they understand their value. They are able to apply what they have learned in the context of their daily lives.
- They can discuss what they have learned and show they are reflective, not only in lessons, but generally.
- Progress is evident within lessons and throughout the school year as reflected in pupil workbooks. Behaviour is exemplary.
- The range of cross-curricular links is extensive and includes role-play, drama, art, and ICT. This, together with visitors to the school, such as representatives from 'Mission Together – Children Helping Children' serve to enhance provision and learning across the school

The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school is outstanding

- Collective Worship is central to the life of the school and a vibrant part of every school celebration.
- The school is pro-active in strengthening links with the parish and leads the parish Mass on the feasts of Christ the King and Palm Sunday.
- Prayer opportunities and celebrations for staff and pupils are planned in a manner that attracts and encourages the attendance of parents, carers, grandparents and parishioners in great numbers. The weekly Gospel Assembly is very well attended and is highly valued by all participants.
- The joint appointment of a chaplain across the St Pius Learning Community is a clear commitment to the celebration of faith within the school. Pupils are increasingly becoming involved in planning and leading prayer and liturgy.
- The important seasons of the Church are celebrated reverently and creatively. Holy Week is particularly prioritised in school and effective use is made of the 'In Reality' youth group to enhance the pupils' involvement in the commemoration of the Passion.

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

How effective the provision is for Catholic education

How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.	1
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How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils is outstanding

- The headteacher, governors and leadership team are deeply committed to the Church's mission in education. They are highly motivated in this task and are a source of inspiration for the whole school community. Staff and governors incorporate Gospel values into all aspects of school life.
- The Religious Education subject leader is highly focused on the school's mission and works very effectively to promote it. Through excellent subject knowledge and targeted support she has been outstanding in raising achievement and standards ensuring all learners are taught well.
- The governing body fulfils its role by being rigorous in its strategic involvement in developing the Catholic Life of the school. They have helped shape the direction of the school through their high profile and the many contributions they make. They regularly attend whole school celebrations, acts of worship and special liturgies throughout the year.
- Our Lady and St Joseph's is a welcoming, caring and happy community which follows the example of Jesus in everyday life. This is evident in the children's consideration for each other and the pastoral care given by adults in the school. The 'Rainbows' group is very effective in supporting children affected by bereavement, separation or other significant loss. Children feel happy, safe and secure.
- The school environment is stimulating and vibrant and illustrates how staff strive hard to provide the very best for their community.

How well leaders, governors and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan and implement for improvement to outcomes for pupils is outstanding

- The headteacher and the leadership team focus relentlessly on improving teaching and learning in Religious Education resulting in teaching that is at least consistently good or better.
- Governors and the leadership team are very accurate in self-evaluating the strengths and areas for development in Religious Education. The Self Evaluation Document provides evidence of the school's monitoring, analysis and self-challenge. It gives an accurate picture of the Catholic Life of

the school, the provision for Religious Education and its analysis provides a basis to celebrate the school's strengths and also outlines areas identified for development.

- Through effective monitoring, the excellent subject action plan identifies areas to develop together with strategic steps to achieve set targets.

This final section draws together all the evidence and judgements made in the preceding sections

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education	1
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The overall effectiveness of Our Lady and St Joseph's Primary School in providing Catholic Education is outstanding

- Outcomes for pupils have improved considerably since the last inspection as a result of more rigorous monitoring and evaluation. Attainment at the end of each key stage is at least good.
- The mission and ethos of Catholic Education permeates every aspect of school life
- The headteacher, subject leader, governors and leadership team have a clear vision in developing the Catholic Life of the school. Inspirational leadership combined with the commitment of all members of the school community in constantly striving to improve provision is having a very positive effect on school improvement.
- Teaching is good overall with a good proportion being outstanding. The curriculum is well-planned and plays an important part in the moral, social, spiritual and social development of the pupils. Recent developments in the assessment and tracking of pupils' progress are leading to improved teaching and learning.
- The excellent provision for collective worship and prayer has been enhanced by the work of the chaplain helping pupils plan and lead worship.

Recommendations:

- To further develop staff confidence in marking so that all pupils know what they need to do to improve their work.
- To firmly embed recent developments in formal assessment procedures and data reporting in line with Diocesan expectations.

- To continue to raise standards in Religious Education by ensuring staff have shared and accurate expectations of what is required to achieve higher levels of attainment.