

# DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH VALIDATION REPORT



## St. Jude's Catholic Primary School, Fareham

Bishopsfield Road, Fareham PO14 1ND

URN: 116376  
 Date of previous validation: July 2012  
**Date of this validation: 20 and 27 June 2017**

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	Previous validation:	Good
	<b>This validation:</b>	<b>Good</b>

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

### This is a good school with outstanding features

- St Jude's is an outstanding example of a Catholic school community, where the mission statement and Christian ethos have a very positive impact. Excellent relationships between adults and pupils lead to a loving and trusting environment, where all are encouraged to *"achieve together in God's love."*
- The headteacher, deputy headteacher and governors are fully committed in their drive for continuing improvement. They undertake a rigorous cycle of monitoring, evaluation and support to ensure the celebration of strengths and the highlighting of areas for development.
- The school makes an outstanding contribution locally, as well as fostering strong links with local parishes and local Catholic schools
- Prayer is a natural part of the daily rhythm of the school day through a wide range of worship opportunities.
- The school's Catholic ethos is enhanced by the high quality of the physical environment and the many outstanding displays celebrating its Catholic and cultural identity.
- The quality of teaching is good and standards in RE are also good.
- Parents are very supportive of the school. An overwhelming majority was positive about all aspects of school life.
- Staff and children act as witnesses to their faith through their support of one another and their support for local, national and international charities.
- Spiritual and moral development are outstanding. Children's behaviour is exemplary.
- The outstanding support of the parish priest is of great benefit to the school.
- Teachers work hard to ensure that RE has a high profile in the school and are ably assisted by enthusiastic support staff.

### What does the school need to do to improve further?

In order to continue to move forward, the school should consider the following:

- Review planning to ensure success criteria are driven by the national RE levels of attainment driver words.
- Embed effective, consistent and sustained differentiation for all pupils, through the use of the driver words and challenging questions.
- Ensure feedback to pupils on their work in RE is effective and consistent across the school.
- Ensure there is greater involvement of pupils in planning and leading worship.

## Full Report

### The school as a Catholic community

The school community:	<b>Outstanding</b>
The wider community:	<b>Outstanding</b>

- The mission statement is firmly embedded into all aspects of school life, enabling children and staff to ‘*achieve together in God’s love*’. It is highlighted to all visitors through a beautiful display that immediately draws the eye on entrance to the school.
- The headteacher, deputy headteacher (who is also the RE leader) and governors encourage the community to share in a strong sense of vision and mission which has a very positive impact on school life.
- The school has a calm and welcoming atmosphere. Relationships within the school community are strong.
- The Catholic ethos is evident within the school environment. High quality displays contribute to an attractive and purposeful community of learning.
- The school has a visible presence within both parish churches, through the parish newsletter, displays in the churches and regular attendance of pupils at parish masses.
- Parents are very supportive of the school. An overwhelming majority were positive about all aspects of school life.
- There is a strong relationship between the school and the parish. The headteacher and RE leader deliver the programme of preparation for the sacrament of First Holy Communion. The parish priest is a very frequent visitor to the school and offers invaluable support. The parish purchased a statue of St Jude for the school
- Pupils from a wide range of groups have a strong voice through the house system, school council, stewardship committee, Mini Vinnies, play leaders and house captains.
- Children demonstrate outstanding support for a large number of charitable events. The school works in partnership with the St Vincent de Paul Society, Water Aid, the food bank, Two Saints Homeless Project, Macmillan, Cafod, Mary’s Meals, the Edith Stein MAT and local schools.

### Curriculum religious education

Attainment and progress:	<b>Good</b>
Quality of teaching:	<b>Good</b>
Leadership and management of RE:	<b>Good</b>

- The evidence in the pupils’ books, the quality of teaching seen on the day and discussions with pupils all combine to show that attainment and progress in RE are good.
- In the lessons observed as part of the validation, evidence was seen of pupils reflecting on the sacraments. In the best lessons, learning was supported by the use of role play, personal experience and links to prior learning. The younger children were able to talk about the sacrament of marriage through photographs of their role play in the church. Children reflected on the symbols of baptism and the older children discussed why people choose to be confirmed and what that choice means for their future life.
- Pupils demonstrated a positive attitude to learning and behaviour was very good.
- Planning and success criteria need to be driven by the RE driver words and the school needs to embed effective, consistent and sustained differentiation for all pupils. Pupils need to be

challenged in their thinking and allowed opportunities to voice their opinions. There also needs to be greater reference to scripture, particularly in Key Stage 2, to underpin learning and ensure lessons have a clear RE focus.

- RE displays are of a very high standard and are used as working walls that include key questions, vocabulary and pupil responses.
- The headteacher and RE leader monitor pupil progress through lesson observations, book scrutinies and assessment data and feedback is provided for all teachers.
- Feedback to pupils on their learning in RE is not consistent throughout the school.

## Spiritual and moral development

Spiritual development:

**Outstanding**

Moral development:

**Outstanding**

- The outstanding worships seen on the day highlighted the reverence with which pupils enter the prayer spaces, act as welcomers, process with the bible and sing. In the Key Stage 2 liturgy the children reverently anointed one another and the adults present.
- Prayer is a natural part of the daily rhythm of the school day through a wide range of worship opportunities. Worship links closely to the liturgical year which is demonstrated in displays, prayer areas and planning. Some of the older children help to plan and lead their class worship but this needs to be encouraged throughout the school.
- All members of the community are invited to join the school for liturgies and masses. The parish priest provides excellent support.
- The school environment, trips to Nethercott Farm and a Forest School project provide opportunities for children to experience the awe and wonder of God's creation and joy of living. The recent addition of a beautiful stained glass window and central prayer area within the school ensures that worship is at its heart.
- The mission statement underpins the moral development of all pupils, with staff providing excellent role models for the children. Mission certificates are awarded to pupils demonstrating behaviour linked to the mission statement and as a result pupil behaviour at St Jude's is outstanding.
- Pupils in the school are justly proud of their school. They describe the school as '*a place where we trust in God, all care for one another and are treated fairly.*'

## Leadership and management:

**Outstanding**

- The personal witness to the faith provided by the Headteacher and the deputy headteacher at St. Jude's provides a strong vision and direction for the work of the school.
- The rigorous effective approach to the monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of the life of the school enables the school to constantly challenge itself. There is a constant drive for improvement.
- The governing body are strong supporters of the school and also act as a critical friend.
- Good progress has been made on the issues identified for improvement in the last validation. A new mission statement, produced by all stakeholders, is now embedded in the life of the school. There are clear monitoring systems in place, which identify strengths and enable areas of development to be addressed. The school is very involved with the MAT and other local Catholic schools.

## School details

<b>Name of school:</b>	St Jude's Catholic Primary
<b>Age range of pupils:</b>	4 - 11
<b>Gender of pupils:</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on roll:</b>	185
<b>Chair of Governors:</b>	Paul Docherty
<b>Headteacher:</b>	Sarah Wall

St Jude's is a small one form entry primary school serving the parish of Fareham and Portchester, which includes Sacred Heart Church and St Philip Howard Church in the Solent Local Pastoral Area. The proportion of pupils for whom English is an additional language is low and the proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is also below average. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs is broadly average. A quarter of the pupils are in receipt of pupil premium funding.

## 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

Helena Pickering	Lead Validator
Nuala Oster	Assistant Validator

### 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 whole school and class worship.
- Observations of teaching and learning in RE, including joint observations with the headteacher and RE leader.
- Pupil work scrutiny.
- Feedback of key findings to the senior leadership team and representatives of the governing body.

## Conclusion

The validators would like to thank the headteacher, RE leader, staff, governors, the parish priest, parents and pupils of St Jude's 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.