



ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

INSPECTION REPORT

ST. RICHARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

SKELMERSDALE

Inspection Date 19 November 2013

Inspectors Rev. D. Melly Mrs S. Banister

Unique Reference Number 119684

Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Acts 2005 and 2011

Type of School Catholic Primary

Age range of pupils 3-11

Number on roll 206 + 51 part time nursery

Chair of Governors Mr P Rowan

Headteacher Mr M Holden

School address Sandy Lane
Skelmersdale
WN8 8LQ

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Date of last inspection 1 May 2007

Introduction

This inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Acts 2005 and 2011

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.

Information about this school

- St Richard's school is a larger than average sized Catholic Primary School situated in Skelmersdale serving the parish of St Richard.
- There are 206 children on roll with 51 part time nursery children. Two hundred and thirty six are baptised Catholic, 21 come from other Christian denominations, and there are no children from other faith or religious traditions.
- There are 10 teachers of whom 9 teach Religious Education and 3 have a suitable qualification in Religious Education. A further five teachers are currently pursuing the CCRS. Six teachers are baptised Catholic.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Requires Improvement
Grade 4	Inadequate

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Further copies of this report are obtainable from the school.

Overall effectiveness:

St Richards School is an outstanding school in providing Catholic Education.

Inspection Judgements

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

- The extent to which the pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school is outstanding.
- Pupils know and understand the school's Mission Statement and understand the part they play within it. They are actively involved in its evaluation on an annual basis.
- Pupils have a real sense of belonging to the school community. They have a real sense of identity and self worth and they value and respect others.
- Pupils are encouraged to take on roles of responsibility in the school and wider community in the peer mediation system, the buddy system, being prefects, being members of the School and Eco councils and the Fairtrade group. There are also representatives at SHARES pupil Parliament and Police Pact.
- Pupils are actively involved in developing the Catholic character of the school by living out the Mission Statement.
- Pupils have a good sense of right and wrong and apply this in their personal relationships. They take an increasing responsibility for themselves and their actions.
- Education for pastoral care and personal relationships has fostered positive attitudes in pupils.
- They praise and acknowledge the contribution of others. They show a readiness to embrace and celebrate their lived experiences.
- Pupils embrace opportunities to meet their potential in all aspects of school life.
- Pupils are involved in service to the local faith and religious communities. They support the SVP with harvest hampers and Christmas gifts. They raise funds for CAFOD, the Good Shepherd and Mission Together as well as responding to international appeals. They show respect and understanding of other faiths and religions.

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education

- Pupils' achievements and enjoyment in Religious Education is outstanding.
- Their attainment in Religious Education is outstanding.
- They make outstanding progress in relation to their starting points and capabilities.
- On entry to school many children have a limited knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- There is no difference in performance between pupils of different gender.
- Analysis of assessments undertaken provides evidence of pupils generally attaining above average standards in all key stages.
- Pupils are becoming increasingly more religiously literate. Their knowledge, understanding and skills are developing and most pupils are making very good progress.
- They are developing the skills that enable them to reflect spiritually, think ethically and theologically and are becoming more aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
- Pupils' engagement in and enjoyment of their learning is outstanding as shown by their interest, enthusiasm and behaviour. Year 6 pupils were keen to share how the curriculum impacted on their lives and how much they enjoyed the variety of activities in the lessons.

- Pupils are encouraged to work independently and collaboratively.
- Pupils are anxious to learn and improve their knowledge, understanding and skills as they become independent learners.

How well pupils respond to and participate in Collective Worship

- Pupils' response to and participation in Collective Worship is outstanding.
- They show interest, respond well and actively participate in Collective Worship.
- They act with reverence and are keen to participate in a variety of gatherings.
- Pupils' knowledge of prayer and liturgy is increasing.
- They become familiar with a variety of prayer styles. They appreciate and are open to the Word of God in the scriptures.
- They sing joyfully, reflect in silence and join in community prayers appropriately and with confidence.
- They are becoming increasingly more confident preparing and leading worship from their earliest years.

The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education

- The quality of teaching and purposeful learning in Religious Education is outstanding.
- It is consistently effective in ensuring that pupils are interested and engaged and make very good progress.
- Teachers display excellent subject knowledge and deploy a range of teaching styles to motivate and inspire pupils.
- Teaching encourages pupils' enjoyment of and enthusiasm for Religious Education.
- Teachers take into account pupils' prior learning and ensure differentiated tasks when planning so that the work consolidates, builds on and extends their knowledge and understanding.
- Teachers provide opportunities for pupils to work independently and collaboratively. Outstanding use is made of time and resources including other adults, Information and Communication Technology, baptismal artefacts brought in from home and music and meaningful songs, which were sung enthusiastically. All these help to maximise their learning.
- Pupils are informed of their progress and how to improve both orally and through marking. They are given opportunities to discuss their work and how to improve. Effort and achievement are celebrated.
- The assessment of pupils work in Religious Education is accurate.
- The school has very rigorous assessment strategies which provide accurate and detailed information on the achievement of all the pupils.
- Teachers are able to identify how well pupils are achieving. They tackle under achievement and make every effort to challenge more able pupils.
- Teachers use a range of strategies to enable pupils to evaluate their own work.

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

- The extent to which the Religious Education Curriculum promotes pupils' learning is outstanding.
- The curriculum is outstanding in meeting pupils' needs.
- The school using the *Come and See* programme recommended by the Archdiocese meets the requirements of the Curriculum Directory for Religious Education. Appropriate levels of the programme are being followed in different classes. This

ensures complete Religious Education entitlement for each child and meets National and Archdiocesan requirements.

- Of the total curriculum time 10% is allocated to Religious Education. This fulfils the requirements of the Bishops of England and Wales.
- Planning ensures full coverage of the Religious Education programme. Imaginative and well planned strategies are deployed to enrich pupils' learning.
- The school implements new curriculum developments as appropriate.
- Enrichment activities such as circle time and the gardening club have a positive impact on the curriculum and the outdoor prayer area is used to good effect.
- The Religious Education curriculum provides outstanding opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral development and vocation.
- The curriculum is customised to meet the needs of groups and individuals.
- Children have explored the beliefs and values of other faiths and religions. This helps to promote tolerance and respect for those who think differently.

The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.

- The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school is outstanding. It reflects the Catholic character of the school and takes into account the variety of faith backgrounds among the pupils.
- Collective Worship has a high profile and is central to the life of the school.
- Collective Worship plays a key part in meeting the spiritual needs of the pupils. Opportunities are provided to enable full, active and conscious participation of the whole school community.
- Children are enabled to pray formally and informally using a variety of prayer methods and styles.
- The school has provided opportunities for staff to develop the skills in planning, leading and evaluating Collective Worship.
- The teachers are providing the necessary resources and opportunities to help children to develop the skills necessary to plan, lead and participate in Collective Worship and to evaluate it effectively.
- Opportunities are provided for parents, carers the local and wider faith communities to participate in a variety of celebrations of the *Come and See* programme and the Church's liturgical year.

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.

- Leaders, governors and managers are outstanding in promoting monitoring and evaluating the provision for the Catholic life of the school and in the way they plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.
- This is reflected in the school's own Mission Statement. All who form part of the school community including parents, clergy, governors and children were involved in the development and review of the Mission Statement. Its aims and practical objectives direct and guide every aspect of school life and are a useful tool by which the school can evaluate its effectiveness.
- Leaders, governors and managers are outstanding in the way they use monitoring data to evaluate the schools performance, celebrate, and plan future improvements.
- Good opportunities are provided for the staff and pupils to play an active part in Catholic life and Mission of the school. All know, own and live out their Mission Statement even in foundation stage and Key Stage 1.

- The Self Evaluation Document provides evidence of the schools monitoring, searching analysis and self challenge.
- Their analysis provides a basis to celebrate the school's strengths and outlining areas for development. The Self Evaluation Document is comprehensive and accurate and obviously impacts on the life of the school.
- The school provides excellent induction and in-service training to enable staff to further understand the Church's Mission in Education and play their unique part in it. All are given the opportunity to make use of the Come and See for Yourself section of the programme. All staff are encouraged to attend topic days and there is effective support for teachers completing the CCRS qualification. The senior management team regularly attend the Archdiocesan Spirituality Conferences.
- The quality of Collective Worship is a priority for the school. It is effectively monitored and evaluated by leaders, governors and managers. An up to date policy is in place.
- Leadership at all levels respects difference, values diversity and ensures equal opportunities for all.
- Prayer, worship and the liturgical life of the school reflects and respects the religious diversity within the school.
- There are very positive relationships at every level within the school.
- Parents are consulted regularly and involved in a variety of ways in the life of the school. They receive regular newsletters informing them about the various topics being covered in school and the ways they can help with their children's religious education. More information is also available on the web site. They are invited to assemblies and Masses which celebrate the *Come and See* programme and the church's liturgical year.
- Governors are outstanding in fulfilling their responsibilities. They have effectively helped to shape the direction of the school through the sharing of their expertise and their support and challenge.

How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Religious Education of the school and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.

- Leaders, governors and managers are outstanding in promoting monitoring and evaluating the provision for the Religious Education of the school and in the way they plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.
- Monitoring data is used effectively to evaluate the schools performance and plan for future improvements.
- There is a robust programme for the monitoring and evaluation cycle.
- Teaching and learning is monitored regularly and appropriate feedback and support given as necessary. Good practice is shared and celebrated.
- Continuing professional development opportunities are provided for all.
- Assessment information is collated and tracked by the subject leader and shared with the leadership team, governors and parents.
- Formal assessment tasks are undertaken in line with Archdiocesan guidance.
- The subject leader is outstanding in guiding Religious Education. She shows enthusiasm and commitment and introduces new initiatives when appropriate. Excellent documentation guides and directs all staff in the delivery of the subject. This is updated as necessary.
- Curriculum outlines are provided for parents on the school website and they are consulted on different issues depending on the topic being covered.

What the school needs to do to improve further?

- Further enhance provision of collective worship:
 - by developing opportunities for children to plan and lead.
- Further enhance provision of curriculum Religious Education by:
 - making more use of learning objectives and driver words in planning and lessons.
- Further enhance provision of curriculum Religious Education by:
 - extending the improved marking system so that all pupils will be made aware of what they need to do to improve further.

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education	1
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OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS

How good outcomes are for individuals and groups of pupils	
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	1
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship	1

PROVISION

How effective the provision is for Catholic Education	
The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education	1
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum promotes pupils' learning	1
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school	1

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

How effective leaders, governors and managers are in developing the Catholic Life of the School	
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
How well leaders, governors and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils	1

<i>Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, Grade 2 good, Grade 3 requires improvement and Grade 4 inadequate</i>
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