

DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

SECTION 48 FINAL REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Guard House Road, Keighley BD22 6JP

School URN	107347
School DfE Number	3803372
E-mail address	ourladyrc@btconnect.com
Chair of Governors	Nick Watson
Headteacher	John Devlin
RE Subject Leader	Ruth O'Dwyer
Date of Inspection	24 th and 25 th May 2011
Section 48 Inspector	David Gott

INTRODUCTION

The inspection of Our Lady of Victories Catholic Primary School Keighley was carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, and in accordance with the Leeds Diocesan framework and Schedule for Section 48 Inspections approved by the Bishop of Leeds. The inspection reviews and evaluates how effective the school is in providing Catholic Education. This process begins with the school's own self-evaluation. The inspection schedule follows criteria set by the National Board of Advisers and Inspectors.

The inspection covered observations of six Religious Education (RE) lessons and four acts of Collective Worship (CW) across all key stages plus one whole school CW. Meetings were held with the headteacher, governor with responsibility for RE, RE co-ordinator and the Parish Priest. RE discussions were also held with a representative group of parents and pupils belonging to the school's RE Council. A wide range of RE policy documentation was scrutinised, including RE planning, monitoring assessment, pupil tracking and reporting systems; the RE School Improvement Plan and RE co-ordinator's file. Parent and pupil RE survey results were also analysed. An RE portfolio of assessed pupils' work and samples of KS1 and KS2 pupils' RE exercise books and folders of photographic evidence of school RE events including out of school visits were scrutinised. Data relating to the school's RE budget and RE resource audit were also evidenced. Minutes of the RE sub committee and reports to the governors on RE standards were also evidenced.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Our Lady of Victories school Keighley is a larger than average, one form entry voluntary aided Catholic primary school of the Diocese of Leeds. The school serves the parish of Our Lady of Victories. The parish church stands immediately adjacent to the school. The school has an admission number of 30 and is currently over subscribed. 261 full time equivalent (fte) pupils age 3-11 are currently on roll (an increase since the last inspection in 2008). The Catholic population of the school is now 20% and rising (16 %in 2008) with 34% other Christian denominations (33% in 2008) and 45% of other faith backgrounds, most notably Muslim (30% in 2008). The area the school serves is one of above average social and economic disadvantage. An above average number of pupils have a first language other than English. The school celebrates its rich cultural diversity.

The number of pupils with special needs and/or disabilities (23%) is broadly in line with the national average. Pupil attendance is around national average. The school is a lead school for pupil attendance in the Keighley area. There have been no permanent pupil exclusions over the past 4 years. Pupils are arranged into 8 classes, taught by 11 (fte) teachers. 5 of the 10 Catholic teachers hold the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies (CCRS) and 8 (fte) teachers teach RE. The current headteacher has been in post for 5 years. The school has achieved a number of awards including 'School of Creativity', 'Leading Parent Partnership Award', 'Green Play Eco School', 'Investor in Pupils' and 'International School Award'.

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Inspection Grades: 1 is Outstanding, 2 is Good, 3 is Satisfactory, 4 is Inadequate

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

2

This is a summative judgement based on the 2 judgements below: Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils, provision for Catholic education (includes effectiveness of leaders and managers) and capacity for sustained improvement.

OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS, PROVISION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

2

CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENT

2

Main findings

Our Lady of Victories Catholic Primary School Keighley is providing a good religious education with some outstanding aspects – especially the Leadership and Management of the Catholic life of the school. This is a school which knows itself very well. It has accurately identified its strengths and areas for further development in RE through its extensive RE school self evaluation systems which include the maintenance of a comprehensive RE Self Evaluation Form. The RE School Improvement Plan (SIP) correctly identifies, and appropriately prioritises future school actions, to further raise standards of pupil achievement in RE.

Our Lady of Victories is an uplifting school where ‘Christ is at the Centre’. Staff morale is high and the school Mission Statement: ‘Achieving Together in God’s Love’ is lived out on a day to day basis both in the classrooms and in the overall way the school is organised and run. The school is proud to proclaim and celebrate its Catholic heritage, whilst at the same time it warmly welcomes; respects and celebrates the rich cultural diversity and other faith traditions and practices of the pupils and families which the school serves. There is a strong family feeling of ‘belonging’ at Our Lady of Victories School. Pupils are justifiably proud of their school, enjoy being there, and make good progress. Pupils behave in an exemplary manner.

The school’s Creative Curriculum actively promotes innovative teaching and learning. Theme led, skills based termly ‘Wonder Weeks’, based upon ‘a big question’, are a prominent and very popular feature of the school’s curriculum. Parents are pleased with the education which their children are receiving. The Parish Priest and the governor with responsibility for monitoring RE are popular, well respected and frequent visitors to the school. Very good home, school, parish and wider community communications are promoted through regular school newsletters, weekly school radio programmes (including podcasts), produced and broadcast by pupils from the school’s own radio studio, and a vibrant interactive school web site. Parents and parishioners are welcome to attend seasonal liturgical celebrations and class assemblies. The foundation governors are proactive in fulfilling all their statutory duties - especially in seeking to ensure that sufficient, appropriately qualified Catholic teachers are appointed to this voluntary aided school and that an appropriate RE budget is allocated to best meet the RE needs of the school.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

- Continue to lead, encourage and support all staff (teaching and support) and pupils in embedding the recently introduced RE Scheme 'The Way, The Truth, and The Life' (TWTL) into day to day classroom life and further develop measures to record its impact on standards in RE and the Catholic life of the school.
- Continue to drive up standards of pupil attainment in RE through ongoing, child friendly target setting, monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning and collective worship in RE across all key stages.
- Continue to provide all staff and governors with opportunities to identify and access support for their own Continuous Professional Development (CPD) needs in RE.
- Continue to support Faith Based Cluster/Diocese of Leeds Co-ordinator RE meetings to further develop assessment and moderation strategies which meet the changing needs of the pupils.
- Continue to provide RE enrichment opportunities for the spiritual development and prayer life of the pupils, staff, parents and governors of the school.
- Continue to further improve and extend the existing productive links with home school, parish and the wider school and global community to enhance the aspirations and life chances of the pupils.

PUPILS

How good outcomes are for pupils, taking particular account of variations between different groups.

2

The majority of pupils at Our Lady of Victories enter the school with a low RE baseline. Whilst RE attainment is still variable; by the end of Key Stage 2, pupil tracking data suggests that the current upward trend is set to continue. Standards in RE have clearly risen since the last inspection (2008). Most pupils now make at least good progress and some make outstanding progress with nothing that is inadequate. A pupil RE Council has been introduced and is proactive in making its voice heard, meeting with the headteacher and/or RE co-ordinator at least once a month to review and forward plan ways of further enhancing RE learning experiences in the school. The RE council are also proactive in initiating various charitable fundraising efforts. Pupils fundraise in Lent and Advent for CAFOD and Catholic Care and for numerous other charities at other times of the year, e.g. Yorkshire Air Ambulance, British Legion and a local hospice.

Pupils clearly enjoy the well planned, differentiated RE lessons and CW. Good use is made of information communication technology (ICT) to support CW in particular the interactive whiteboards (IWB) and appropriate music. Pupils are encouraged to become independent learners in RE. Pupils respond well in CW and actively wish to participate. At the time of the inspection, the pupils responded enthusiastically to taking part in a joint school/parish May Procession led by the Parish Priest. Pupils sing joyfully, reflect in silence and join in community prayers with confidence.

Recently a number of pupils took part in the choir during the papal visit to Crofton Park. Similarly, pupils have also taken part in TV broadcasts of 'Songs of Praise' and have led the annual 'Good Shepherd' presentation at Leeds Cathedral. Whilst taking part in a

school residential visit to Paris, Year 6 pupils have sung at mass at Notre Dame des Victories. Pupils also created a school anthem to celebrate the school's golden jubilee in 2010. Similarly, pupils designed a school flag which is flown on the school flag pole outside the school on appropriate occasions. The school prayer is written by pupils and is changed every 2 years.

The quality and progress of learning for those pupils with particular learning needs and/or disabilities is good. This is because the school plans well for such pupils and has a high number of experienced, effective and dedicated support staff who help to raise pupil attainment. Vulnerable pupils also make good progress as a result of the good care, guidance and support systems in place at the school.

These are the grades for pupils' outcomes

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.	2
Taking into account:	
• the quality of pupils' learning and their progress	2
• the quality of learning for pupils with particular learning needs and/or disabilities and their progress	2
• pupils' attainment in Religious Education	2
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school.	1
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship.	2

PROVISION

How effective the provision is for Catholic education.

2

The provision for Catholic Education at Our Lady of Victories School is good. The governors have appointed highly motivated, well qualified teaching staff with a secure RE subject knowledge. The school takes every opportunity to further enhance this by ensuring that at least one member of staff attends a Hinsley Hall in-service training course each term. Through partnership working with other Keighley Catholic schools, staff also received RE inset from Sister Marcellina, the author of the newly introduced diocesan approved RE scheme 'The Way, The Truth, and The Light'. Teachers of RE have high expectations of pupils' capabilities and ensure that effective support is provided for those pupils with particular learning needs and/or disabilities. RE teaching is consistently effective in ensuring that pupils are well motivated and purposefully engaged both in their own individual learning and that of the wider class/group. Pupil behaviour is exemplary.

The range of teaching styles employed and the variety of planned RE activities (including good use of ICT) promotes pupil enjoyment of and commitment to RE. Teachers and support staff ensure that pupils know how well they are doing in RE and are provided with clear detailed steps for further improvement.

Moderated assessments of pupil work in RE, linked to the recently introduced RE scheme (TWTL), is still in its early stages but is currently following the Diocese of Leeds guidelines linked to support materials derived from regular RE co-ordinator cluster meetings. This aspect has correctly been identified in the RE School Improvement plan as an area for further development by the school.

Our Lady of Victories meets the RE curriculum needs of its pupils to a good standard. RE is given a high priority within the school. RE is treated as a core subject. The sum of £2150 has been allocated to the provision of RE resources for the financial year 2010/2011. This is slightly higher than other core areas and includes support for the new RE scheme and staff training. The RE curriculum is enriched through imaginative and well planned strategies to capitalise on the expertise within and beyond the school. Good opportunities are provided for spiritual and moral development both within the school and on extended out of school visits. The RE curriculum has been skilfully customised to meet the diverse learning needs of particular groups and of individual pupils. Focused attention is given to raising pupils' awareness and respect for people of other faiths. Extra curricular activities are varied, have a high take up and are much enjoyed. These include seasonal RE clubs (e.g. 'Rosary Club').

The quality of Collective Worship across all key stages is good with outstanding aspects. Acts of CW are central to the life of the school, are given a high profile in the RE curriculum, and are well resourced. There is a good range of formal and informal opportunities for individual, private and class group prayer which may include the singing of appropriate hymns. Attendance by parents, parishioners and others associated with the school at whole school celebrations is encouraged and numbers attending are rising. Themes of CW are consistent with the Catholic character of the school and also responsive to the diverse religious needs of the pupils and the wider school community. No one is forced to act in a manner contrary to their beliefs.

These are the grades for the quality of provision

The quality of teaching in Religious Education.	2
The use of assessment to support learning in Religious Education.	2
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum meets pupils' needs.	2
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.	2

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the School.

1

Leadership and management of the development of the Catholic Life of Our Lady of Victories School are outstanding. The governors and the leadership team are deeply committed to the Church's mission in education. They are energised by the task and are a source of inspiration for the whole community. Since the last RE inspection, the school has insured that all key areas identified for improvement have been conscientiously addressed.

'Achieving Together in God's Love' is the strap line of the school mission statement and is prominently displayed throughout the school, on the school website and on official documentation. The full school mission statement clearly evidences all that the school stands for: *"In our school we are striving to create and develop a community based on the values and teachings of the Gospel in which there is mutual respect, love and understanding. We seek through Catholic Education to enable every individual to develop their unique potential within a wide and changing society."*

The school's self evaluation systems very effectively promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school. The views of all stakeholders, (parents, pupils, staff, governors, parishioners and the wider community) are taken fully into account in the construction of a clearly prioritised RE School Improvement Plan designed to raise pupil standards in RE. The headteacher, RE co-ordinator, governor with specific responsibility for RE and the Parish Priest, deserve praise for their drive and enthusiasm in promoting the Catholic life of the school whilst at the same time, respecting and celebrating the diversity of the cultural heritage, traditions and religious backgrounds of the pupils and community which the school serves.

The governing body effectively ensure that the school fulfils its statutory and canonical responsibilities and make a highly significant contribution to the work and Catholic dimension of the school. The governing body has adopted appropriate recruitment and selection priorities which ensure that a Catholic ethos is maintained under the provision of the school's original Trust Deed. Members of the governing body attend diocesan training courses, such as the governors' workshop, 'Christ at the Centre' led by Fr Marcus Stock. Governors recognise the importance of spiritual reflection and encouraged the headteacher to participate in a diocesan retreat for primary headteachers in Rome. The governors also promote a spiritual retreat for staff at Hollins Hall.

Our Lady of Victories is a very 'outward looking' school which strives to enrich its pupils learning experiences by very effectively networking with the wider local, regional, national, and international communities. The school is actively committed to implementing a wide variety of partnership activities which significantly benefit the pupils in a number of areas which the school alone could not provide. A large digital display screen in the school reception area; this continually scrolls through showcasing school events and pupil achievements.

Our Lady of Victories is a school where everyone is valued as a unique child of God and where the inclusion of all is a central goal and a shared vision of the whole school. Leaders and managers work with others beyond the school to ensure that pupils' friendship bonds cross cultural/faith/social/economic boundaries. Acts of Collective Worship leave room for the other person's spiritual identity, their modes of expression and their values. The governing body has successfully recruited a member of the Muslim faith to serve as a governor. The school actively involves parents from all backgrounds in the school's decision making process, especially those who feel insecure in an academic environment.

The school actively promotes pupils' initiative in learning about and supporting charities at local, national and global levels - particularly those charities which promote greater international understanding, social justice, peace, love for the poor, community projects for the needy and respect for the integrity of creation through care and improvement of the environment. The school is an active member of 'Christian Links in Keighley Schools' and takes part in themed Christian celebrations twice a year. The school promotes partnership working with Holy Family Catholic High School Keighley.

These are the grades for leadership and management

How well leaders 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 and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education	1

and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.	
The extent to which the governing body provides effective challenge and support for the Catholic dimension of the school so areas needing development are tackled decisively and statutory and canonical responsibilities met.	1
How well leaders and managers develop partnerships with other providers, organisations and services in order to promote Catholic learning and pupil well-being.	1
How effectively leaders and managers promote Community Cohesion.	1