

# DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

## SECTION 48 FINAL REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL  
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Halton Moor Avenue, Leeds SL90HA

School URN	108024
School DfE Number	383/3370
E-mail address	walsh01@leedslearning.net
Chair of Governors	Mr. Gary Kerrigan
Headteacher	Mrs. Wendy Walsh
RE Subject Leader	Mrs. Wendy Walsh and Miss Maura Guy
Date of Inspection	5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2013
Section 48 Inspector	Mr. David Gott

# INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Inspection Grades: 1 is Outstanding, 2 is Good, 3 requires improvement in order to be good, 4 is Inadequate

**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS:** how effective the school is in providing Catholic Education.

2

The above judgement on overall effectiveness is based on all the available evidence following the evaluation of:

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

**OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS**

2

**THE PROVISION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

2

**LEADERS AND MANAGERS**

2

**Summary of key findings:**

## **This is a good school**

- Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School is a school where Christ truly is at the centre of all that it seeks to achieve. The school's Mission Statement: '*Excellence and Enjoyment with Christ at the Centre*' is 'lived out' in the day to day life of pupils and staff of the school.
- Good leadership and management have ensured that grade boundaries have been crossed in 6 important aspects of Catholic Education since the last Section 48 Inspection (May 2011).
- Pupils achieve well and enjoy their learning in RE. From a below average RE baseline, the standards, the majority of pupils achieve by the end of Year 6 are in line with national expectation or above.
- Most pupils make at least good progress in RE and some make outstanding progress, with nothing that is inadequate.
- Pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship (CW) to a good standard. They act with reverence and willingly contribute with confidence and enthusiasm.
- Teaching of RE is mainly good, some is outstanding but none is inadequate. Teachers' strong subject knowledge inspires and challenges most pupils to do their best and significantly contributes to their overall good progress.
- Support staff significantly contribute to pupil progress through well planned strategies.
- The school's RE Curriculum promotes pupils' good learning because it is given 'core' status and it is enriched through imaginative and well planned strategies.
- The overall quality of CW provided by the school is good with some outstanding aspects. No inadequate CW was evidenced. Acts of worship are given high profile, are well resourced, reflect the Catholic character of the school and are greatly appreciated by parents and the wider parish community who attend on a regular basis.

- All canonical and statutory responsibilities are fulfilled.

## **What the school needs to do to improve further.**

- In order to become an outstanding school, pupils need to be empowered with more opportunities, relative to their age and abilities, to plan, deliver and self assess aspects of CW particularly outside the classroom setting, enabling them to claim even more ownership of their own spiritual development. Inspection evidence shows that the school has already begun to move in this direction of travel.
- Accelerate pupil progress in RE by introducing the subject into the regular pupil progress meetings which currently only centre on other core curriculum areas.
- Continue to further embed, refine and monitor current RE/Catholic Life assessment procedures to include more opportunities for pupil self reflection.
- Continue to find innovative ways (including the use of ICT and the school website) to further promote and strengthen home / school / parish links.
- If possible provide an off site RE/Catholic Life retreat experience for upper KS2 pupils to deepen their knowledge and practice of the Catholic Faith.
- Continue to provide appropriate Continuous Professional Development (CPD)/RE Catholic Life enrichment in Catholic Education opportunities to enable all staff to deepen their knowledge of, and commitment to, the Church's mission in education.

## **Information about this inspection**

The Inspection of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School 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 Diocesan Administrator 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 and the inspection schedule follows the criteria set by the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (NBRIA 2012).

The inspector reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- The extent to which the key issues for action identified in the previous section 48 RE Inspection have been addressed.
- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in RE.
- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's CW.
- The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in RE.
- The extent to which the RE Curriculum promotes pupils' learning.
- The quality of CW.
- The accuracy of the school's self evaluation system.
- The school's partnership activities – including home / school / parish links.

The inspection was carried out by 1 inspector over a 1 ½ day period. A sample of 4 RE lessons and 8 acts of Collective Worship, covering all 3 key stages, were observed in full. This included a CW for staff, a whole school CW led by reception pupils, a voluntary 'drop in' lunchtime CW and a visit to the adjoining convent chapel for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with a KS2 class. Meetings were held with the headteacher, the 2 joint RE subject leaders (of which the headteacher is one), staff (teaching and support), governors, parents, pupils and The Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal. A meeting of the school

council was also sampled. A very comprehensive range of RE/Catholic Life of the School monitoring and assessment documentation was scrutinised including , digital media, computerised pupil progress and attainment tracking data, moderated pupil RE work portfolios and pupil RE workbooks. Governors approved an RE Budget of £3000 (2012 – 2013) which is broadly in line with other core curriculum areas.

## Information about this school

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School Leeds, is an oversubscribed larger than average Voluntary Aided school of the Diocese of Leeds situated within Leeds Local Authority. The school principally serves the needs of the families of the recently reconfigured parish of Blessed John Henry Newman, which incorporates 3 Mass centres, including that of Corpus Christi, Halton.

- The published admission number is 45 pupils. Currently 361 pupils, aged 4-11 years, are on roll, taught in 12 classes – some of which are of mixed aged groupings.
- The percentage of baptised Catholic pupils on roll is 63%. Pupils of other Christian denominations largely make up the remainder. Around 1% of pupils are from other faith backgrounds.
- Of the total full and part time teaching staff of 18.4 full time equivalent (FTE), 11.4 FTE are Catholic teachers. Fourteen teachers teach RE. Six teachers hold the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies (CCRS) or equivalent. One teacher is currently studying for CCRS.
- The school serves areas of above national average deprivation.
- A higher than average proportion of pupils are known to be eligible for free school meals.
- The proportion of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) supported under ‘school action’ and ‘school action plus’ is higher than the national average.
- A small number of pupils are in the care of the local authority.
- Foundation Key Stage (FKS) RE baseline assessments indicate that the overwhelming majority of children enter Reception class with well below age expected levels of basic recognition and understanding of fundamental aspects of the Catholic faith.
- The current headteacher was appointed to the school in September 2008. She also currently shares responsibility for RE with another joint RE subject leader who has held responsibility for this position since September 2010.
- At the time of this inspection the school building (dating back to 1936) was undergoing a phased programme of upgrading and remodelling to make it more fit for purpose as a 21<sup>st</sup> century school.
- The school actively works with the Temple Newsam Halton learning partnership and Corpus Christi Catholic College –to which the majority of Year 6 pupils transfer for their secondary education.

## Full report - inspection judgements

### Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils are good

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

- Pupils actively subscribe to the gospel values of the Catholic ethos of the school. They are proud to be part of the wider parish family. They enjoy participation in Masses and seasonal liturgical celebrations. They warmly welcome the Parish Priest when he visits them in school.
- Pupils, staff and parents say how much they enjoy and value the support of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, whose convent is based in the previous presbytery adjoining the school.
- Pupils and staff say how much they enjoy attending Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which the Sisters arrange in the convent chapel on a regular basis. The sisters also assist the parish catechists (2 school governors) in the preparation of the children of the parish for First Sacraments.
- Pupils are quick to respond to help people beyond the school at the local, national and international level. After the parish Harvest Service, pupils help to make up food parcels for distribution to St. Anne's shelter for the Homeless and those in need known to the Franciscan Sisters and the St. Vincent de Paul society. Pupils support the annual 'Good Shepherd' appeal in aid of Catholic Care. Pupils are also proactive in their support of CAFOD, the annual shoebox appeal and the Sylvia Wright Trust.
- Following the floods in Pakistan, pupils gathered and sent resources to help families in need. The school choir also performed at Leeds Bus Station at Christmas to raise money for St. Gemma's Hospice.
- The school has achieved the '*Stephen Lawrence Award*' for its work in support of community cohesion and racial harmony and continues to promote the benefits of living in a more diverse society.
- Given their below average starting point, pupils achieve good standards of attainment in RE. Most groups of pupils make at least good progress and some may make outstanding progress, with nothing that is inadequate. On entry into reception the majority of children have only a very limited knowledge to contribute towards the diocesan RE baseline assessment. By the end of the Foundation Key Stage, the majority of children can already respond to questions in a far more positive manner, with most being able to join in saying simple prayers and singing simple hymns. The children also know that the Bible is a holy book containing stories about Jesus. On leaving Key Stage 1 (KS1), 82% of pupils are working at or above expected levels (L2+). By the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) 87% of pupils are working at or above expected levels (L4+), (35% of pupils achieve level 5).
- Pupils enjoy their learning in RE. When asked, one Y2 pupil responded, "RE is my best thing. It's genius!"
- Most pupils are very keen to do well, generally apply themselves diligently in lessons and work at a good pace. Pupils seek to produce their best work – as can be evidenced in their RE workbooks by the pleasing volume of work produced and the instances of good standards of handwriting and presentational skills. Pupils are interested in and enthusiastic about their learning in RE. They recognise that religious

belief and spiritual values are important for many people, including those of other faiths.

- Pupil behaviour in RE, and in general areas of the school is very good. Pupils show high levels of respect and consideration for each other and for all the adults in the school. Most pupils concentrate well in RE lessons and are rarely off task even in extended group situations without direct supervision from an adult.
- Parents and pupils say that if they ever experience any problems at school, the staff are very approachable and quick to resolve the issue. Pupils say that they feel safe and secure at the school.
- In the school's CW, pupils act with reverence and willingly join in school prayers and in singing hymns. The impact of the part time peripatetic choral singing teacher from Leeds Cathedral and input of the schools own music teacher is having a noticeably positive effect on the enjoyment quality and diction of the singing in CW. Following successful auditions, a number of pupils have been accepted in to Leeds Cathedral Choir School.
- Pupils have a good understanding, appropriate to their age and capabilities, of the Church's main seasonal liturgical celebrations. They are becoming increasingly skilled in the use of scripture and religious symbols to support their prayer in CW. They are gaining in religious literacy and talk enthusiastically about their learning in RE. They are at ease when praying with their school community and appreciate what is taking place in CW.
- All classrooms visited had high quality RE focal areas containing well resourced RE artefacts and an attractive range of pupils RE work, linked to the appropriate RE topic.
- Pupils are now ready to take on even greater responsibilities for planning, preparing, delivering and self evaluation of the RE Curriculum (including ICT) and Collective Worship, both inside and outside the classroom context.

## The provision for Catholic Education is good.

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

- Teaching in RE is mainly good, some is outstanding but none is inadequate. As a result of good RE assessment procedures, teachers and other adults plan well to meet the needs of all pupils. Teachers generally have strong subject knowledge which inspires and challenges most pupils and contributes to their good progress. Consequently in most RE lessons pupils are keen to learn, concentrate well, enjoy their work and achieve highly. Support provided by other adults is effectively deployed and has a very positive impact on pupil progress and attainment.
- Teachers provide pupils with detailed feedback both orally and through marking. When asked pupils knew what their RE targets were and what they needed to do to improve their work in RE. Success criteria were prominently displayed around the classrooms as prompts to further pupil improvement. Achievement and effort in RE are appropriately showcased in reward assemblies.
- The school has adopted the diocesan recommended RE scheme 'The Way, the Truth & the Life', which it successfully supplements with 'Statements to Live By' and other seasonal enrichment activities. The school's RE budget has provided additional classroom RE resources.
- The school is currently celebrating 'The Year of Faith' (instigated by Pope Benedict XVI). The main school hall features a large colourful RE focal point display which

celebrates various aspects of the Catholic Faith. In addition, each classroom door has become 'A Door of Faith' inviting pupils to explore RE concepts in more detail through their artwork and prayers. Inspirational quotes from significant figures are also displayed to prompt further thought and discussion.

- The RE curriculum provides good opportunities for spiritual, moral development and vocational understanding. The close proximity of the Franciscan sisters offers pupils unique insights into the religious life. An aspiring priest was seconded to work in the parish prior to taking his final orders. Through his visits into school, pupils received a deeper understanding of the personal decisions and life - long commitments the spiritual journey into the priesthood entails.
- Opportunities are provided for pupils to attend voluntary 'drop in' lunchtime Collective Worship at certain times during the week. At the time the inspector attended, it was well attended. A member of staff volunteers to oversee this provision. Similarly, during May and October, a decade of the rosary is said at lunchtimes.
- The RE curriculum also promotes stronger home, school, parish links – particularly in the preparation of children of the wider parish for First Sacraments. Similarly the circulation of 'The Wednesday Word', the Parish Magazine, and school RE Newsletters, suggest ways in which parents can further help their children's RE at home. Parents say how much they appreciate receiving this information.
- During the seasons of Advent and Lent religious calendars are sent home which suggest further ways in which families can spiritually prepare for Christmas/Easter. Parents say how much they appreciate the provision of 'travelling cribs'. They particularly enjoyed the 'live crib' with real donkeys in the parish nativity celebrations.

## The Leadership and Management are Good

<b>How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.</b>	<b>2</b>
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- Leaders, governors and managers demonstrate a firm commitment to the Church's mission in educating with spiritual and moral development a key priority. Both the school's 'Raising Achievement Plan' and the "Performance Management' system reflect these priorities.
- The governing body in partnership with the diocese have been proactive in achieving significant improvement to the school building and general learning environment. This is already promoting pupil progress.
- Leaders lead by example, systemically monitoring and evaluating the school's effectiveness in providing Catholic Education. This inspection finds the school's own monitoring and evaluation systems to be accurate and very honest.
- This inspection finds that the governing body are very adept at being a 'critical friend' to the school's Senior Management Team (SMT) in discerning ways of realising their long term visions for the school.
- The school has already identified as an Action Point, the need to introduce RE discussions into the regular Pupil Progress Review Meetings to further personalise the RE Curriculum and identify appropriate intervention strategies to better meet the needs of all pupils.
- The school works very co operatively with a number of partnerships including the nearby Corpus Christi Catholic College to which most pupils transfer for their secondary education. Opportunities for distributive leadership are explored within the

Catholic Cluster of Schools enabling experienced teachers to share their expertise across the pyramid.

- Acts of Collective Worship put 'Christ at the Centre' of the daily life of the school. Staff and pupils pray together regularly and in a range of different settings- classroom, key stage, whole school and church. Parents are welcome to attend and say how much they enjoy doing so. Together with the joint RE Subject Leader, staff review and plan improvements to the school's provision of Collective Worship. They ensure that pupils have good experiences of the Church's liturgical life. Pupils' comments confirm this view.
- Scrutiny of the school's CPD records indicate that staff are supported on a range of RE/Catholic life training and development opportunities, for example those provided through Hinsley Hall and Ampleforth Abbey.
- Parents who met with the inspector voiced their view that school standards had markedly improved under the current Leadership and Management. It was recognised that a significant amount of work had been put in by the governors and headteacher to bring about the many improvements to the school building which pupils are now enjoying. One parent, who now also has children at university, said that Corpus Christi Primary School provided all her children with a good 'moral compass' which has helped them to cope well with life after school.
- Parents were appreciative of the opportunity they were given, to discuss and see the materials used in the school's EPR Programme.
- Leadership of Catholic Education at Corpus Christi Primary is very well served by dedicated governors, headteacher, the joint RE Subject Leader, and staff (teaching and support) who are all firmly focused on becoming an outstanding school through excellence and enjoyment. Corpus Christi Primary is a school where every child really does matter!