

DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

SECTION 48
FINAL REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

HOLY FAMILY AND ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
COBBLER'S LANE, PONTEFRACT, WF8 2HN

School URN	108035
Date of Inspection	23 rd and 24 th June 2016
OE grade	Outstanding
E-mail address	headteacher@hsm.bkcat.co.uk
Chair of Governors	Kathy Levey
Headteacher	Claire Cade
RE Subject Leader	Michaela Tomlin
Date	June 2011
Grade of last S48 inspection	Outstanding
Section 48 Inspector	Mrs Janet Hutton

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.

1

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

1

THE PROVISION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

1

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

1

Summary of key findings:

This is an outstanding school

- Outcomes for pupils, Provision for Catholic Education and Leadership and Management are outstanding at Holy Family and St. Michael's Catholic Primary School, Pontefract.
- Inspirational leadership and management including governance, are deeply committed to, and highly proactive in, implementing the Church's mission in education. All associated with the school are encouraged and supported to follow the mission of the school, which is, to create and develop a community firmly rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- The Head teacher and Deputy Headteacher, who is also the RE Co-ordinator, are extremely effective. They are both relatively new to their role but by working closely together with the Diocese and the Wakefield Partnership have managed to bring about rapid improvement to the school's overall effectiveness in providing Catholic Education at Holy Family and St. Michael's School.
- The Parish Priest is a member of the governing body and gives outstanding support to the dedicated and highly skilled Senior Leadership Team (SLT), teachers and teaching assistants.
- High quality Collective Worship (CW) is central to the life of the school and is a key part of every school celebration. It is a major strength of the school and all pupils play an active role in the preparation, delivery and development of CW.
- Pupils are extremely polite and helpful to visitors and this goes hand in hand with their excellent behaviour. They willingly accept responsibility for caring for each

other particularly for those pupils who join the school with very little or in some cases no knowledge of the English language.

- Teaching is consistently good, a large majority of the lessons are outstanding and none are inadequate. Pupils are very enthusiastic and willing to contribute to discussions and debate within the RE lessons. They remain on task, are confident about their learning and know what they need to do to improve further.
- Pupil attainment is above the Diocesan and Local averages and current data is showing an upward trend of accelerated progress at the end of all three key stages.
- The variety, range and exceptionally high standard of RE work on display around the school reflects a strong sense of belonging and commitment to the school, home, parish and wider community.
- The school promotes collaborative working with St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Pontefract, the Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust (BKCAT) and the schools that are members of the Pontefract Education
- All areas from the last Section 48 inspection have been addressed (June 2011).

What the school needs to do to improve further.

- Continue to work within the existing strong school partnership links to devise assessment tasks tailored to meet expected standards of attainment in RE.
- To further drive up standards of teaching and learning by sharing the existing outstanding practice across the school.
- Incorporate into the termly pupil progress meetings a review of individual targets to ensure that all pupils are given the opportunity to make more than expected progress, particularly those who join the school mid-year.

Information about this inspection

The Inspection of Holy Family and St. Michael's 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 S48 RE Inspection have been addressed.
- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.
- The quality of teaching and the responses the children make in RE lessons.
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in RE and participate in the liturgical life of the school.

- How good outcomes are for individuals and groups of pupils in RE, particularly those pupils who require extended challenges in order to ensure maximum progress.
- The quality of CW provided by the school and how well pupils respond to and participate.
- The effectiveness of leaders, governors and managers in promoting, monitoring, evaluating and developing Catholic Education at Holy Family.

The inspection was carried out by one inspector over one and a half days.

- A total of six joint lesson observations took place with the RE Co-ordinator and head teacher.
- An act of CW in classes in all three key stages and a whole school celebration assembly.
- Meetings were held with the head teacher, the RE subject leader, teaching and support staff, Parish Priest, governors, parents, school council and pupils.
- A very comprehensive sample of evidence covering the RE/Catholic Life of the school was made available.
- The school's monitoring and tracking files to show pupil progress and attainment data was analysed.
- RE moderated work portfolios, samples of pupil's work of excellence, examples of marking, teacher, pupil and parent evaluation sheets were scrutinised.
- Minutes from Governors' meetings, very comprehensive RE Co-ordinator and head teacher reports and presentations to governors were discussed.
- RE and monthly newsletters, CW Planners, School Council Minutes and RE action plans were scrutinised.
- Displays in classrooms and around the school and photographic evidence of activities throughout the liturgical calendar year to show special themed work which has taken place in school and in the local community have been noted.

Information about this school

- Holy Family and St Michael's Catholic Primary School is a one form entry school, serving the Catholic Parish of St. Joseph's Pontefract. It is part of the Catholic Diocese of Leeds within Wakefield Local Authority.
- The school converted to academy status on 1st December 2014, joining the Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust and works closely with the trust schools. The majority of pupils transfer to St. Wilfrid's Catholic High School.
- There are 8 full time equivalent (fte) teachers, of whom 2 are of the Catholic faith. There are currently no teachers who hold the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies (CCRS). All teaching and support staff have successfully completed the "Catholic Foundation Stones" course. All teachers teach RE
- There has been a major turnover of staff since the last S48 Inspection in June 2011. At the time of this inspection a number of significant changes have taken place at the school. A new head teacher was appointed Easter 2014, a new deputy and RE Co-ordinator appointed September 2014. The Parish

Priest took up post as governor to both Holy Family and St Joseph's in 2012. Several members of the teaching staff have only been in post for 1 to 2 years or are new to their present year group.

- There are currently 174 pupils on roll with an admission number of 30. Pupil numbers have shown a rapid increase over the last two years and are expected to reach full capacity in the near future. The school, therefore, is subject to a large proportion of mid-year admissions, many of whom enter the school as EAL pupils from Eastern Europe.
- The number of baptised Catholics is just above 50% but this is beginning to show a rising trend, as do the numbers of children being presented for Sacramental Preparation.
- The vast majority of children are white British with a high proportion of pupils in school who speak English as an additional language (mainly Polish).
- Attendance for the last academic year was in line with the national average and there is no history of fixed term exclusions.
- The school does not have nursery provision and therefore children come from a wide range of Early Years (EYFS) settings.
- The Extended School provision is located off site. The school however provides a good range of Before and After School Clubs which are well attended across all key stages.

Full report - inspection judgements

Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils are

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

- The outcomes for pupils at Holy Family and St Michael's are outstanding. The staff and governors are committed to providing not only the best education possible but also a safe and secure environment in which the mission statement is lived out by ensuring that, "teaching and learning are centred on the teaching and example of Jesus Christ". They have a very clear vision of the nature of a Catholic School and how important role is within the local and wider community.
- Pupils enjoy leading and taking responsibility for shaping activities with a religious character within the school. The recently formed 'Mini Vinnie' group are active within the local community and pupils were keen to say how they feel a sense of satisfaction when helping others, especially the older members of the parish.
- The school is committed to the development of the uniqueness of each individual child as a priority. This is lived out in the Mission Statement which was reviewed and discussed in all classes on the feast of St. Michael. Children are working towards producing their own child friendly Mission Statement which will be visible throughout school on completion and will remain the driving force behind everything that goes on in the school.

- Staff and pupils are very proud of their school. The pupils show a deep understanding and respect for everything in and around their local and wider community. The displays around the school are a testimony to their deep faith, care for others and understanding of the world around them. Already this year the school has raised over £1,500 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance Appeal and is involved in annual fundraising at a Diocesan level, as well as supporting a wide range of national and local charities.
- Pupils are keen to share their views on how and why they should help others and express the ways in which they are asked to behave by using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and taking examples from the Bible. A Year (Y) 2 pupil made reference to the courage Jesus showed at The Last Supper and at the end of the Y6 lesson pupils were inspired through thoughtful reflection, as to how they can go out into the world and spread the Word of God.
- Standards pupils achieved in 2015 were above the Diocesan and Local Authority averages. Indicators for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 attainment for 2016 show accelerated progress. Progress is at least good in each key stage for different groups of pupils and exemplary in some. A baseline assessment is given to all pupils in the Foundation Stage. The very effective EYFS team ensure that children make very good progress in RE from their original RE baseline assessments on entry.
- The school's comprehensive tracking system shows that attainment in RE is very high taking into account the well below average starting points of all pupils. Data shows that all pupils are on track to make at least expected and some accelerated progress from KS1 to KS2 and that the standards pupils are currently achieving in RE are on an upward trend.
- Pupils take responsibility for readings, intercessions, music, power points and the planning and design of the RE tables to enhance the religious life of the school. All pupils were involved in an audit of the RE resources in their classroom. Prayer Boxes and CW boxes have been replenished to the pupil's requests and are constantly in use to enhance the way in which pupils plan and deliver outstanding CW throughout the school.
- Collective Worship is a strength of the school. Pupils regularly prepare and lead worship with growing confidence and enthusiasm. Pupils visibly enjoy taking part in the planning, delivery and evaluation of CW. All classes have a CW Planning file which records the progress pupils have made in the quality of CW within the school. The school has worked extremely hard on this aspect of CW as evidenced in the RE/CW Action Plan. Pupils response to, and participation in the school's CW is now outstanding
- From their very earliest days in school the children are actively engaged in CW. They are inspired by their teacher to participate and respond with the utmost respect and reverence. They stand to greet the gospel and joyfully sing the acclamation. They select the items for the focus table and choose the hymns and prayers. An outstanding example of this was observed in the Reception Class.
- A celebration assembly is led by the Headteacher to award the positive contribution the children have made throughout the week. There are awards for good work, politeness and good manners and for living out the Ethos Statement of the week which is delivered during Circle Time in each class. The school's termly newsletter recognises these achievements and also informs parents about the Catholic Life of the school.

The provision for Catholic Education is outstanding

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 teaching is good, much is outstanding and none is inadequate. Where teaching is outstanding, the teacher uses in-depth subject knowledge to support and extend the learning of all pupils and significantly enhances the progress of the group they are working with during the lesson. The outstanding practice which already exists within the school needs to be shared across the school to further improve RE classroom practice, ensuring that all the RE teaching consistently incorporates elements of outstanding practice.
- Teachers have worked closely with RE Diocesan Advisor to use creative ways in which to enthuse pupils and motivate them in their RE lessons. This was evident in several lessons particularly in Y1 where pupils were offered a range of activities to show how Jesus showed His love for others using hot seating, videoing and drama based activities.
- The school operates a very comprehensive and systematic approach to the monitoring of teaching and learning. All teachers attend their relevant year group training days provided by the Diocese and plan a range of activities in RE using Blooms Taxonomy to ensure that pupils are motivated and engaged.
- The school has worked with the Diocesan Co-ordinator for RE on developing creativity in their lessons and a cross curricular approach to RE. Pupils say that they enjoy RE because it is interesting. They enjoy learning about Jesus through drama, music, art, ICT and dance, through discussion and their written work
- In the lessons observed, good and imaginative use was made of a wide range of resources including IT. The skilful use of open ended and probing questions encourage lively response partner dialogue and enable the children to respond effectively and confidently. The pupils in Y6 became very emotional when listening to statements made about them by their classmates.
- In the best lessons, teaching is inspirational and uses creative activities to engage and motivate the pupils to produce work of a very high standard. Lesson objectives are shared and discussed with the class and the children are aware of what they are learning. The pupils in Y2 were inspired by the miracles that Jesus performed and came up with ways in which they could show courage and try to be like Jesus.
- All groups of pupils make good progress in RE. In Y3 the Polish speaking teacher used ICT resources to enable EAL pupils to fully understand the story of The Good Samaritan by translating the driver words into Polish. These were displayed on the board and gave pupils an exact translation into their own language. This provided them with the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings in more depth about the way in which the Good Samaritan showed kindness to others and how they can follow his example.
- The quality of work in the RE books is of a high standard. Presentation and volume of work is of the same quality. The range of ways in which the teachers enthuse pupils and motivate them is presented in very innovative ways.

Teachers use the school marking policy effectively by noting points for further reflection. Children's work is marked on a regular basis and purposeful feedback is given, which provides each child with the 'next steps' in their learning. These comments give pupils an opportunity to correct any misconceptions, to further extend their thinking skills and know what they need to do to improve their work. In most classes this is done effectively pupils and they make very good progress.

- The school uses the Diocesan approved RE scheme 'The Way, the Truth & the Life', (TWTL). All teachers are responsible for administering and levelling the RE assessment tasks. Regular moderation of assessed pieces of work takes place within the BKCAT schools and with the Diocese RE Co-ordinator and Wakefield Family of Schools. The school needs to continue to work within the existing strong school partnership links to devise assessment tasks tailored to meet expected standards of attainment in RE and create a secure portfolio of moderated examples of work.
- The RE curriculum underpins all aspects of the school's curriculum and as such pupil's spiritual, moral and cultural development is paramount. Displays around the school depict the learning which has taken place in Other Faiths. Parents were very impressed when one of the teachers came to school dressed in her traditional dress, gave a dance display and spoke about Hinduism. On another occasion the whole school held a Polish Day to celebrate the cultural traditions of the large number of pupils from Central Europe.
- Pupils are given every opportunity to expand and explore their faith on a day to day basis. A variety of prayers and responses, both new and traditional, are used to engage the pupils. All classes take part in a short Christian meditation session after lunch. This was a very moving experience to observe and has added sound enrichment to the prayer life of the school.
- The school uses an approved Education for Personal Relationships (EPR) policy and scheme of work which follows Diocesan guidelines. Parents have been consulted and are encouraged to view the teaching materials used.
- Verbal and written comments from parents and grandparents, governors and other visitors testify to a deep spiritual uplift from attending assemblies, Advent and Lenten workshops and class liturgies. The Travelling Cribs, the Journeys Books and the Wednesday Word is well received by parents and pupils. Parents welcome the opportunity to support RE in the home and give outstanding feedback to the school,
- To further support the RE curriculum and promote pupils' learning, the school arranges a number of out of school visits. Residential retreats are held at Myddleton Grange for Years 5 and 6 and the whole school joins with St. Joseph's School, Pontefract four times a year to celebrate Mass and other liturgical events.
- The support staff at Holy Family are very committed and have a positive impact on the quality of learning through their contribution in lessons. This is particularly effective in those lessons where they are deployed strategically to enhance the learning of the pupils they are working with.
- The school recognises the need to spiritually enrich the lives of all the pupils. Pupils are given every opportunity to expand and explore their faith on a daily basis by being provided with thought provoking discussions in the RE lesson. There is a Wonder Wall in every classroom and pupils are encouraged to add their thoughts and questions.
- Circle time makes an important contribution to the RE curriculum for all pupils and is delivered across the school using the weekly "Statements to Live By."

These successfully supplement TWTL scheme of work for RE alongside other seasonal enrichment activities.

- Throughout all liturgies there is a calm, spiritual atmosphere and creative use is made of music, visual aids and gospel readings to successfully develop the Catholic Life of the school.
- School pastoral systems are well established in school and as a result relationships between children, parents and staff are exemplary and a real strength of the school. Parents spoke very highly of the support offered by Catholic Care and the Learning Mentor.
- Staff provide a fulfilling and enriched faith experience for every child in the school. The children are given opportunities to actively participate in a wide range of worship and liturgy through drama, dance, visits into the local community to sing carols at Christmas time, Stations of the Cross, Holy Week, Batley Torch Procession, May Procession, Pentecost Kite Flying day, One World Week and Family Week..
- Bi-Weekly whole school masses are said in the school hall and all classes are visited each half term by the Parish Priest to celebrate a class liturgy which is age appropriate. He has a high profile around the school and takes time to get to know the staff, pupils and parents. He is actively involved in the ongoing development of the Catholic Life of the school at all levels. He has delivered CW training to staff and is instrumental in forging strong links between Holy Family and St. Joseph's schools

The Leadership and Management are Outstanding

How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.	1
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- Since the previous inspection, a new Head teacher, deputy head teacher, RE Co-ordinator and Parish Priest have been appointed. Leadership and Management at Holy Family and St Michael's is outstanding and it is now clear that everyone acknowledges the part they have played in bringing about the rapid improvements to the effectiveness of the school in providing Catholic Education.
- The governors and leadership team have an outstanding commitment to the Church's mission in education and are effective in every aspect of their role. They are aware of the major strengths of the school and those areas for development. The governors possess high levels of skill, which adds to their ability to not only support the school but also challenge it. They are extremely well organised and very thorough in their approach.
- A number of successful teaching appointments have been made since the last inspection. The Foundation governors have ensured that the strong Catholic ethos of the school is maintained by implementing a comprehensive programme for professional development and training both within the Diocese and the BKCAT. Joint Training days and residential retreats are attended throughout the year by staff and governors.
- RE is led by the deputy head, who is also the RE Co-ordinator, and the head teacher. They are both highly committed members of the SLT who work in close

partnership with the Diocese, BKCAT and the Parish Priest to ensure that the RE curriculum and the Catholic Life of the school remain at the heart of its ethos, mission and purpose. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, share the school's mission and understand their role in promoting the Catholic Life of the school.

- The Headteacher joined the school in April 2014 and leads by example in her determination to provide the best possible Catholic Education for the pupils within her school. She ensures that all staff work in close collaboration on projects, action plans and developments, ensuring that a whole school approach is taken on new initiatives and that they have a successful outcome. This has had a very positive impact on the Catholic Life of the school.
- The RE Co-ordinator has been in post for less than two years and has been very effective in her role by bringing about much needed change in RE within the school. She was described on more than one occasion as being deeply committed and extremely passionate about her faith. She demonstrates this through her professional drive and strong sense of determination, to ensure that RE and the Catholic Life of the school continually moves forward. She is a highly visible member of the parish and is well respected within the local community.
- The Headteacher and RE co-ordinator monitor pupil progress in RE using the whole-school mapping grid and are very clear about standards throughout the school. They identify those pupils who are on track to make expected progress through termly pupil progress meetings. To ensure that all pupils are given the opportunity to make more than expected progress, taking into account their lower than average starting points, these need to include a review of individual targets, particularly for those pupils who join the school mid-year.
- The Parish Priest considers the head and deputy as inspiring leaders and says that they see their role not as a job but one of fulfilling a vocation. They have shown this by the way in which they have worked together to achieve an outstanding quality of Catholic Education for the pupils at Holy Family.
- The Parish Priest is extremely supportive of the school and works closely with all of the staff to help them to deliver high quality CW and curricular RE. He consults regularly with the SLT to put in place a structured response to the liturgical year, joint celebrations with St Joseph's, whole school, class and church Masses.
- Governors have assigned areas of responsibility and are in close communication with the teachers and children to keep up to date with developments and future events. One governor in particular visits the school on a daily basis to help in the classrooms, attends all liturgical services, carry out any DIY jobs needed and to spend time with teachers to keep himself informed of new initiatives. He recently met with the Y6 teacher to gain an insight into the new assessment procedures introduced for the end of KS1 and KS2.
- Governors conduct a range of monitoring activities relating to provision and outcomes by making regular visits to the school, carrying out learning walks, book scrutiny, gathering evidence through pupil interviews, written reports and termly presentation from the RE co-ordinators and head teacher and attending a wide range of liturgical services both in church and in school. The Catholic Life of the school is a set agenda item at all full governing body meetings.
- Leaders and governors are strongly committed to the Church's mission in Catholic Education and work closely with the governors and churches within the BKCAT to shape and determine the direction of Catholic Education in the area.
- The Chair of Governors is a regular visitor in school and plays a positive role in the monitoring of standards in RE, The Catholic Life of the school and Collective

Worship. She is a valued member of the Standards Committee and is highly skilled in monitoring and analysing assessment data. Governors are pro-active and are willing to challenge the school by asking leading questions about pupil performance and achievement.

- Governors ensure that that the school's RE budget is appropriately monitored and adequate to meet the school's identified priorities in RE/ Catholic Life.
- The Governors ensure that the school's RE curriculum meets Bishops' Conference requirements and that all canonical and statutory duties are fulfilled.