

DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

SECTION 48 FINAL REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ST CUTHBERT AND THE FIRST MARTYRS' CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCOTHMAN ROAD
BRADFORD
BD9 5AT

School URN	107335
School DfE Number	3803354
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Chair of Governors	Mrs. Clare Bussingham
Headteacher	Mrs. Angela Phillips
RE Subject Leader	Mrs. Angela Phillips Miss Lauren Ashworth
Date of Inspection	8 th -9 th March 2012
Section 48 Inspector	Mr. Peter Thompson

INTRODUCTION

The inspection of St. Cuthbert and the First Martyrs Catholic Primary School was carried out by one inspector under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, in accordance with the Leeds Diocesan Framework and Schedule for Section 48 Inspections. The inspection reviews and evaluates how effective the school is in providing Catholic Education. The inspection schedule follows criteria set by the National Board of Advisors and Inspectors.

The inspector observed a sample of five lessons throughout the school as well as three acts of Collective Worship, one Benediction, one Mass and one whole school assembly. The inspector held meetings with the Chair of Governors, the RE Governor, RE coordinator, headteacher, the Parish Priest, the headteacher of a neighbouring school, the local Iman, a group of parents and a group of school children. He also examined a wide range of documentation including: the RE subject leader's file, the school development plan, the staff handbook and the file containing moderated children's work.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs is an average sized Catholic Primary School in Bradford West. There have been significant staffing changes since the last inspection. Pupils at St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs recognise that they belong to numerous communities – local, school and faith. At present the percentage of Catholics is 75% with 25% coming from other faiths or none. The school population is changing. Presently 60% of the pupils come from ethnic groups. In 2008 the figure was 40%. In order to care for the range of families who attend the school, a Breakfast and After School Club are provided. Parents speak very highly of the school. They speak of it 'feeling welcoming' and being a 'family environment'. It comprises children from several nationalities where 'everyone is respected'. There is a Parents' Forum comprising representatives from each year group. The school has been awarded the 'Healthy Schools Award', 'Drugs Charter', 'Sports Active Mark' and 'FMSiS'.

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

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

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

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

1

Main findings

St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs' Catholic Primary School is providing very effective education for its pupils. A number of aspects of what it provides are outstanding. The staff and governors know the school well: its own self- evaluation document is accurate. It is a community which is warm and family orientated.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

In order to further improve the school needs to:

- further develop assessment procedures in RE including: obtaining a more effective whole school tracking system; embedding the use of "I Can assessment sheets" and higher order questioning;
- further support the highly capable new coordinators of RE and Collective Worship in their crucial roles;
- revisit the school's Mission Statement – with a view to sharpening the focus since the last inspection.

The quality of teaching has improved since the last inspection. In particular, improvements have been made in meeting the needs of all pupils by careful planning. Improvements have also been noted in assessment procedures. The school acknowledges that some more work is required to share a consistent application of on-going assessment in all classes.

PUPILS

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

2

Upon entry to St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs most children have a very limited understanding of the Catholic faith. As they move through the school all groups of children make good progress. The children enjoy their lessons and are motivated to learn. One Year 2 child said she liked RE because, "It's about Jesus and I like Jesus, it's exciting too." One Year 5 child said, "RE teaches you God will still love you whatever you do."

Children were skilled at applying some of their Literacy skills within RE lessons. One Year 5 girl was using a writing frame to write a modern day version of the parable of the Prodigal Son. Children exhibited a good understanding of Bible stories and the details within the stories. For example, one Nursery child was able to name the city that Jesus was travelling to on Palm Sunday, "J .. er...usalem."

Outside the classroom another group was reenacting the event by dressing up and waving their homemade paper palms at Jesus on his donkey. In Year 2 children were able to compose their own prayers. One wrote, 'Dear Jesus, Let me say sorry and let me forgive.'

Children at St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs are given opportunities to learn about other major world religions. They visit the Mosque and plan to visit a synagogue. Muslim children have led assemblies about their faith. They were helped to prepare for the assembly by the local Iman.

Following on from some work on Judaism one Year 4 child explained, "A Menorah is a candle holder with seven branches which stands in front of The Ark."

Another child was also able to explain that, "The Synagogue is the building where the Jewish people meet together to pray, to learn Holy Scriptures and to help each other."

By the time the children have reached the end of their education at St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs they show a clear understanding of the Mass and they can make links with the language used by the priest.

One Year 6 child wrote, 'The most important part of the Mass is the Eucharist i.e. prayers when the bread and wine is changed into the body and blood of Jesus.'

Another child wrote, 'In Mass we say 'Lamb of God'. It means Jesus sacrificed his life for us so we could all be pure and have no sins. We also hear priests say 'Lamb of God' because Jesus gave us rebirth: that's why we say 'Lamb of God).'

The school makes effective use of the new RE scheme 'The Way The Truth and The Life'. Collective Worship themes link with the scheme, which in turn matches the seasons of the Church's year. In addition, the children of the school follow the weekly ethos statements. Behaviour of the pupils is a strength of the school. It is outstanding. Pupils are courteous, polite and well mannered.

The prayer life of the school is integral to St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs as a faith community. A range of different events takes place: Collective Worship, Benediction, and

Mass. They are simple, purposeful, reflective and deeply spiritual events. They, along with a number of high quality displays, enhance the warm overtly Catholic environment.

Children and staff take part in an extensive range of activities which are designed to encourage the participation and deepen the faith of the stakeholders of this school. These activities include:

- May and Corpus Christi processions
- retreats to Lindisfarne
- Benediction
- singing with the Bradford Schools' Choir

Collective Worship at St. Cuthbert's is good. It is well planned and is delivered effectively – sometimes by staff and, in the older classes, it is planned and led by pupils. One Year 6 boy who led such a Collective Worship said he felt 'excited and nervous' but he did 'enjoy' the experience. During Collective Worship children sing heartily and pray with sincerity and reverence. These are joyful celebrations. Each Collective Worship concludes with giving the 'congregation' a mission, e.g. during a Collective Worship for Early Years the children were asked to 'remember to say sorry and to draw a cross on the palm of your hand.'

The Parish Priest is highly regarded by the community. He is going to be part of a Chaplaincy team – which will gradually involve more pupils in taking a lead role in worship. The Parish Priest is pleased that links between the school and the parish are strong and he is keen to work with the school and parishioners to strengthen them further.

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	1
• 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 St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs is good overall, with some outstanding features. Teaching overall is good, with aspects of outstanding

practice evident particularly in Key Stage 2. Where teaching is at its best lessons are planned to enthuse and stimulate all learners. Attractive pictures or video clips are used to enhance the learning or sometimes role-play. The best lessons incorporated effective use of the Driver words and highlighted key vocabulary. These lessons were also conducted at a brisk pace.

Since taking on the new RE scheme 'The Way The Truth and The Life' the school has been developing its assessment procedures. Staff of the school meet with staff in other Bradford Catholic schools to level and moderate work. This practice is then cascaded amongst the staff at St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs.

Assessment sheets and RE targets are in evidence in each child's RE book. Where learning is most effective children understand clearly what their shaded assessment sheet means. This practice needs to be applied more consistently throughout the school. In some classes children are extended and challenged in their learning by responding to 'red pen' questions. Pupil attainment will improve still further when this approach is in place in more classes. The school realises and acknowledges that its tracking of pupil progress will be more effective once it utilises a more efficient tracking system. It intends to do this in the near future.

St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs meets the RE curriculum needs of its pupils particularly well. Evidence both in the exercise books and talking to the pupils shows that over time the children develop an extensive knowledge in this subject. The school clearly focuses a lot of attention and importance upon this subject. The RE curriculum is enhanced by the way pupils are encouraged to apply skills learned and developed in other related subjects, e.g. the use of scaffolding from their Literacy work.

Pupils in the older classes are taking lead roles in planning, preparing and leading Collective Worship. They do this well. The school has plans to develop this further with more classes. By doing this, the children will gain even more from the good quality Collective Worship they presently partake in. The children sing well and enthusiastically. The school benefits from links with the Bradford Schools' Choir and the Diocesan Music Service, Undoubtedly, the prayerful, reflective moments within the Collective Worship at St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs has a significant bearing on the calm, happy, purposeful atmosphere that exists within the school.

The two new appointments – RE Leader and Collective Worship Leader – have the ability and enthusiasm to enable these areas of school life to grow even stronger.

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.	1
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

The extent to which leaders and managers develop the Catholic life of St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs School is outstanding. As a result of the determination and skill of the headteacher, governors and senior staff St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs School is clearly developing the Catholic life of the school most effectively. The school's own self-evaluation document is thorough and accurate in assessing where the school is now and what steps need to be taken to make it stronger. The governing body, in consultation with the Diocese of Leeds has restructured its committees and has begun to work more closely with other Catholic schools in this part of Bradford. The Catholic life of the school features prominently in the School Development Plan.

During the course of the inspection it was clear from comments made that all stakeholders really value the Catholicity of St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs. The recent appointments of the new RE leader and the new Collective Worship leader will undoubtedly continue to develop the Catholic life.

The school has undergone a significant period of transition over the past five years under the guidance of the headteacher. St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs should feel very pleased with the steps it has taken and the progress it has made.

Partnerships and collaboration feature strongly in the work being carried out at the school. This work is helping the school strengthen its RE provision; its governance and its standing in the local community. The Parish Priest describes the partnership with the school as 'strong' and he 'wants to strengthen this link even further.'

The local Iman said that the work which St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs and the neighbouring state school have been carrying out has led to greater 'awareness of each other's traditions' and 'a better acceptance of each other.' The Iman provides an effective link between the school and the Council of Mosques.

Parents, strengthened by the Parents' Forum and the friends of the school, speak highly of St. Cuthbert and The First Martyrs saying, "It is a family environment, made up of different nationalities where everyone is respected."

The headteacher of the primary school adjacent to St. Cuthbert's has been very pleased with the practical experiences offered to the children of the two school communities. The schools share resources and take part in events in each others schools. She stated, "We are learning to live together."

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.	2
How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.	2
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