

DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

SECTION 48 FINAL REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Storrs Hill Road, Ossett, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF5 0DQ

School URN	108264
School DfE Number	384 3332
E-mail address	headteacher@st-ignatius.wakefield.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Mrs N. Bowie
Headteacher	Mrs J. Rush
RE Subject Leader	Mr S. Bartram
Date of Inspection	3 rd - 4 th July 2013
Section 48 Inspector	Mr M. Brennan

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 Catholic school.

- The overwhelming majority of children enter the Nursery and reception classes with little or no knowledge of the Catholic Faith. By the time they leave the school they have made good progress and most achieve levels of understanding in line with national and Diocesan expectations. Some children achieve above expectations.
- The teaching of RE is mainly good, whilst a minority requires improvement.
- The new headteacher, supported by the Chair of Governors, Deputy headteacher and RE Leader has a clear and insightful vision about what needs to be done to improve the RE and Faith life of the school. She has already made good progress.
- Children's behaviour throughout the school is exemplary. This is especially tangible in moments of Collective Worship and in RE lessons, where children are reverent, prayerful and calm.
- Children throughout the school can demonstrate a good level of Faith knowledge. They can refer to stories from the Bible, furniture within their Church and key elements of the Catholic Faith with ease. This is especially the case by the time they reach the end of KS2 and at the mid-point in their education at St Ignatius' in Y2.
- Children, parents and staff are very proud of their school and from the moment you enter the building there is a strong sense of 'family'.

What the school needs to do to improve further.

- Continue to develop the involvement and engagement of pupils in the planning and delivery Collective Worship.
- Improve RE teaching and learning across the school so that it is consistently good or outstanding by:
 - developing further the abilities of children to collaborate and to more enthusiastically articulate and express their ideas, feelings, opinions and learning through a wider and more consistent variety of activities including Art, ICT, drama, dance and new technologies;
 - reviewing and adapting existing systems to help children across the school consistently understand what they need to do in RE to improve, with a specific focus on the purpose, effectiveness and impact of marking and feedback.
- Further develop existing systems for the monitoring of RE attainment and progress by governors and staff, so that the data collected is used even more effectively to support the learning process.

Information about this inspection

The Inspection of St Ignatius 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 children contribute to, enjoy and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.
- How well children achieve and enjoy Religious Education and participate in the liturgical life of the school.
- The quality of the teaching and the responses the children make to that teaching.
- The accuracy of the school's self-evaluation systems and judgements.
- The quality of the leadership, including that demonstrated by governors, especially in the way they promote, monitor and evaluate the provision of Catholic Education.
- The partnerships and contributions the school makes to the wider community.

The inspector undertook observations in all class groups in order to evaluate the effectiveness of RE lessons and Collective Worship. The inspector attended a 'Teaching Mass' with Class 3 and joined a 'Junior Praise' assembly led by the children in Class 5. Meetings were held with the headteacher, RE subject leader, staff, Parish Priest, Chair of Governors, the School Council and some parents. The inspector examined school documentation provided by the headteacher and the RE leader. He also examined

children's exercise books, teachers' planning and assessment files, monitoring and evaluation records, attainment data, meeting minutes, questionnaires, school improvement plans, school newsletters and photograph albums. The inspection process also included informal chats with children, staff and parents on the playground, in the dinner hall and on corridors. During the inspection the headteacher and inspector jointly observed a lesson and their judgements agreed. An assessment of the physical learning environment and the schools teaching resources was also undertaken.

The school has invested regular and substantial amounts of money into RE provision over the years. The current budget allocated to RE is £740 for the period 2012-13. This figure is on a par with other core areas of the curriculum. The majority of this expenditure has been on a variety of teaching resources and for supply cover to support the RE Leader to access professional development.

Information about this school

- St. Ignatius' Catholic Primary School serves the parish of St. Ignatius, which covers the small neighbouring towns of Ossett and Horbury in West Yorkshire. The area is socially mixed, with no large areas of deprivation within the parish itself. A number of the pupils live beyond the parish boundaries, some of these in areas of more extreme social deprivation. The majority of those who live over the parish boundaries practise within St. Ignatius' parish.
- The current school building was opened in 1986 and replaced the original school that had served the parish for over 100 years.
- The school is an enthusiastic member of the Wakefield Catholic Partnership and is a founding member of the Bishop Konstant Academy of schools which was formed in November 2012.
- The school caters for 158 children with an admission number of 20. Pupils are taught in five mixed age classes plus a 26 place Nursery which operates every morning.
- The school comprises a purpose built nursery, five classrooms, a well-equipped ICT suite, shared areas, cloakrooms, administrative area and kitchen built around an adequately sized central hall that is used for school celebrations, performances, liturgies and social functions. The school has a playground and a large playing field the children use when the weather is good.
- Since the last inspection, there have been significant changes in the leadership of the school, due to the absence and subsequent retirement of the Headteacher in April 2013. The new Head came at the end of February as Acting Headteacher, but has since been appointed permanently and officially took up the post on 1 May 2013.
- The school has good links with other Catholic schools in the Wakefield area and it has excellent links with St. Thomas a Becket Catholic High School and St Wilfrid's Catholic High School. A significant number of the Y6 children leaving the school go to St. Thomas a Becket whilst other children go to non-Catholic schools.
- The school shares a site with the Church of St Ignatius, and the Parish Priest who has served since November 2005 visits the school regularly and is very supportive of the headteacher and staff, the children and their families.

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.	2
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.	3
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship.	2

- Pupils at St Ignatius' make increasingly responsible contributions to the Catholic Life of the school. By the time they are about to leave the school they are able to plan and lead liturgies. The 'Wednesday Word' is presented reverently by Y6 pupils to younger children in short liturgies planned and led by them with little adult involvement every Wednesday morning. KS2 classes take it in turns to lead the Junior Praise assembly on Thursday mornings, attended by parents and parishioners.
- The attractive and thoughtful displays in classrooms and corridors illustrate children's many Faith experiences and remind them of these as they go about their learning day. The Year of Faith 2012-13 is formally recorded in a large and very creative display in the Hall. 3D illustrations of the Sacred Heart are proudly on display in one classroom, whilst in another there is a photo record of the Year 6 Retreat to Myddelton Grange in Ilkley. A large heart, filled with the names of every child in the school greets all visitors in the main entrance.
- Children at St Ignatius are very lucky to have their Parish Church next door. This means that they can visit the Church as often as they like and can use it both as a place of worship and as a resource for learning about their religion.
- Children have a clear understanding of the key points in the Church's year, including Lent, Advent, Easter and Christmas when assemblies and liturgies focus on these seasons. ICT, music, drama and the arts play a key role in Collective Worship. The inspector enjoyed watching a liturgical dance performed by four Y6 pupils and was impressed by a photographic record of an Easter performance where a power-point presentation had been used to superimpose the actors into various scenes from the Stations of the Cross.
- Children are confident expressing their ideas. In an older class the children were asked why they should learn about God. The answer from one boy was, "So that you can live a life in God's love and know that He will protect you when you go through hard times". In another class the Wednesday Word Leaders (Y6) started their liturgy with the beautiful phrase, "Wrap your hands round yourself and imagine you are in the arms of a person you love very much."
- Children have raised over £500 since September for various charitable causes, including Catholic Care, Action for Children, Kidzaware and the British Legion. This effort demonstrates their desire to respond to the needs of people beyond the school community.
- Standards achieved by children over their time at the school are broadly average, with some children exceeding the national average. However, there are some

inconsistencies in the standards achieved and progress made and this means that standards are not as good as they could be overall.

- Children in the School Council said that their best lessons happened when they were given practical tasks and when their lessons included role-play, music, videos and art activities. They did not enjoy their lessons as much when they were asked to listen for longer periods of time.
- Where learning was most effective, children were positively affirmed by the teachers and other adults supporting them, they were aware of their attainment in RE and they have structures in place to help them understand what they need to do to improve. Lessons are keenly focused and paced at a challenging and engaging level.
- During Collective Worship children are reverent and participate at a good level. They sing and give responses appropriate to their age and capabilities. In one class the children placed a large blue cloud – representing heaven – on a board and put sticky labels with their names written on them into the cloud. This helped them to understand that God knows each of them by their names and loves them very much.
- Children are aware of other world faiths and have focussed on Judaism this year. The school has a developing plan to make links with other schools and places of worship so that the children can learn about the faiths and traditions of other communities outside their own immediate experience.

The provision for Catholic Education is good.

The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education.	3
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum promotes pupils' learning.	2
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.	2

- The teaching of RE is mainly good and in these lessons there was creative use of ICT, art and role-play to engage the children's interest. In a KS1 class some children were given medical uniforms and were able to role-play the care of patients in a hospital to help them understand how we can help others. In a Nursery group the children re-enacted a story about the jobs that needed to be done to look after a Church. In two KS2 classes the learning was enhanced by the use of a clip from 'You Tube' and a video of a child's baptism. In less successful lessons, the teachers spoke for too long and did not allow enough time for the active part of the session to be undertaken.
- Assessment procedures are in place across the school and in some classes the children are aware of their attainment and what they must do to improve further. Better examples of teaching were observed in classes where the learning objectives were driven by RE criteria.
- Also in the more effective lessons teachers set children challenges and did not allow them to give inaccurate or lazy answers. They also asked more open questions than closed ones. For example, in a Y2 class they were asked to think about the question "What would you tell people about Jesus?" Children said that, "He walked on water.... was born in a stable in Bethlehem.... He is the light of the world ... fed 5000 people..... and died on the cross for us."

- There are some inconsistencies in marking and feedback within RE books. In classes where it is good children are able to make good progress and can sustain better achievement. In less successful examples, teachers were giving feedback based more on the grammar and punctuation than the RE content.
- The level of support provided by staff other than teachers is good where they have been given a clear task to undertake. In some instances, the inspector observed support staff sitting for long periods not directly supporting children or the teacher.
- The RE curriculum is enriched by extra experiences across the school. The Y6 pupils enjoy a retreat at Myddelton Grange and the school works closely with other Catholic Partnership schools on many joint liturgical events.
- The school employs a Catholic Care Worker who works with a number of individual children and families to help them through some of the more difficult aspects of school and family life. They have also used the Rainbows programme and Alpha course to support families further.
- Thanks to the dedication of several members of staff, the children can participate in numerous extra-curricular sports and music including football, netball, rugby, multi-skills, violin, flute, cornet guitars, choir and cycling proficiency.
- Acts of Worship take a central role in the life of the school. Children are involved in the planning and delivery of many of these. The weekly 'Wednesday Word' newsletter is delivered to each class by Y6 pupils, who lead a short liturgy for each class based on the liturgical themes of the week. The Junior Praise Assembly also gives KS2 children the opportunity to lead worship on a regular basis. The children also attend a Teaching Mass on a rota basis throughout the year.
- The school has put an SRE Policy in place recently and although it is still early days, the children are benefiting from it across the school.
- Children in the school have a voice, which is heard through their well established School Council and through surveys conducted by the RE Leader. Children say their school feels, "Safe, caring and cosy..... people look after you and everyone gets along with each other."

The leadership and management are good.

How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.	2
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- St Ignatius School is led by a relatively new but very confident and competent Headteacher and a Chair of Governors who are both very clear about the future improvement of the school and the actions that need to be taken to achieve their objectives.
- The Governors have received reports on RE and Faith Life in the recent past and they are ambitious in seeking ways to improve their monitoring of the school's provision and

outcomes. Their effectiveness would be enhanced by a further development of existing systems.

- They have been supported by the Parish Priest, who has proactively and regularly involved himself with the day-to-day RE and faith life of the school. He is leaving the parish soon to take up a new post. The long serving Deputy Headteacher is also leaving the school in a few weeks and her replacement will be joining the school in September.
- The school has a strong identity rooted in the life and example of St Ignatius of Loyola. Children in Y6 spent some time during the inspection examining a prayer written by St Ignatius so that they could identify ways in which his prayer could be applied to their lives.
- The overwhelming majority of adults in the school are Catholics, and those who are not are dedicated to the ethos and mission of the school.
- The school has some good assessment and monitoring procedures in place, though not all staff are fully aware of how these can help them improve RE attainment and the use of this data is not yet as efficient as it could be.
- The new Headteacher has recently collated the responses from a parent survey and this is helping to identify areas for improvement. In particular, parents believe their children enjoy school, feel safe and are well taught.
- They believe the communication between the school and parents is improving, especially since the introduction of a texting service and a regular newsletter. They appreciate the introduction of a new SRE policy.
- The Friends of St Ignatius have raised around £6,000 in the last year through activities such as Bingo and Quiz Nights, School Calendars, Christmas Cards and even Pig Racing.
- The school leadership works very closely with external agencies and is especially developing strong bonds through and within the Bishop Konstant Academy Trust.
- The school fulfils all canonical and statutory responsibilities.