

**Diocese of Leeds**



**DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS**

**CANON LAW 806  
FINAL INSPECTION REPORT  
INCORPORATING  
SECTION 48**

**THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL  
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School.  
Manor Square, Otley. LS21 3AP**

School URN

108014

Date of Inspection and OE  
grade

26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Grade 1

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Chair of Governors

Mrs. Diane Gaskin

Headteacher

Mrs. Cecilia Knight

RE Subject Leader

Mrs. June Heatley

Date and grade of last S48  
inspection

April 2009

Grade 2

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**

- At St Joseph's, the Gospel principles of Christ are valued and lived out daily by the whole school community to provide an outstanding Catholic Education for all of its pupils.
- Collective Worship (CW) is a major strength of the school. All pupils play an active role in the preparation, delivery and development of CW.
- The school's mission statement underpins all aspects of school life. It is built on solid relationships and is central to the Catholic ethos and passion the staff have in providing a high standard of Catholic Education for all pupils.
- The RE Co-ordinator is new to the role but has already shown that she is going to be extremely effective as an outstanding support to the staff in order to further improve the Catholic Life of St Joseph's School.
- Staff and pupils are very proud of their school. The pupils show a deep understanding of their faith, particularly through their support in and around their local and wider community.
- The teaching is consistently good with many outstanding features. Teaching support staff play an active role in all lessons and this has a positive impact on those pupils who have specific learning needs to improve progress in RE.
- Pupil behaviour is outstanding. They are very enthusiastic and mature in their contribution to discussions and debate within the RE lessons and CW.
- There is a strong sense of faith and belonging within school. Pupils speak openly about their faith and what it means to them as individuals.

- The support offered by the headteacher to staff, pupils, parents and the wider community is outstanding. This is a real strength of the school in promoting excellent collaborative working with others for the common good of all who are involved with St Joseph's School within the market town of Otley.
- The Youth Ministry Co-ordinator has created excellent links between the primary and high school. This is especially beneficial in maintaining smooth transition at the end of Year 6.
- The pastoral team offers high quality social, spiritual and emotional support to the pupils and their parents. The Parish Priest is very active in this area and is welcomed by the entire community.
- The Parish Priest is a frequent and popular visitor and works closely with the school to celebrate class led Masses and liturgies. He has been instrumental in strengthening the home, school and parish links which exist at St. Joseph's.
- The school's RE curriculum meets the Bishops' Conference requirements. The Foundation governors have ensured that canonical and statutory responsibilities have been fulfilled.
- Issues identified at the last Section 48 inspection (March 2009) have been addressed.

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

- Improve standards of teaching and learning in RE across the school by sharing the outstanding practice which already exists within the school, to ensure that more lessons have outstanding features and that the consistently good lessons show outstanding features.
- Continue to embed the current electronic monitoring system which tracks progress and achievement with particular emphasis on that of different groups of pupils.
- In order to ensure that governors are fully informed about RE and its impact, The Catholic Life of the School should become a regular item on the agenda of every meeting.

### **Information about this inspection**

The Inspection of St Joseph's School was carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, Canon Law 806 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 learning in RE.
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in RE
- How good outcomes are for individuals and groups of pupils in RE, particularly those with specific barriers to their learning.

- 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 St Joseph's by establishing the accuracy of the school's self-evaluation systems.

The inspection was carried out by one inspector over a 1 ½ day period.

- 3 teachers were observed teaching RE and a further joint observation was carried out with the headteacher.
- 2 acts of CW and a whole school celebration assembly led by the deputy headteacher were observed.
- The KS1 Mass was led by the Reception Class in church and was attended by the inspector.
- Meetings were held with the headteacher, the RE subject leaders, the deputy headteacher, teaching and support staff, youth ministry leader, Parish Priest, governors, parents, parishioners and pupils.
- A very comprehensive sample of documentary evidence was made available to the inspector for scrutiny. This included the school's monitoring and tracking system to show pupil progress, baseline assessments, current data and projected levels of attainment for future years. RE portfolios of moderated work, samples of pupils' work and examples of homework. Policies, RE Action Plan and Continuing Professional Development Programme were also looked at and discussed with governors and Senior Leadership Team (SLT).
- Displays in classrooms and around the school were also noted along with 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.

### **Information about this school**

- St Joseph's is a smaller than average, oversubscribed, one-form entry school and is a member of the Bishop Wheeler Academy Trust of the Diocese of Leeds.
- The school is situated in the centre of the market town of Otley next to the Catholic Church of Our Lady and All Saints, the parish from which the majority of children are drawn.
- The school has an admission number of 30 with a total number on register of 207, of whom 80% are baptised Catholics.
- There is no nursery provision as pupils join the reception class from several different nursery settings. There are high levels of mobility within the school from reception onwards. Entry data shows that pupils are below the national expectations for RE but are in line and in some cases above by the time they leave the school. Projections show that this is a rapidly improving picture over the next 3 years.
- A higher proportion of children than the national average have special educational needs or disabilities.
- Pupil attendance is above the national average.
- There are currently 8 teachers who teach RE and of whom 5 are Catholic and 4 hold the CCRS.
- The headteacher was appointed in 2011 and the deputy in 2013.
- At the end of year 6 the majority of pupils transfer to St Mary's, Menston.

- St Joseph’s has achieved the nationally recognised educational standards of Investors in Pupils, Inclusion Chartermark, Stephen Lawrence, Healthy Schools and Activemark.
- The school has very strong and productive links within the Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust. Collaboration with other schools in the Catholic Partnership, particularly St Theresa’s, has been used effectively to extend and improve the RE curriculum. St. Joseph’s is also part of the recently established Teaching School Partnership with Leeds Trinity University.

## 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.	<b>1</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>1</b>

- The outcomes for pupils at St. Joseph’s School are outstanding. The staff and governors have a clear vision of the strengths and weaknesses of the school and what needs to be done to secure ongoing improvement. The entire staff is committed to providing not only the best education possible for the children, but also a safe, secure environment where they can grow to know and love God. The Parish Priest encourages all to, “Aim for perfection in everything they do.”
- Pupils are given every opportunity to expand and explore their faith on a day to day basis as well as being provided with thought provoking discussions by their teachers. The school hall display boards were a testimony to the deep faith and understanding held by the children. A Year 2 pupil describes his faith as, “Being like an arrow, it always points me in the right direction.”  
While a year 6 pupil sees faith as, “Seeing light with your heart when all your eyes can see is darkness.”
- Children are fully involved in the Catholic Life of the school. All pupils from Reception to Year 6 take responsibility for readings, intercessions, music and offertory at their class Masses which are held in the classroom and in church. Parishioners and parents are regular visitors on these occasions. Pupils respond reverently and particularly enjoy joining in with the Amen and Alleluia which is led with gusto by the Parish Priest.
- Progress is good for all pupils taking into account their lower than average starting points. Standards pupils achieve in RE are broadly in line with the national average and are tracked accordingly as the other core subjects. The newly introduced electronic RE pupil tracking system indicates that in the next 3 years progress should rapidly move from good to outstanding. At the end of KS2, pupils are attaining generally above average standards with all pupils making at least expected progress and in some cases making 3 levels of progress to show outstanding progress. All groups of pupils should continue to be closely tracked and monitored to ensure that no child is at risk of underperformance.
- The staff need to continue to work with their partner school, St Theresa’s, to moderate examples of work through joint staff meetings and training and thus developing robust assessment procedures to ensure standardisation when levelling pieces of work.
- RE is a core subject and permeates the entire curriculum. Homework is set for KS2 pupils. Parents were very impressed by the way their children promote the Catholic

ethos of the school at home, by demonstrating their mission to live out the gospel values of Christ. They show that they take their faith seriously and use it to develop social consciences.

- All pupils follow the 'In the Beginning' programme to develop Education in Personal Relationships (EPR) in line with the majority of other schools in the Leeds Diocese.
- During Faith Fortnight the pupils studied another faith. Each class had a very comprehensive display of their chosen faith showing excellent cross-curricular links in art, literacy and history and geography. Several different faiths are studied throughout the school each year on a rolling programme.
- Each class keeps a record of their CW and planning. This shows progression across the school and from the start of the school year. There is a marked progression from Reception to Year 6 as to the involvement of pupils in its preparation and delivery.
- At St Joseph's CW involves pupil participation at all levels. The Year 1 pupils prepared the focal point for their CW and were delighted to use their prayers as a telephone call to Jesus, while the Year 5 pupils decided to focus on turning over a new leaf and writing the ways they were going to change their ways on a leaf and assembling them on a tree branch on the prayer table.
- Children respond positively and reverently to the Acts of Worship which are at the heart of the school and always have Christ at the centre. Each week begins with a whole school assembly based on the Sunday gospel. Pupils are encouraged to live out the gospel for the rest of the week in all that they say and do.

## 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 provision for Catholic Education at St Joseph's School is outstanding. The teaching is consistently good with most lessons displaying some outstanding features. The school now needs to share the outstanding practice to further drive up standards and ensure that all teaching has significant features of outstanding qualities.
- The budget for RE is in line with the other core subjects and has enabled the school to ensure that the resources for RE are of a high quality.
- 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. A very lively debate took place in Year 4 about what makes a good Catholic using persuasive arguments and discussions. The main activity gave a high level of challenge to the more able as well as structured support for the less able. Lesson objectives are shared and discussed in all lessons and ensure that the children are aware of what they are learning.
- In the lessons observed, teachers displayed a deep spiritual understanding of the gospel and its teachings through their excellent subject knowledge. The Year 3 class explored the life of St. Peter in a very vibrant lesson reflecting on how hard it is to be a Christian and the failings of St. Peter. Pupils were fully engaged in the activities and displayed excellent prior knowledge due to the teacher's ability to enthuse and motivate the class through her inspirational teaching.
- Teachers use a variety of questioning techniques within lessons which enable the children to respond effectively and confidently. Pupils enjoy their RE work and say that they find that their teachers make RE interesting and exciting. The Year 2 class were challenged by the teacher to think about how the gifts of the Holy Spirit are lived out in

the daily life of the school. This was a very good lesson and was delivered in a way which grasped the pupils interest and understanding from the start.

- The school uses the Diocesan approved RE scheme the 'The Way, the Truth & the Life', (WTL) which is delivered in line with the other schools within the Catholic Partnership. All teachers are responsible for planning and delivering RE lessons which are engaging and inspirational to the children, giving them the opportunity to question and develop their knowledge of the Catholic Faith.
- Staff use a range of teaching and learning techniques to engage the children. Work is differentiated in order to enable children to reach their full potential. This was particularly evident in the Year 6 lesson where carefully planned activities were matched to the abilities of the class.
- The displays of children's work in RE are of a very high standard and allow them to express their own spirituality in their own way. It is clear to see that they are highly motivated and thoroughly enjoy the work they produce in RE. The Year 3 First Holy Communion display in the entrance included work from all pupils in the class. All children were asked to reflect on the day, one boy, who did not make his First Holy Communion, stopped his game of football at 10.00am and prayed for his classmates, while another boy wrote, "I kept telling myself my mission was not to faint and I didn't."
- The pupils demonstrate a high level of participation in fundraising activities for local, national and international charities in response to the needs of those less fortunate than themselves and ways in which they can be like Jesus.
- The support staff at St Joseph's are highly skilled and very committed to the quality of education at St Joseph's. They have a positive impact on the quality of learning through their contribution in lessons and the relationships they have developed with those pupils who find it difficult to work independently. They play a major role in helping pupils to achieve to their full potential by working hard to break down the barriers to their learning many due to emotional and social reasons.
- CW is part of the daily rhythm of life at St. Joseph's. Music is very important and is reflected in the wide range of hymns enjoyed by the children in celebrating the many feasts throughout the liturgical year. The Pentecost celebration is thoroughly enjoyed when everyone dresses up in the colours of the Holy Spirit and joins in whole school craft making activities of Pentecost tiaras, crowns, crosses and bracelets.
- The school introduces the weekly ethos statement in assembly and this is then displayed around the school and referred to by staff and pupils. This statement permeates everything that takes place in the school during that week, and is always underpinned by the gospel values and the work of Jesus.

## The Leadership and Management are Outstanding

<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>1</b>
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- Leaders, governors and managers at St Joseph's are very experienced and deeply committed to the Church's mission in developing Catholic Education. The Chair of Governors shows total commitment to St Joseph's. She is very experienced and highly effective in developing Catholic Education, and has a clear vision and understanding of what the school needs to do to continually move forward. She firmly believes and promotes that, "Jesus is at the centre of everything in our school."

- The leadership team are effective role models and set very high expectations for themselves and others within the school community. This is a real strength of the school and promotes excellent collaborative working opportunities.
- The headteacher has an excellent working relationship with the governors and leads by example in her determination to provide the best possible Catholic Education for the pupils within her school. Governors, leaders and managers follow her example in order to promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education.
- The governors have a clear vision for the school and show that they have the capacity to challenge whilst also supporting the future development of Catholic Education at St. Joseph's
- The governors are passionate about the quality of the teaching and learning of RE within the school. The governors ensure that all staff are given Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities, particularly in relation to their own spirituality. The Parish Priest and RE Governor, who is a Diocesan Catechist, will be delivering the 'Foundation Stones Programme' to all staff in the next academic year.
- The Parish Priest is extremely supportive of the school and works closely with the leadership team to put in place a structured response to the liturgical year by holding regular calendar meetings to plan Masses and services.
- Governors are kept fully informed about pupil progress using the electronic RE tracking system. They receive a termly report from the SLT and work closely together to ensure the best possible outcomes for the pupils of St Joseph's school.
- Governors and staff work together seamlessly in supporting the school in its Mission. They are strongly committed to the Catholic ethos of the school and hold the headteacher and SLT to account for attainment in RE and the Catholic Life of the school
- The Chair and Head meet regularly to discuss key aspects of the School Improvement Plan (SIP), pupil progress and self-evaluation. These meetings are very productive as they ensure that formal channels of communication are maintained and provide opportunities for frank and open discussions about the school.
- The recently appointed RE governor has been able to form a clear view of the strengths and weaknesses in RE. Using her professional skills, she has already had an impact on the quality of CW and is now working with the RE co-ordinator, who is also recently appointed, to look at further improving standards. In order to keep all governors up to date with new developments they need to ensure that The Catholic Life of the School is on the termly agenda and that the RE Governor and Co-ordinator give regular feedback to the Full Governing Body.
- The RE co-ordinator has been in post since September. With the full support of the headteacher and the previous co-ordinator she has made a big impact on the quality of Catholic Education in the school. She is deeply committed and very passionate about her role and demonstrates this through her professional drive and determination to ensure that RE and the Catholic Life of the school continually moves forward.