

DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

SECTION 48 FINAL REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
STATION ROAD
TADCASTER
LS24 9JG

School URN	121641
School DfE Number	8153376
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Chair of Governors	Philip Turnpenney
Headteacher	Kate Gilmore
RE Subject Leader	Kate Gilmore
Date of Inspection	15 th October 2012
Section 48 Inspector	Peter Thompson

INTRODUCTION

The Inspection of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School was carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, in accordance with the Leeds Diocesan Framework and Schedule for Section 48 Inspectors approved by the Bishop 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 Advisors (NBRIA, 2010).

The Inspector reviewed in detail the following aspects:-

- the extent to which the pupils contribute to the Catholic life of the school
- assessment procedures and the involvement in this area of staff and pupils
- the quality of Collective Worship
- the school's capacity for sustained improvement

During the inspection meetings were held with parents, the headteacher, the RE coordinator, the school council, a school governor and the Parish Priest.

The inspector also observed two acts of collective worship, one in each class.

The inspector looked at a variety of documentation including:-

- samples of pupils' RE work
- assessment in RE
- the school's development plan
- the school's Self-Evaluation form (SEF48)
- monitoring folders
- samples of teachers planning

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St Joseph's, Tadcaster is a much smaller than average Catholic Primary School (NOR 42) in Tadcaster North Yorkshire. Over time, attainment on entry to Reception is variable, but consistently below average age related expectations. Pupils are taught in two mixed-age classes. Socially the children come from a variety of social backgrounds; presently there are four children receiving free school meals (12%). The school has a privately run pre-school on site that is open every day from 8 am until 3.15 pm, including a breakfast club. A number of children attending this facility transfer to St. Joseph's school. Attendance levels are above National averages.

In September 2012 the school was inspected by OfSTED and received an overall effectiveness judgement of 'Good.' This accurately reflected the considerable improvements made in the school over the preceding 18 months.

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

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

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

2

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

2

The school has had challenging circumstances since 2009 but is now in a secure position. School evaluation has been thorough and has been used to bring about improvements in outcomes for children. Confirmation of the progress made was given during the recent Ofsted Inspection. The school works well with all stakeholders to realise its vision and mission. Parental support has always been good and this continues. Staff morale has been low but a recent staff questionnaire showed staff morale is now high and all staff are very committed to the school.

Main findings

St. Joseph's, Tadcaster is a good Catholic primary school. The pupils contribute to and are highly involved in the Catholic life of the school. In a culture of openness all stakeholders have been involved in the process of reviewing and rewriting the school's Mission Statement. The new motto is 'We live, love and learn with the Lord'.

The school's assessment procedures have improved markedly since the last inspection. Work is now levelled accurately in conjunction with staff in the school and through developing partnerships locally. Pupil progress will be enhanced further by the school applying target setting procedures which it has used to good effect in the other core subjects.

The quality of Collective Worship provided by St. Joseph's is good and the pupils respond with great enthusiasm.

The school's capacity to sustain the obvious improvements it has made in recent years is good, led by a capable, determined headteacher and a strong governing body.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

- Embed the new use of the RE scheme: 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' across the whole school, with support from the Diocese of Leeds.
- Continue to build links with the other RE coordinators to moderate pupils' work, share knowledge, resources and observe good practice.
- Enable pupils to know and apply their RE targets in a similar way to those used in other core subjects.
- Form an RE/ethos committee to support, evaluate and monitor Religious Education and the Catholic Life of St. Joseph's School.

PUPILS

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

2

Pupils make good progress across each key stage as evidenced in school tracking data. Formal and informal lesson observations demonstrate that children work hard in lessons and behave well. Monitoring shows that pupils are enthusiastic about RE and enjoy using the new scheme: The Way, The Truth and The Life. One Year 2 child showed a good ability to re-tell a bible story. She wrote: 'Jesus was on a boat with His disciples. Then the wind started blowing and the waves started howling. The disciples started shouting, "Help we are going to drown." But then Jesus said, "Have you no faith? Be calm, peace".'

The children show a good knowledge of the sacraments. During work on the topic of Baptism one Year 2 girl wrote: 'Babies are baptised when they are tiny to welcome them into the Church.'

Older children showed ability to link stories from the Bible with the 'modern world'. For example, one Year 5 child wrote: 'A true disciple cares for others. This means loving other people and never being boastful ... never being mean to each other.'

On other occasions, older pupils show a strong ability to appreciate the full meaning of bible stories. Whilst studying the Easter story, one child wrote: 'Yesterday, on Sunday morning, Mary of Magdala discovered the empty tomb. ... after I ran towards the town to tell Peter and John they couldn't believe it... they had to believe it for themselves... John said, "He was there, stood, 3-d, real. I could have faith again."

Pupils contribute to the self-evaluation of the school during School Council meetings, Circle Time and SEAL activities. Suggestion boxes encourage children to think about ways they can contribute to the improvement of the school. Pupils are enthusiastic about fund raising projects which help others and have raised money for a variety of causes through a range of activities e.g. last October the children brought coins to school to try to cover a map of the world. The money was then donated to Cafod.

They willingly take part in Collective Worship and Masses at St. Joseph's Church: reading prayers, organising the hymns and music, being altar servers and carrying the gifts at the offertory procession. Services involved several children who in turn are enthused. Pupils show great respect for each other and the wider community. During Collective Worship children listen well and respond to the readings. They sing well, with enthusiasm and recently sang in the Chapel at Hazlewood Castle.

One parent stated how, "St. Joseph's clearly is a community. All the children know each other; the children get on well; the older ones look after the younger ones. The ethos is strong."

During the inspection children in Class 2 planned and led the Collective Worship very effectively. It was age appropriate and stimulating. Pupils participate very well in Collective Worship joining in with hymns and prayers enthusiastically. Pupils have a good understanding of the religious seasons for example spending time during Advent and Lent preparing for Christmas and Easter. Children sit attentively and with reverence during Collective Worship. Bible passages used are age appropriate and interest the children. Time is set aside for reflection and well-managed interaction. The quality of Collective Worship can be further enhanced by finding creative ways of dramatising the Word of God. During the present topic 'The Christian Family', the children in Class 2 recently benefited from a trip to St. Joseph's church where Fr. Sean told the children all about Baptism.

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	2
• pupils' attainment in Religious Education	2
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school.	2
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship.	1

PROVISION

How effective the provision is for Catholic education.

2

Monitoring shows overall that teaching is consistently good with some outstanding elements in parts of lessons. Learning in lessons is well matched to pupils needs and pupils in both classes make good progress. Behaviour and attitudes in lessons is good and pupils contribute well.

Teachers assess pupils' progress accurately and plan further activities accordingly. Assessment of RE is now accurate and benefits from moderation opportunities which are developing with other diocesan schools, the RE advisor and amongst the staff of St. Joseph's. Although the school acknowledges that assessment over the previous three years had been unreliable it is now much more accurate and robust after whole school training.

An assessment calendar ensures regular assessment of RE towards the end of each topic. Internal moderation of assessment tasks at Staff meetings has impacted positively on both teaching and learning as it has raised expectations. The use of a portfolio of assessed examples of work has supported this development. Detailed feedback and next steps support the pupils in KS2. Embedding the use of "I Can" statements and integrating the use of and referral to "sub levels" progress in RE for each pupil will further enhance assessment practices and enable pupils and all stakeholders to become increasingly aware of standards attained in RE. These measures will also ensure that RE is treated as a core subject by everybody. Pupils are beginning to self assess their work with the introduction of 'I can' statements.

Pupils in KS2 regularly plan and take an active part in Collective Worship. The school uses Ethos Statements to maintain the high level of spiritual and moral development in the school. Parents are regularly invited to attend Collective Worship and other celebrations linked to the Liturgical year. They speak very highly of these events. One parent said, "The children enjoy Collective Worship. They sing with enthusiasm".

In addition to Collective Worship there are other regular prayer times throughout the day. School starts and ends every term with a shared Parish Mass celebrated in St. Joseph's Church to which parents and members of the Parish are invited. St. Joseph's leads the Remembrance Service at Tadcaster War Memorial with the pupils reading the Exhortation and laying a wreath. Since the last inspection a quiet area for reflection and prayer for all members of our community has been created in one of the rooms not currently used as a full time classroom. The children enjoy their RE lessons, a fact which was endorsed by parents. One member of the school council said, "I enjoy learning new facts about God."

The RE curriculum is supported by use of ICT and cross-curricular links with other subjects, for example, drama.

In response to the new SRE Policy recommended by the Diocese, the Shadow Governing Body have discussed and approved the new policy. It will be adopted at the first meeting of the Governing Body in November 2012.

Pupils in Y5 and Y6 receive health and relationship education from staff and the school nurse during the summer term. Parents are offered the opportunity to speak to the school nurse and /or view the materials before the topic is introduced. In addition to topics covered in The Way, The Truth and The Life, all pupils follow a two year rolling programme delivering SEAL activities.

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.	2
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.

2

After a period of challenge and transition St. Joseph's leadership is growing in strength and stability and is clearly deeply committed to the church's mission in Catholic education. The Mission Statement was recently endorsed by the IEB and there has been extensive consultation with all stakeholders to develop a new vision to express the values of the Mission Statement. This is symptomatic of the "openness" and "approachability" of the leadership of the school.

Pupils, parents and staff were all involved in designing a new school badge and logo. The 'badge' has been introduced on the school uniform this September. The children and families are presently involved in writing a school prayer. The introduction of a new motto 'We live, love and learn with the Lord' is still at an early stage. This is considered a popular move by the stakeholders of St. Joseph's school. Prayer tables and RE displays are prominent in school. The parish and the school work together to prepare children for the Sacraments and the whole school joins in the celebration of these events.

There is a strong commitment to helping those in need with regular fund raising for Cafod, Lepira, and Catholic Care. At Christmas children plan a 'Gift Mass' and bring presents for children less fortunate than themselves. In recent years the gifts have been donated to Martin House and Catholic Care.

Self-evaluation at St. Joseph's draws on a range of evidence including work scrutiny, formal and informal lesson observations, staff discussion and pupil interviews. In September 2012, Ofsted praised the accuracy of the school evaluation and the school's own judgements were confirmed. Ofsted recognised that 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development' was good. Evidence is used to identify school priorities and inform the SDP to improve outcomes for pupils. Outcomes in Religious Education for most pupils are good.

The school works with key partners to develop provision and improve outcomes for children. For example support from the Diocesan Advisor has been used to plan a long term programme for KS2 where all the children are taught together in one class.

The establishment of an RE/ethos committee will further strengthen the leadership of St.

Joseph's school. This committee should support, evaluate and monitor Religious Education and the Catholic Life of the School in a robust, effective manner. The IEB (Interim Executive Board) was put in place in 2009 following the resignation of all members of the Governing Body. They have fully supported the school and have met all their statutory and canonical responsibilities to an outstanding standard. They have worked hard on behalf of the school to maintain a Catholic School in Tadcaster to serve the needs of the parish and wider community. Several members of the IEB are Catholic and this has ensured the importance of the teaching of RE and its Catholic ethos. At present they are in transition from an IEB to a Full Governing Body. There has been a Shadow Governing Body in place and the inaugural meeting of the Full Governing Body will take place in November. This will mark an important milestone for the school. The Parish Priest will be a member of the new governing body.

Links with the parish have developed with the Headteacher reporting annually to the Parish AGM. A wide range of Charities are supported by the school to raise money for different causes. The school supports the diocesan Good Shepherd Collection and attended the service at the Cathedral led by the Bishop. The school works well with Saint John Fisher to enhance the children's learning. Their Drama and Music Coordinator visits school weekly to work with Class 2 on music and drama which regularly leads to performances for parents and friends. Leading up to Easter 2011 pupils worked together with the other Saint John Fisher feeder primary schools to perform 'Requiem' at St. Robert's Church in Harrogate. Links have been established with St. Joseph's nearest Catholic neighbour, Barkston Ash Primary School. Staff from both schools shared a training day in September 2012. The RE Co-ordinators are beginning to work more closely together and staff have observed Collective Worship. This venture is improving the quality of RE teaching and Collective Worship.

St Joseph's is a small school which enables all pupils to have extensive opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities. St. Joseph's is an active member of the Sports Partnership for Schools and pupils regularly attend competitions, something which the children are very appreciative of. The Olympic Torch passed the school in June and the children took part in an Olympic Day with sports activities at the neighbouring primary school and an extended swimming session for all pupils on an Olympic Theme. The school has an active P.T.A. that supports the school with fund raising and social activities. More-able children have the opportunity to work with other similar pupils at a 'Gifted & Talented Group' for Maths and an 'Able Writers Group' that is led by different authors. Regular invitations are 'extended' to local groups who visit school and talk to the children. For example, when the topic was 'Powerful People' a local historian came to speak to the children about two local families who had left legacies for the people of Tadcaster. Local events are organised throughout the year and the school supports them for example, Carol Singing at the Christmas Market, a float for the Carnival celebrating the Jubilee and the Duck Race.

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.	2
How effectively leaders and managers promote Community Cohesion.	2

