

DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

SECTION 48 FINAL REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ST MATTHEW'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Saffron Drive, Allerton, Bradford, BD15 7NE

School URN	107336
School DfE Number	3803355
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Chair of Governors	Father C McGinn
Headteacher	Katy Cox
RE Subject Leader	Silvana Esposito
Date of Inspection	11 th - 12 th July 2013
Section 48 Inspector	Christine Rothwell

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

1

THE PROVISION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

2

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

2

Summary of key findings:

This is a good school with many outstanding features.

- The school's motto, 'I try to live like Jesus: I love: I forgive: I pray, come follow me', is based on Jesus' calling to Matthew and is evident throughout the school. The pupils say this motto daily and can share its meaning with others. This ensures a strong Catholic ethos that provides and enables the pupils to achieve their potential both spiritually and academically.
- The school's Mission tree is based on Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor's quote, 'You can't have the fruits without the roots'. There is a generic adult tree and every year the pupils review the fruits in pairs and design and make new trees always ensuring the roots, which are the key aspects our faith, remain the same. Once again, the pupils can discuss the Mission tree and fully understand its importance.
- The Parish Priest is a daily visitor to the school, taking a keen interest in all aspects of school life and knows everybody by name. There is a strong link between the Parish, school and families - it is one family of St Matthew's.
- The head teacher is outstanding, having a very clear vision for the future and working resolutely to achieve that vision so meeting the needs of the school and wider community.
- Pupil care is a major strength of the school. The school employs both a pastoral support worker and a parental involvement worker who tirelessly ensure the appropriate strategies are in place to provide the children with a secure, safe and supportive school life whilst also helping parents if needed.
- Collective Worship is outstanding. They are prepared by all members of the school community and are reflective, meaningful, spiritual and delivered in many forms.
- Attainment is improving due to an effective tracking system, intervention and no teaching being less than good. Pupils are in line with the National average by Year 6

but their start is far lower than the National average indicating exceptional progress through the school. Pupils are attentive and eager to learn enjoying the varied approaches to their learning.

- The Governors are involved in school life, taking responsibility for specific subjects, individual classes and supporting events.
- The dedication of all staff is a major strength of the school ensuring a welcoming atmosphere, a stimulating working environment and a care for pupils that goes one-step further.

What the school needs to do to improve further.

- Increase the proportion of lessons in which RE teaching is regularly outstanding by sharing outstanding teaching and practice.
- Improve attainment by challenging the high achievers through deeper and thought provoking questioning and extending the opportunities for more independent learning. When marking teachers should use 'next steps to learning' in order to inform pupils how they can progress further.
- Governors need to be more active in monitoring and evaluating standards enabling them to have a greater understanding of attainment of pupils.

Information about this inspection

The Inspection of St Matthew'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).

During the inspection the inspector observed 5 lessons – 2 in Key Stage 1(KS1) and 3 in Key Stage 2 (KS2); four Collective Worship (CW – Foundation Stage, KS1, KS2 and whole school): one circle time; had seven discussion meetings with the head, subject leader, pupils, digital leaders, Governor/ Parish Priest, Holy family sisters and parents. In addition to these, the inspector also assessed the documentation provided by the school, which included a scrutiny of pupils' work.

The inspector reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- The Catholic Life of the School
- Leadership and Management
- Preparation and presentation of Collective Worship
- Teaching and Learning
- Attainment, Assessment and Moderation

Information about this school

- St Matthew's Catholic Primary school is a single form entry serving the parish of St Matthew's and the local community of Allerton on the outskirts of Bradford.
- There are currently 250 pupils on roll, an increase of 70 pupils in the last six years. The school has a 40 place nursery provision which has resulted in an oversubscribed reception class. These two age groups are taught in a stimulating Foundation Unit.
- St Matthew's serves a diverse community with 23 different native languages spoken by the pupils and families. The proportion of pupils from other ethnic backgrounds has increased over the last three years and there is a significant number of pupils in the school who speak English as an additional language.
- The pupils who have a special need or disability are above the National average as is the number known to be eligible for free school meals.
- The school serves a council estate area of significant social deprivation. The Indices of Deprivation shows that St Matthew's is in the most deprived 1% of neighbourhoods nationally. 68.3% of pupils live in neighbourhoods, which are among the most deprived 10% in the country. This has a direct effect on attainment on entry to nursery. The Index of multiple deprivation is 48.9.
- 75.2% of pupils are baptised Catholic, 11.6% are of other Christian faiths and 7.6% are of other faith backgrounds.
- The majority of pupils transfer to either St Joseph's Catholic College or St Bede's Catholic Grammar School at the end of Key Stage 2.
- A building of an extension and refurbishment completed recently has made significant improvements to the learning environment.
- There are 11 full time teachers plus 17 support assistants.
- Eleven members of staff teach RE with 4 of these having the Catholic Certificate for Religious Studies. The RE leader has a degree in theology.
- The school is popular in the area and places are in high demand.
- The school is an active member of the Bradford and Keighley Catholic School Partnership – the head teacher is currently the Chair of this group.
- The budget allocation to Religious Education averages at £3735.58 over the last three years reflecting the importance that the school places on providing and caring for the children.
- School awards include the Activemark, FMSiS and Healthy Schools Award.

Full report - inspection judgements

Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils are outstanding.

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.	2
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship.	1

- Pupils happily refer to their school motto and explain what it means to them as a member of the school and parish community. It is the heart and soul of the school.
- Pupils take great pride in their school and the surrounding environment eager to tell all the exciting activities they enjoy whilst appreciating the time and effort given by staff to provide them.
- There are excellent relationships in the school, adult/pupil, pupil/ pupil and adult/adult, which reflect the distinctive nature of a Catholic school.
- Pupils' opinions are sought through groups such as school council or the chaplaincy team. The pupils realise the importance of their responsibility and show a maturity beyond their years in their opinions.
- The Parish Priest is a frequent visitor and knows all the pupils. He is a welcome visitor to the classrooms and staffroom and has a regular meeting with the head teacher.
- Pupils are supportive and caring of one another recognising each other's talents as gifts from God. They respect the individuality of each person knowing they are all special to God.
- Many charities benefit from the fund raising efforts of the pupils e.g. Cafod, Good Shepherd, Catholic Care, Global Campaign for Education, Pakistan Appeal plus many more. The pupils who have so little themselves recognize and respond generously to those whose need is greater.
- On entry to school the children do not recognise key items linked to the Catholic faith such as 'Bible' or 'crucifix' but the dedication of the Early Years staff ensure that children quickly develop their knowledge and understanding of their Catholic life, able to join in prayers and use religious terminology correctly.
- Attainment is improving with pupils making great progress from entry at below the expected level to pupils achieving the national average and some surpassing this. This is supported by an effective tracking system and detailed planning.
- The effective deployment of support staff in teaching those pupils who need extra support is very good with all adults being fully aware of the learning objective and the methods required ensuring achievement. The more able need to be challenged further to extend their knowledge, understanding and skills.
- Pupils enjoyed and eagerly contributed to their lessons. Behaviour was outstanding with pupils sharing resources and working together.
- There is an effective programme in personal relationships throughout the school appropriate to the ages of the pupils.
- Pupils, relevant to their age, take an active part in the preparation and sharing of Collective Worship with this being the norm for those in year 6. They demonstrate reverence and respect and confidently say their prayers using a variety of styles. Pupils whose first language is not English are encouraged to share their own faith experiences such as the year 6 pupil who gave the Year 5 class a power point

presentation on his Hindu faith or the interviews of parents answering questions about their faith experiences.

- Pupils regularly set up their own focal areas and enjoy creating eye catching RE displays.

The provision for Catholic Education is good.

The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education.	2
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum promotes pupils' learning.	2
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.	1

- Teaching is at least good with indications of outstanding. To improve this there needs to be more regular outstanding teaching through sharing good practice and extending the more able pupils.
- Planning is linked to prior learning and ongoing assessment building and extending learning for pupils.
- All members of staff have good subject knowledge and are good role models for the pupils, clearly demonstrating gospel values and encouraging pupils to share their beliefs. Because of the good subject knowledge in RE, teaching builds a clear understanding of the pupils' faith and its values.
- The range of teaching styles and activities sustain pupils' concentration and make lessons enjoyable with many pupils reporting that RE was their favourite lesson.
- The use of technology is a major strength of the school giving pupils many opportunities to maximize learning especially when challenging questioning is also used.
- Marking, overall, was positive and supportive with good use of an additional question. This could be further improved by the use of 'next steps to learning' enabling the pupils to know how well they are doing and what they need to work towards next.
- The curriculum meets the Diocesan requirements with full coverage of the RE curriculum. The school works closely with the Bradford and Keighley Catholic Schools Partnership to the benefit of pupils and staff. Moderation of levels is shared with all schools ensuring consistency. There are also many activities between the partnership including staff training and pupils' sporting activities.
- The school enjoys more than average adults working in the classroom and has the use of attractive and interesting support material. All adults are familiar with the learning outcomes and the means to achieve success. Pupils had a good understanding of different resources pertinent to the time in the liturgical year.
- Collective Worship is a strength of the school providing opportunities for all pupils to develop spiritually. Pupils of other faith backgrounds are encouraged to share their beliefs and traditions celebrated in school with their peers.
- The pupils enjoy the many forms of Collective Worship especially those that include drama. They are happy to write their own prayers and sing confidently. The Collective Worship observed on International Faith Day included the pupils sharing symbols of their faith. This was followed by each year group learning more about different faiths.
- These varied forms of worship, prayer styles and methods of delivery enable all pupils and staff the opportunities to enrich their spiritual faith journey. Staff have penitential services and masses at appropriate times of the year in the St Matthew's Church.
- Religious Education is modified to meet the needs of individuals who work with an assistant enabling them to make valuable contributions in the classroom.

- The school has adopted the scheme 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' with all the support materials plus other support materials, that enhances the scheme further. This provides full coverage of the RE programme.
- The school is actively working to improve attainment through more teaching and learning regularly being outstanding as identified in the recent SEF.
- Parents, parishioners, governors and other faith communities are welcome visitors to times of worship.

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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- Leaders, governors and managers actively work together to promote and uphold the Catholic ethos of the school. They ensure that Religious Worship is in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church. They also ensure that Religious Education is in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline, general and particular norms of the Catholic Church.
- The Governing Body meets regularly and is well attended. It recognizes the need to be involved with the managing of the school. Governors are linked to individual classes and have a subject responsibility. The RE Governor meets weekly with the subject leader to discuss aspects of the curriculum and give support if needed. The Chair of Governors meets weekly with the head teacher to discuss matters arising during the week. The Governors are very proud of the dedication of the head teacher and the example and support given by her to the staff.
- Leaders, Governors and managers are aware of their role in safeguarding pupils and staff and ensuring that the premises are fit for purpose. The caretaker and cleaning staff keep the school immaculate, which in turn encourages pupils to respect it. The school grounds are an extension of the classrooms where pupils can explore the wonder of God's creation.
- Governors fulfill their role effectively regarding recruitment, admissions, finance, pay and conditions and areas of the curriculum but need to be more active in monitoring and evaluating standards.
- Leaders in the school have an effective system for monitoring, analysing and evaluating the impact of Catholic Life, including Collective Worship, on pupils and staff. There is an effective tracking system in place resulting in gaps being addressed through intervention.
- Self- evaluation accurately identifies strengths and weaknesses and areas for development are prioritised in the school improvement plan. All leaders, governors, managers and staff share ownership and work together to make progress.
- RE inset training days shared with other schools are held regularly and RE is a standard item at staff and Governor Meetings.
- The RE subject leader, though new to the role, has made a very positive start and has the ability to be an effective subject leader.
- Stimulating focal areas have been created not only in the classrooms but also throughout the school. Displays along the corridors and in the teaching areas reflect the liturgical year and the aspects of the RE curriculum currently being taught.

- The employment of a pastoral support worker and a parental involvement worker ensures the support, pastoral care and guidance has a positive impact on pupil outcomes.
- Pupils are very happy at school and enjoy school life. 'Bullying is not an issue as everybody is your friend,' says one child. Others talked about fun activities, kind teachers, great equipment in lessons, school fairs and picnics.
- Parents referred to the school as 'an extension of our own family'. They find all staff friendly and approachable, always ready to listen and support not only the children but also the family. Parents report that they are impressed by the behaviour and manners of the pupils and the quality of their education comparing their children with similar aged children at other schools. They are very proud of St Matthew's school and 'so glad' their children are at the school.
- Parents have weekly newsletters informing them of events at school and receive text messages reminding them of activities or events involving their children such as the concert that involved pupils in Year 3 and the choir.
- The school is conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with Latin Rite Canon Law and the teachings of the Catholic Church and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Leeds.
- At all times the school serves as a witness to the Catholic Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ. There are preparation programmes for Baptism and Communion run by the Holy Family sisters in the school bringing together the families in the school setting.