

DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

SECTION 48 FINAL REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
HIGHFIELD ROAD, HEMSWORTH

School URN	138941
School DfE Number	3843329
E-mail address	headteacher@sacredheart.wakefield.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Ms. Caroline Donovan
Headteacher	Mrs. Marlyn Morgan
RE Subject Leader	Mrs. Louise Rogers
Date of Inspection	3 rd October 2013
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

- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Hemsworth is an outstanding school where the deep rooted traditions and beliefs of the Catholic Faith walk hand in hand with outstanding pastoral care.
- The headteacher is an outstanding role model who leads by example in her determination to provide the best possible Catholic Education for the pupils within her care. Governors, leaders and managers follow her example in order to promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education. The way in which they plan, and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils is outstanding.
- Collective Worship (CW) is a major strength of the school. All pupils play an active role in the preparation, delivery and development of CW.
- Staff and pupils are very proud of their school. The pupils show a deep understanding and respect for everything in and around their local and wider community.
- The teaching is good, some is outstanding, but none is inadequate. Teaching support staff play an active role in the delivery of the most outstanding lessons and this has a marked impact on the progress of those pupils who have specific educational learning needs.
- Pupil behaviour is exemplary. They are very enthusiastic and willing to contribute to discussions and debate within the RE lessons. They remain on task, are confident about their learning and know what they need to do to improve further.
- There is a strong sense of belonging within Sacred Heart School. The entire school curriculum is underpinned by Christ's love for one another. Displays around the school reflect 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' of Christ.
- The school participates fully in the Bishop Konstant Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (BKCMAT) and the well-established Wakefield partnership.
- All canonical and statutory duties are fulfilled.

What the school needs to do to improve further.

- Improve standards of teaching by sharing outstanding classroom practice across the school.
- Increase the number of pupils who attain Level 5 in RE by using intervention programmes tailored to the RE levels.
- Provide more opportunities across the school for the children to experience retreat, reflection and meditation outside of the school grounds and into the local and wider community. This will enable pupils to deepen their faith and provide opportunities for quality reflection, particularly for Year six pupils in preparation for high school.

Information about this inspection

The Inspection of Sacred Heart 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 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 Sacred Heart by establishing the accuracy of the school's self-evaluation systems.

The inspection was carried out by one inspector.

- All teachers were observed teaching RE over four lessons.
- Three acts of CW covering both key stages and foundation stage and a whole school morning assembly led by the headteacher were observed.
- Meetings were held with the headteacher, the RE subject leader, teaching and support staff, Catholic Care, learning mentor, governors, parents, school council and pupils.
- Monitoring and evaluation documentation relating to the RE/Catholic Life of the school was examined.

- Very comprehensive samples of evidence were made available to show the RE/Catholic Life of the school. This included the school's monitoring and tracking system to show pupil progress and attainment data, RE work portfolios, samples of pupils' work, examples of marking, pupil evaluation sheets and intervention strategies for RE. 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

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School was built in 1893 and serves the Parish of Sacred Heart, Hemsworth in the South East section of Wakefield Metropolitan Council. In November 2012 the school became part of the BKCMAT along with St. Wilfrid's & St Thomas a Becket high schools and five primary schools. Sacred Heart is also part of the Wakefield and district Catholic Schools Partnership. The headteacher is a member of the Trust board and this ensures that the school is involved in all developments within the Academy Trust.

- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is a smaller than average, Voluntary Aided school of the Diocese of Leeds, in Wakefield Local Authority.
- The published admission number (PAN) is 25 but the current number of pupils on roll is 103 with 56.3% baptised Catholics and 47.3% children of other faiths. Numbers are on the increase.
- There are 5 full time teachers of whom 4 are Catholic, 4 teach RE and 2 hold the CCRS qualification.
- The current deputy headteacher / RE Co-ordinator has been appointed since the last inspection in 2010. A new Y5/Y6 teacher has also joined the school along with 2 T/As.
- The Parish Priest of Sacred Heart School is a governor and a key figure within the school.
- The proportion of pupils identified as disabled or with special educational needs; those requiring 'school action' or 'school action plus' (additional support) are just below national averages.
- The majority of pupils on roll are of white British heritage, with English as their first language. A small proportion of pupils are of Polish, African and Asian heritage (11%).

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

- The outcomes for pupils at Sacred Heart School are outstanding. The staff and governors have a clear vision of the nature of a Catholic School. 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. One of the pupils commented that they '*feel like one big family*' and are very happy here. They behave well because of the guidance and caring support given and therefore feel safe.
- Children are fully involved in the Catholic Life of the school. They take responsibility not only for readings, intercessions, music and the accompanying power points but also the planning and delivery of the religious life of the school. A group of Year 6 pupils asked if they could change the arrangement of the RE focal point in their classroom. This was accepted by the class teacher. The pupils are given total responsibility for setting the scene for their CW. In order to improve the element of CW, children need to be given more opportunities for meditation and reflection through further experiences in stimulating environments away from school. This could be a retreat or planned visit to a local place of worship e.g. Fountains Abbey, Myddelton Grange.
- Staff provide a fulfilling and enriched faith experience for every child in the school, no matter what background or experience they come from. The children are given opportunities to actively participate in worship and liturgy through liturgical dance workshops, visits into the local community to sing carols at Christmas time, trips to nearby care homes to distribute May time posies of flowers following the May liturgy and regular attendance at Mass with the Parish Priest who brings the gospel alive through dramatisation. He also invites the all age groups to join him in a simplified version of the Rosary and Stations of the Cross. Joint services are also planned with St Joseph's, Moorthorpe.
- 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 other curriculum areas and are tracked and compared to other core subjects, in particular, standards in writing. RE is given a high profile within the Sacred Heart pupil tracking system. At the end of KS2 pupils are attaining generally in line with average standards in RE. Most pupils make at least good progress and some are targeted to make outstanding progress with nothing being inadequate. The school needs to further refine the tracking system to ensure that the more able pupils are given the opportunity to make higher than expected levels of progress in RE.
- The school recognises the need to support specific groups of pupils and has introduced a very effective intervention programme aimed at identifying pupils' needs and giving smart but achievable targets to improve performance. The children are aware of these targets and are keen to succeed. This system is already showing a marked impact on standards in all subjects including RE. The intervention programmes need to be carefully monitored, evaluated and adjusted to ensure that all groups of pupils achieve to their full potential.

- Pupils are polite and helpful to visitors. They willingly accept responsibility for caring for each other, especially for the younger pupils. The older pupils are partnered with KS1 pupils when attending Mass at church. This was commented on by a visitor to the area who wrote to the school to congratulate them on the prayerfulness and devotion the children displayed whilst in church.
- The quality of work in the RE books is currently outstanding. Presentation and volume of work is again outstanding. The range of ways in which the teachers enthuse pupils and motivate them is presented in very innovative ways. Children wrote recipes for Christ's cookies, which used a sprinkling of understanding, a large measure of courage, a splash of wisdom and a pinch of reverence to depict some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- CW at Sacred Heart always involves pupil participation. There is a marked progression from reception to Year 6 as to the involvement of pupils in the delivery. Year 5/6 Pupils take it in turns to take time out each Wednesday to plan the weekly CW with no adult input. The Year 3/4s set the altar, read, play musical instruments and write the intercessions. FS and KS1 also join in relative to their chronological age and capabilities, "No-one is left out at our school." The staff are very experienced in the careful planning of age appropriate CW which enables all pupils to take part.

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 Sacred Heart School is outstanding.
- The school works in productive partnership with the Diocese of Leeds and the Catholic Schools Cluster group and has established close links with St Wilfrid's Academy to which the majority of Year 6 pupils transfer for their secondary education. The school has recognised the need to further develop the opportunities for pupils to reflect and to take part in a residential retreat. The school could extend this to incorporate a transition programme for the Y6 pupils in preparation for the next stage of their education.
- Over the last 3 financial years, the governors have approved an RE budget which is in line with other core curriculum areas. 'The Wednesday Word', travelling cribs and excellent class resources for CW and RE, particularly ICT resources to enhance teaching, have been provided. Support for a Year 6 retreat is also planned for this academic year.
- This term, a new handwriting scheme has been introduced in order improve presentation of work and spelling, and last year a new reading scheme was implemented to tackle underachievement in KS2. This is beginning to impact on standards in RE and needs to be carefully monitored to make sure that cross-curricular links are maintained.
- Children enter school over three terms into the Reception class. The 'on entry' assessment carried out by the Foundation Stage staff shows that a significant number of children enter the Foundation Stage of the school well below age related expectations. The school ensures that there is a rigorous programme of communication and social activities to enable children to access the curriculum.

- The teaching is good with many outstanding features and none is inadequate. The school needs to improve further the standards of teaching by demonstrating outstanding practice in the year groups where improvement is required. This will ensure that all teaching is consistently good with the majority being outstanding.
- In the lessons observed, teachers displayed a deep spiritual understanding of the gospel and its teachings through their excellent subject knowledge.
- Teachers use a good variety of questioning techniques within lessons which enable the children to respond effectively and confidently. Teachers were happy to give examples of their own to stimulate children to enter into discussion. A lovely example was demonstrated in the FS/KS1 CW. The teacher told pupils about her nephew's birthday party and how happy she was feeling. She even showed them the present she was taking to the party and told them where she was going. This opened the floodgates for the children to engage in reflecting on when they feel happy.
- 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. Lesson objectives are shared and discussed with the class and the children are aware of what they are learning. In a vibrant Y3/4 lesson, pupils took part in a wide range of activities to depict the story of the Paralysed Man.
- Pupils enjoy their RE work and say that they find that their teachers make RE interesting and exciting by using a wide range of media. In an outstanding lesson, the teacher grasped the pupils' interest from the start by performing a magic trick and asking for an explanation so that she could aid their understanding of the Kingdom of God and the complexities of the difference between a miracle, pure magic and a scientific explanation.
- 'The Way, The Truth & The Life' resource, in line with the other schools within the Catholic Partnership, forms the basis of curricular RE. All teachers are responsible for planning and delivering RE lessons which are engaging and inspirational for the children, giving them the opportunity to question and develop their knowledge of the Catholic Faith. The Ethos statements are referred to in RE lessons in order to reiterate what has been discussed throughout the week.
- The RE curriculum provides a wide range of opportunities for pupils' spiritual and moral development through the weekly Circle Time lessons, alongside the SRE scheme, 'In the Beginning', preparation for the First Sacraments, The 'Statements to Live By', liturgical dance workshops, drama and music.
- The needs of all children are met within RE lessons, and staff use a range of teaching and learning techniques to engage the children. Work is differentiated in order to enable all children to reach their full potential. A very well planned KS1 lesson used finger puppets to dramatise the story of Daniel.
- Lessons have good pace, a range of activities and promote the teaching of the Catholic Church. ICT is used to enhance learning and children are confident in their independent use of ICT programmes and how they can be used in RE.
- Children's work is marked on a regular basis and purposeful feedback is given, which provides each child with the 'next steps' in their learning. Verbal feedback is also given within lessons, and this is annotated within books and transferred to tracking sheets. Pupils were keen to explain to the Inspector how the targets helped them to improve their work and how useful they found them.
- Children's work in RE is shared and celebrated, with 'work of the week' being displayed for the whole school to see that they are highly motivated and thoroughly enjoy the work they produce in RE. A popular homework topic is the Easter Garden project. All pupils take a cross curricular approach to produce a garden to be displayed during Holy Week.

- The school has excellent working relationships with other primary schools within the partnership and BKCMAT Trust and these links ensure the children at Sacred Heart School are able to access projects and events throughout the year, which will broaden their experience of Catholic Education.
- The support staff at Sacred Heart are very committed and have a positive impact on the quality of learning through their contribution in the lessons and relationships they have developed with those pupils who find it difficult to work independently.
- Circle time is delivered by the learning mentor who plays a major role in helping pupils to achieve to their full potential and in supporting their emotional well-being using the school's statements to live by. The teachers then interweave these statements into CW and RE lessons. The statements permeate everything that takes place in the school during the week, and this is always underpinned by the gospel values and the work of Jesus.
- Throughout all liturgies there is a calm, spiritual atmosphere and creative use is made of music and Scripture to successfully develop the Catholic Life of the school. This was particularly in evidence in the wonderfully moving worship led by the Year 5/6 pupils as they brought their own candles from home to light and place on the table. As the candles were lit, the pupils made their own private intercessions. Parents commented on the impact this weekly CW session makes on their children, particularly in times of need.
- Assemblies are delivered by the headteacher, who is a firm believer in the traditional prayers of the Catholic Faith. The pupils say their school prayer, 'Most Sacred Heart of Jesus', with reverence and respect. The school choir always lead the singing and pupils are invited on a daily basis to share in prayer and read scripture. Friday assemblies are also dedicated to praise and celebration of the positive contribution the pupils have made throughout the week.

The Leadership and Management are Outstanding

How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.	1
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- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is given high priority within the school, and the staff, governors, parents and parish community all work closely together to develop the Catholic Education of the children. Leaders and governors are strongly committed to the Church's mission in Catholic Education and work closely with St Joseph's Moorthorpe to shape and determine the direction of Catholic Education in the area.
- The RE co-ordinator / deputy headteacher has been in post for one year and is extremely effective in her role as RE Co-ordinator and has made a big impact on the quality of Catholic Education in the school. She is given outstanding support from the very experienced headteacher, Parish Priest and governing body and is ably assisted by dedicated and highly skilled teachers, teaching assistants and learning mentor. In addition, she is deeply committed and very passionate about her role and demonstrates this through her professional drive and her strong determination to ensure that RE and the Catholic Life of the school continually moves forward.
- All staff work in close collaboration on projects, action plans and developments, ensuring a whole school approach is taken on new initiatives.

- The governing body and headteacher have been particularly influential in the formation of the BKCMAT. Their commitment demonstrates an expertise in their drive to improve Catholic Education for the benefit of the pupils in Sacred Heart School.
- The Parish Priest is extremely supportive of the school and works closely with all staff to help them deliver high quality CW and curricular RE. He works with the leadership team to put in place a structured response to the liturgical year and regular calendar meetings are held in order to plan Masses and services.
- The governing body are pro-active and are willing to challenge the school by acting as a critical friend. They are kept fully informed about all developments and are aware of any areas within the Catholic Life of the school, which may need further input.
- The headteacher is fully supported by all staff and governors. They all work closely together using the school's monitoring and tracking systems. These have a positive impact on the quality of provision and outcomes for the pupils of Sacred Heart School.
- Governors are assigned curriculum subjects and classes, and keep in close communication with the teachers and children to keep up to date with developments and events that have taken place.
- Each term, 'Governors Day' takes place in school, where governors are given the opportunity to participate in Assembly, Collective Worship, observe lessons, speak with the children and participate in Q & A sessions with the classes and the school council.
- At the beginning of the year, all staff and governors attend mass to ensure the academic year gets off to a positive and spiritual start.