

DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

SECTION 48 FINAL REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Broadgate Lane Horsforth LS16 5AB

School URN	<input type="text" value="383"/>
School DfE Number	<input type="text" value="3359"/>
E-mail address	<input type="text" value="headteacher@st-marys-pri.leeds.sch.uk"/>
Chair of Governors	<input type="text" value="Joe McDonnell"/>
Headteacher	<input type="text" value="Peter Hughes"/>
RE Subject Leader	<input type="text" value="Anne-Marie Harrison"/>
Date of Inspection	<input type="text" value="13<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013"/>
Section 48 Inspector	<input type="text" value="Kath Spillane"/>

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 judgment 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

- This is an outstanding school. The schools Mission Statement, 'Happy together in God's family, we love, we grow and learn' is tangible on entering the school.
- It is a welcoming place where everyone is loved and respected and the love of learning is evident in all aspects of the school.
- The head teacher, the RE coordinator and governors share a clear vision for securing further improvement. They inspire the school community to work together to bring the Mission statement into all aspects of school life.
- The Parish Priest, Father Pat, and Father Boniface are respected members of the school community and support the staff to deliver high quality worship and celebrations.
- Behaviour is outstanding. Children are well behaved and are very polite to visitors, they are very willing to share their thoughts and feelings. They concentrate very well and remain on task during lessons. They are aware of their learning and know what they need to do to improve.
- Children are proud of their faith, and they, together with those of other faith backgrounds, acknowledge their contribution to the work of the school as a worshipping community.
- The quality of teaching and learning is mainly outstanding, with other lessons being good with aspects of outstanding. A variety of resources are utilized to provide interesting and challenging lessons, which inspire and encourage the children to think about their faith and how to live their lives.

- Staff share a great sense of belonging and appreciate being part of this strong faith community, this is apparent in how effectively the new resource 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' has become embedded in the school.
- High quality, engaging and exciting displays are a feature throughout the school, reflecting not only curricula RE but also the school's Catholic life.
- Home-school parish links are very positive and support the development of the worshipping community of the school. First Sacrament preparation is an outstanding example of partnership working.

What the school needs to do to improve further.

- Embed the assessment of 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' to ensure that all staff are confident in setting appropriate tasks for assessing levels of attainment.
- Continue to develop the work on other World faiths to ensure that it enhances the RE curriculum and enriches the children's appreciation of their own, and other religions.
- If possible, provide a suitable retreat experience for Year Six children to deepen their faith and provide a time for quality reflection at the end of their time in primary education.

Information about this inspection

The Inspection of St Marys 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 the key issues for action identified in the previous Section 48 RE inspection have been addressed
- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school
- How well pupils enjoy and achieve their learning in RE
- How well pupils respond to and participate in the schools Collective Worship
- The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in RE
- The extent to which the RE curriculum promotes pupils' learning
- The quality of Collective Worship
- The accuracy of the school's self- evaluation system
- The school's partnership activities-including home-school-parish links

The inspection took place over a 1 ½ day period. Six RE lessons were observed together with three acts of Collective Worship and an assembly. Meetings were held with the Headteacher, RE coordinator, Parish Priest, Chair of Governors, parents and School Council. A very comprehensive sample of evidence of the Catholic Life of the School was made available, including evidence submitted for the awards the school holds, letters and questionnaires from parents and members of the community, newsletters and photographic evidence. Samples of children's work from each class was presented together with the RE folder from each year group which included samples of moderated work, tracking and planning for curricular RE and Collective Worship.

The budget of 1000.00 for spending on RE for the past two years, and its increase to 1500.00 for 2013/14 is in line with other core curriculum areas.

Information about this school

- St Mary’s Catholic Primary school is an oversubscribed, average sized primary school. The school is part of the parish of Our Lady of Kirkstall, Leeds and is next to the Parish church, with which it has very close links.
- 97% of pupils are baptized Catholics and the majority of pupils are of white, British backgrounds.
- There are 209 children on roll, the school has no nursery and all learners are taught in single age classes.
- The children come from a mix of socio-economic backgrounds, however the number of children eligible for free school meals is well below the national average, as too are the numbers with special needs.
- 89% of teachers are Catholic and the majority possess the CCRS or equivalent qualification.
- Since the last inspection, the school has a new Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Chair of Governors.
- 5.7% of pupils have English as an additional language. The percentage of children with special needs is below local and national average.
- The schools holds several awards including the Stephen Lawrence Award, Investors in Pupils and the Inclusion Chartermark. The school has also recently been recognised as a ‘School of Sanctuary’ .
- The school recently converted to academy status, and is now part of the Bishop Wheeler Academy Trust of schools. It works very closely with schools in the local community and has very strong links with St Mary’s Menston, where the majority of the children move onto after Year 6.

Full report - inspection judgments

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

- The outcomes for pupils at St Mary’s are outstanding, and it is obvious that children have every opportunity to ‘love, grow and learn’.
- Children are fully involved in the religious life of the school. Children take responsibility in worship for reading passages from the bible, writing prayers, and preparing the music and focal displays. Each RE lesson begins with an appropriate reflection or act of worship, setting a peaceful atmosphere conducive to learning.
- The children themselves say this is a ‘brilliant school’ and they ‘love to be here because learning is fun and all the staff ‘care about them’. The children’s behaviour and attitudes are outstanding. They are polite and welcoming and are very proud of their school.

- Progress is good for all pupils and attainment is high because teachers planning for teaching and learning ensures that all needs are met and that the children are inspired to do their best at all times.
- Preparation for First Sacraments is very clearly a partnership between home, school and parish with the programme planned by the school, delivered by parents and actively supported by Father Pat, Father Boniface and parishioners. This is a wonderful example of partnership working!
- Pupils are happy to be part of the wider community and support the local, national and international communities through a range of fundraising planned by them. Year 1 children during the inspection had planned a range of fundraising activities to support Catholic Care and Year 2 children supported the reception children and helped them access the activities.
- Pupils show empathy towards those less fortunate. This was demonstrated in a Key Stage 1 lesson where the children had to show how they could be Good Samaritans in a range of situations. Their suggestions illustrated the empathy and strong sense of social justice all children throughout the school are encouraged to show. Children are also able to show this through their fundraising activities and their involvement in gaining nationally recognized awards, for example the Inclusion Chartermark, the Stephen Lawrence Award and has been recognized as a School of Sanctuary.
- Children's behaviour and attitudes are outstanding . They are polite and courteous to adults and willing to talk enthusiastically about their learning and all aspects of school life.
- Each class has a 'Class Saint'; they research their saint and celebrate their feast days.

The provision for Catholic Education is Outstanding

The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education.	1
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 is outstanding. All members of the school community are totally committed to the school's mission statement and it is central to the life and success of the school.
- The school uses the Diocesan recommended scheme 'The Way, the Truth and the Life'. It forms a basis for the teaching of all curricular RE in the school although it is effectively adapted and supplemented by a variety of effectively chosen resources.
- The school's RE coordinator attends the RE coordinators meetings facilitated by the diocese and has been involved in the development and implementation of strategies and policies for the delivery of RE in the local partnership. She is extremely hard working and effective in supporting the staff. She regularly monitors RE through work sampling, observations and pupil discussions and evaluates the results, feeding back to staff and governors.
- The quality of teaching and learning is mainly outstanding, with other lessons being good with aspects of outstanding. In the best lessons, teaching is inspirational, creative, and planned to match all children's needs. Children are given opportunities to discuss and debate, and in a number of lessons, they are encouraged to work collaboratively with positive effect.
- Support staff are very committed and have a very positive impact on the quality of learning, they contribute to the lessons and support children very effectively.

- A range of teaching styles ensures that the needs of all learners are met and because it is purposeful, the children are able to enjoy and achieve. A variety of activities were observed which were interesting and engaged the learners.
- Marking and feedback is very good in all RE books, and teachers' comments and suggestions for improvement help the children to correct mistakes and move forward with their learning.
- The school continues to develop the tracking of levels of attainment and acknowledges that further work needs to be done, however current records show children make good progress and reach good or higher levels of attainment, which are in line with the levels achieved in other core subjects.
- Statements 'to Live by' are used throughout the school and are the focus of class worship; the children's social and moral development is also supported through the school's EPR programme which has been developed through discussions with staff, parents and governors .
- Children take an active role in Collective Worship, with the youngest children singing and reading enthusiastically, through to the oldest children who are able to plan and deliver entire acts of worship with reverence and confidence.
- There is a school calendar of Masses and liturgies based on a theme for all classes. Children are regular visitors to the Parish church and have planned levels of involvement in the Mass, from being 'attenders' through to leading the readings and prayers.
- Assemblies are well attended by parents, which include awarding achievements and celebrating current work. Children take a full role in assemblies, including the preparation of scripts, drama, prayers and accompanying music. Parents enjoy the opportunity to watch the children and to socialize afterwards. All parents who spoke to the inspector were fully appreciative of the school and its staff, and spoke highly of the quality of the education the children receive in the school.

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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- Leadership and management of St Mary's is outstanding and it is clear that everyone acknowledges the part they play in the achievements of the school.
- Since the previous inspection, there has been a new Head teacher, deputy head teacher, RE coordinator and Chair of Governors.
- The head teacher has a strong sense of purpose and clear vision for this Catholic school. He encourages and supports all the staff who are deeply committed to the ethos of this school and ensures that everyone is a witness to the faith and living gospel values.
- The hardworking and deeply committed RE coordinator has the professional drive and religious conviction to ensure that RE and the Catholic life of the school continually moves forward, she plays an integral part in the success of this Catholic school.
- Father Pat and Father Boniface are supportive of the school and work closely with all staff to help them deliver high quality worship and curricular RE. All staff and parents respect them and their contribution to the life of the school is valued.

- The Chair of Governors plays a positive role in the life of the school and is a regular visitor. He is very involved in all aspects of the school and parish life. The chair, together with the rest of the governing body, act as critical friends to the senior management team. There are established systems in place to monitor and evaluate standards of RE in the school and are they are able to identify strengths and areas for improvement. They are clear of the schools mission and work well with the staff team to ensure that all aspects of St Mary's as a successful Catholic school are enhanced.
- All canonical and statutory responsibilities are fulfilled.