

# 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  
ROYDS LANE, ROTHWELL, LEEDS LS260BJ

School URN

108018

School DfE Number

383/3364

E-mail address

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Chair of Governors

Mrs. Clare Skinner

Headteacher

Miss Siobhan Leonard

RE Subject Leader

Mrs. Katie Hartley

Date of Inspection

21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2013

Section 48 Inspector

Mr. David Gott

# 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 Catholic Primary School**

- Outcomes for pupils, Provision for Catholic Education and Leaders and Managers, are all outstanding in their overall effectiveness in providing Catholic Education at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Rothwell.
- The School Mission Statement:  
*'Grow together in Christ'*  
*'Live and Learn in God's love'*  
is actively 'lived out' by all in the day to day life of the school. It is at the centre of all that the school seeks to achieve.
- The headteacher, Religious Education (RE) subject leader (deputy head) and governors possess the vision and drive to lead the school to further improvements. They are enthusiastically energised by the task and are a source of inspiration for the whole community.
- A majority of the RE teaching is outstanding but it is never less than consistently good.
- Support staff significantly contribute towards excellent pupil progress – especially for those pupils with specific learning needs.
- Standards of pupil attainment in RE in all 3 key stages are significantly above national average. Attainment indicators at the end of KS2 show accelerated progress.
- The school's RE self evaluation procedures are comprehensive and accurate. A detailed RE Action Plan clearly targets future actions.
- Pupils' general behaviour and their attitudes towards purposeful learning in RE are exemplary.
- The school's RE curriculum meets Bishops' Conference requirements and is responsive to diocesan requirements.
- The Parish Priest is a very popular, supportive and respected member of the school community. He brings a wealth of experience to the governing body.

- The RE link governor is highly effective.
- The quality of Collective Worship (CW) provided by the school and the degree to which the pupils respond to, and participate in it, is outstanding. Music and singing are given high priority. CW is central to the life of the school and is a key part of every school celebration.
- Staff morale is very high and belief in the school's success runs throughout all levels of staff.
- Good home, school, parish links are actively promoted.
- The school is pro-active in partnership working with others. Good primary/secondary transition links exist.
- The school has satisfactorily addressed the areas identified for action in the previous RE inspection (Section 48).
- All canonical and statutory responsibilities are fulfilled.

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

In order to improve further, the school should:

- Continue to work with the diocesan RE co-ordinator and South Leeds RE Partnership of Catholic Schools in further embedding the RE programme of study 'The Way, The Truth & The Life' (WTL). In particular, continue to build on staff confidence and expertise in assessing, target setting and jointly moderating pupil levels of achievement in RE.
- Continue to empower further, pupils to plan and lead their own class/key stage acts of CW.
- Identify an appropriate school RE/Catholic Life project to mark the coming Golden Jubilee of the school in 2014.
- Governors should continue to ensure that all staff and governors have appropriate access to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunities to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith and of their duties and responsibilities for promoting the RE/Catholic Life of the school.
- Governors should ensure that appropriate Succession Management strategies are in place to maintain their current highly effective governance.

### **Information about this inspection**

The Inspection of St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Rothwell 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:

- How good outcomes are for individuals and groups of pupils at St. Mary's School.
- The quality of teaching and how purposeful pupil learning is in RE.
- The quality of CW provided by the school and how well pupils respond and actively participate.

- The effectiveness of leaders, governors and managers in promoting, monitoring, evaluating and further developing Catholic Education at St. Mary's.

The inspection was carried out by 1 inspector over a 1 ½ day period. A sample of 5 RE lessons (taught by different teachers) and 6 acts of CW, covering all 3 key stages, were observed. (This included a whole school CW led by Year 5 pupils.) In addition, a Mass celebrated in the parish church with Year 3 pupils was also attended. Meetings were held with the headteacher, RE subject leader/deputy headteacher, teaching and support staff, RE, governor, Parish Priest, Catholic Care social worker, parents and pupils. A comprehensive suite of monitoring and evaluation documentation was examined, including results of pupil and parent questionnaire surveys relating to the RE/Catholic Life of the School. Headteacher reports to the governing body and minutes of governors meetings were also sampled. A work scrutiny of pupils' RE work books and associated moderated portfolios of pupils' assessed RE work were evidenced. The quality of the school's general learning environment, RE resources, RE displays, (both in classrooms and public areas), was also noted. The school's website, prospectus and newsletters were also sampled.

The school's RE budget allocations over the last, current and next financial year totalled £5,300. This is higher than for other core curriculum areas.

### **Information about this school**

- St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Rothwell, is an average sized 1 form entry, over subscribed voluntary aided school of the Diocese of Leeds, situated within Leeds Local Authority.
- The school principally serves the needs of the families of the parish of St. Mary's Rothwell, Leeds. The school's published admissions number (PAN) is 30. Currently 209 pupils are on roll, (an increase since the last S48 Inspection in 2010); 94% are Catholics with 100% Catholic intake from 2009 to 2012.
- The school has no nursery. Children currently join the Reception class from up to 15 different nursery settings. Pupils are taught in 7 single age classes.
- Of the 7 full time and 2 part time teachers (8.4 full time equivalent) there are 6 (fte) Catholic teachers. All teachers teach RE. Of these, 3 teachers hold the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies (CCRS) or equivalent. One teacher is currently undertaking CCRS.
- Since the last inspection (July 2010), the school has a new headteacher (April 2012); new deputy headteacher/RE subject leader (September 2012); and new school chaplain/Parish Priest (September 2011).
- The proportion of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium (additional funding) is below national average.
- The proportion of pupils identified as disabled and/or with special educational needs, those requiring 'school action' or 'school action plus' (additional support) are below average.
- Almost all pupils are of White British heritage, with English as their first language. A small proportion of pupils are of Polish heritage.
- Pupil attendance (96 %) is above the national average. No pupils were excluded in the last academic year.
- The school works in productive partnership with other Catholic Schools, including St. Thomas á Beckett Catholic High School Wakefield and St. Wilfrid's Catholic High School Featherstone, to which the majority of Year 6 pupils transfer for their secondary education.

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

- The outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils at St. Mary's are outstanding.
- St. Mary's is very clearly a school, which places Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the very centre of all that it seeks to achieve.
- Staff and pupils are keen to contribute to and benefit from, the Catholic Life of the school. St. Mary's empowers them to use their God given talents to the full so that all may:

*'develop the potential of every individual by providing the best education through experience of our Catholic, Christian Community within which all members can grow in faith'.*

(School Mission Statement)

- The school views RE as **the** core subject, which influences the whole school curriculum. The school amply complies with Bishops' Conference guidelines in terms of RE teaching time.
- Pupils at St. Mary's are proud of their school, their backgrounds and beliefs. They enjoy leading and shaping activities with a religious character in the school and the wider community. They take full advantage of the opportunities the school provides for their personal support and development and for evaluating the Catholic Life of the School.
- Parents who have suffered the illness or death of family members have particularly valued the support provided by Catholic Care to both themselves and their children.
- Parents of children with specific learning needs say how much they value the additional support the school provides and where needed, the specific adaptations the school make to ensure that their child is 'included' in normal school activities.
- The school's Catholic ethos impacts positively on pupils' attitudes and behaviour. For example, one parent, who had been considering having her teeth whitened, was particularly moved when her young child said, "That doesn't matter mummy – you're such a good person inside and that's what really counts with Jesus!"
- Pupils treat each other and adults with high levels of respect and know acutely that their behaviour always has consequences.
- Parents are most appreciative of the school's 'buddy system' whereby Year 6 pupils support younger pupils – particularly at lunchtimes.
- Pupils are keenly alert to the needs of others and seek justice for all within and beyond the school. They help to organise school charitable fund raising support for local, national and international charities. For example a total of £633 was raised by the school last year for Cafod, Catholic Care, and support for the High School's pilgrimage to Lourdes.
- Pupil representatives of the school and the RE subject leader (deputy head) attend the annual 'Good Shepherd Service' at Leeds Cathedral, where a cheque is presented to Catholic Care as a result of fundraising activities held in school.
- Standards pupils achieve in RE are very high both for individuals and for groups of pupils. Attainment upon entry (as evidenced by RE baseline assessments) is broadly

in line with age related expectations. By the end of the Foundation Key Stage (FKS), Reception Class pupils have made such good progress that they are working above age expected levels. This accelerated progress continues to be built upon in Key Stage 1 (L2 + 97% L3 20%) and Key Stage 2 (L4 + 94% L5 32%).

- Progress of individual pupils and particular groups of pupils is carefully monitored half termly by the RE subject leader using the school’s pupil RE tracking systems.
- Pupils with specific learning needs are provided with additional support- this, together with the excellent ‘team approach’ to differentiated lesson planning, preparation, delivery and assessment, results in outstanding levels of attainment and pupil progress in RE.
- Achievements are recognised and celebrated weekly in the school’s ‘Gold Book Assemblies’ attended by parishioners, parents and whole school community.
- Pupils’ response to, and participation in, the school’s CW is outstanding.
- Pupils say how much they enjoy participating in parish/school Masses and leading seasonal liturgical celebrations. Parents also say how much they enjoy attending these celebrations.
- Relative to their age and capabilities, pupils are highly skilled in using a wide variety of methods to support their private and public prayer. They exhibit confidence in their use of scripture and religious symbols. They demonstrate an excellent understanding of the Church’s main seasonal celebrations.
- A part time peripatetic music teacher particularly enhances the standards of pupils’ music and singing. This is especially noticeable during class/school based worship and seasonal liturgical celebrations.

*“We get to do lots of art in RE.” (Pupil’s comment)*

## **The provision for Catholic Education is Outstanding**

The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education.	<b>1</b>
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum promotes pupils’ learning.	<b>1</b>
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.	<b>1</b>

*“We have really good teachers.” (Pupils’ comments)*

- The provision for Catholic Education at St. Mary’s is outstanding. The school mission statement is a clear and inspiring expression of the educational mission of the Church. All staff are fully committed to its implementation across the curriculum and the whole of school life.
- A majority of the teaching in RE is outstanding but is never less than consistently good. Teachers’ excellent subject knowledge is applied consistently to challenge and inspire pupils and ensure that they make exceptional progress as learners in RE.
- At the start of all RE lessons, teachers discuss the learning objectives and success criteria with the pupils. Lesson planning is differentiated to ensure that the learning needs of all pupils in the class are appropriately met. Lessons have a brisk pace and sustain pupils’ interest.
- Drama, dance, technology, music, and ‘hot seating’ are skilfully used to inspire learners and improve the quality of teaching.
- Marking of RE and dialogue between teachers, other adults and pupils at St. Mary’s are consistently of a very high quality and are instrumental in maintaining pupils’ exceptional learning and progress. The marking of RE was observed to be fully in line with school policy and includes ‘next steps’ prompts. Use of ‘I Can’ statements

alongside the RE scheme also allows pupils to seek and receive regular targeted feedback on their progress.

- Pupils are highly motivated, take a pride in the presentation and volume of their RE work. They sustain their concentration extremely well. In the lessons observed by the inspector, pupils were thoroughly enjoying their RE work. Analysis of pupil survey results also supports this view. The RE curriculum enables pupils to become religiously literate through their study of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, His Church and the central beliefs of Catholics –including their appreciation for and respect of other religious traditions.
- Symbols, Icons and displays of the Catholic faith are manifest both externally and internally on the school premises and strongly promote pupils' learning. For example, through pupil's artwork and photographs, the school entrance way proudly proclaims the School Mission to 'Grow Together in Christ'. Similarly 'The Beautiful Story of Mary' display, features pupils work and a statue of Mary, which sensitively honours the patroness of the school.
- Parental Satisfaction Questionnaire (2013) reveals that 98% of parents strongly/agree that their child is happy at St. Mary's.
- Reception children were observed celebrating an outdoor 'Pentecost Party'. Some children sat at a party table while others, wearing brightly coloured scarves and ribbons, danced around them representing wind and fire, whilst other children blew musical instruments to replicate the sound of wind! Some children drew brightly coloured hand patterns symbolising the flames of the Holy Spirit. When the children were asked to blow on their own hands by the teacher, one child was overheard to say to another, "It's invisible you know but I can still feel it. It's there all the time!"
- Year 5 pupils created Rosary bracelets to be used in class and at home with their family during the month of May. A voluntary holiday project encouraged pupils to focus on preparing a power point presentation on aspects of the Rosary for presentation in class after the Spring Bank break.
- When discussing the feast of Pentecost with the inspector, a Year 1 child said, "This is when we celebrate the birthday of the Church – just like we all have birthdays – it's when the apostles started to tell all about Jesus."
- 'Themed RE Weeks' enrich the school's RE curriculum. For example, for 1 week in the autumn term and 1 week in the summer term, the whole school focuses on other faiths. Each year group studies a particular faith on a rotation basis. In this way, as pupil's progress through the school, they deepen their knowledge and respect for the way in which people of other faiths live their lives. One particularly effective display observed featured 'Sikhism'.
- Similarly other themed weeks in school allow for 'awe and wonder' to be developed, to give pupils an appreciation of God's wonderful world. Chicken hatching and caring for animals around school are particularly popular initiatives with pupils, as evidenced by the vibrant pupils' RE artwork display: 'I Have Called You by Your Name' featuring God's creation of animals.
- A Year 1 CW observed by the inspector celebrated 'God's Wonderful World' by setting a sequence of highly effective digital images to the music of Louis Armstrong's song, 'A Wonderful World'.
- In a Year 3 RE lesson on Pentecost, 'driver words' were used in a very effective cross questioning session exploring 'The Fruits of The Spirit'. A concluding class celebration liturgy included a scripture reading by the teaching assistant and invited each pupil to take a laminated gift of the spirit from a focal point basket on the central RE display. Each pupil reflected on how they could 'live out' this fruit of the spirit in their everyday lives so that people would know that the spirit was still alive in them.
- Working in partnership with the South Leeds Catholic Schools' RE Cluster, a number of inter- school visits take place. For example pupils from St. Mary's took part in School

Council Racial Harmony work with pupils at St. Anthony's Primary School, Beeston. Similarly, pupils took part in a Cafod project with pupils at St. Phillip's Primary School, Middleton. Further, such planned joint RE working will take place with St. Joseph's, Wetherby later in the summer term.

- Year 6 enjoy taking part in 'The Big Sing' at Mount St. Mary's High School and Year 5 enjoy visiting a performance at St. Anthony's Primary School by the 'Alive and Kicking' Drama group.
- Pupils at St. Mary's are also actively involved in working in partnership with a Catholic school in Nigeria.
- The quality of CW provided by the school is outstanding. The celebration of the Eucharist, when appropriate, is seen as the heart of Catholic school belief and celebration. In a Year 3 (First Communion class) celebration of Mass in the parish church, pupils actively participated in reading scriptures and prayers. A group of pupils also took the gifts of bread and wine up to the altar at the offertory procession. Pupil behaviour was exemplary.
- A Year 2 class CW using strong visual images, successfully achieved a powerful period of silent reflection surrounding pupils' consideration of Pentecost and the impact that the coming of the Holy Spirit had on the apostles. Pupils were sensitively invited to consider the extent to which they are fully using their God given gifts to help others in need.
- In a Year 4 'Circle Time' on Ethos Statement 28: 'I understand what trust means', the teacher sensitively gave pupils a supportive environment in which to explore the concept using role-play.
- A whole school CW on 'The Parable of the Talents' led by the headteacher and Year 5 pupils, was considerably enhanced by their dramatization of the parable. Similarly, the choice and delivery of scripture readings and pupil's prayers, instrumental music and enthusiastic hymn singing (led by the school choir) had a powerful impact on all present. Following a period of silent reflection the CW concluded with pupils singing and signing a Gaelic Blessing. As each class left the hall in respectful silence, a representative pupil was given a large laminated 'prayer coin' to take back to their own classroom to display as an RE focal point to celebrate each pupils' unique talents. Pupil behaviour was exemplary. (The Star Lanyard was awarded to the Reception Class!) Many of the parents, grandparents, parishioners present expressed their enjoyment to the inspector at being invited to attend such an uplifting experience.

## 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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- Leadership and management of Catholic Education at St. Mary's are outstanding.
- Since the last RE inspection (July 2010), foundation governors have been very diligent in safeguarding the school's Foundation Trust Deed by making highly successful headteacher and deputy headteacher/RE subject leader appointments to the school.
- The internal appointment of the previous deputy headteacher to the post of head teacher, has successfully achieved continuity of high quality RE/Catholic Life provision at the school. This is a school that knows itself very well. The new hardworking and deeply committed headteacher is by no means complacent. Under her sensitive and determined leadership, together with the recently appointed external deputy head (RE subject leader) a new, innovative Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has been formed which is outstanding in the delivery of Catholic Education at St. Mary's. An increasing

number of self-evaluation procedures, including pupil progress tracking in RE, have been introduced into the school. This gives governors a very accurate view of standards in RE/Catholic Life across all 3 key stages of the school. Areas for future development are also clearly identified in the school's RE Action Plan which forms a leading part of the School Development Plan (SDP) and as such is shared on the school portal with all governors and staff.

- Since the last inspection a new, very supportive, parish priest (foundation governor) has been appointed to the parish. He is a very knowledgeable and experienced governor. He leads the Catholic Life of the School Committee of the governing body. He is a regular visitor in school and celebrates Masses with pupils both in school and also in the parish church. He is also a very active presence in the preparation of children for First Sacraments – holding induction evenings for Year 3 parents whose children are preparing for First Holy Communion.
- The dedicated and highly effective RE Subject Leader (deputy head) 'leads by example' in supporting staff implement the Diocese of Leeds' approved RE Programme of Study: 'The Way The Truth & The Life'. By attending diocesan RE subject leader cluster meetings and Catholic Schools' Partnership meetings, identified best practice in RE is then implemented, monitored and evaluated at St. Mary's.
- Under the leadership of the Chair of Governors, the governing body acts as 'critical friend' to the school's SLT.
- An aspect of RE/Catholic Life is always included within the School's Performance Management System.
- The RE link governor is a frequent visitor in school, supporting the RE subject leader in monitoring the RE/Catholic Life of the School by undertaking learning walks, sampling RE lessons, school Masses and seasonal liturgical celebrations. Together with the RE subject leader he reports back to the full governing body on a regular basis.
- The school has an approved Education for Personal Relationships (EPR) Policy and Scheme of work which follows recent diocesan guidance. Parents say that they are consulted over, and welcome to view, teaching materials.
- The Finance Committee of the governors are pro active in monitoring and evaluating the impact of any additional resource provision on RE/the Catholic Life of the School (for example, additional teaching support materials for WTL).
- The Friends of St. Mary's School Parents Association are very well organised and are tireless in their social and fund raising efforts on behalf of the school. They are much appreciated by the governors and staff. Home, school, and parish links are further promoted by the Friends of the School, who organise social functions to welcome families new to the school settle in and meet members of the wider parish community.
- The school works in partnership with Leeds Trinity University. A first year teaching student on placement said how much she was enjoying the experience and how she valued the support the school was giving her. She looked forward to becoming a qualified teacher.
- All canonical and statutory responsibilities are fulfilled at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Rothwell.

'A Prayer for Night Time'  
*'As the time becomes night may  
God free you from every fright,  
As you go to bed and lay down  
Your head let the angels watch over you ...  
As the dark scatters cross the sky  
The moon says Hello, the sun says  
Goodbye.'*  
(Y5 pupil's prayer)