



Archdiocese of Birmingham

INSPECTION REPORT

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL COVENTRY

Inspection dates
Reporting Inspector

17th-18th October 2012
Sister Susan Collins

Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School

Voluntary aided

Age range of pupils

4-11 years

Number on roll

208

Appropriate authority

The governing body

Chair of governors

Mr Bernard Towey

School address

Spring Road
Foleshill
Coventry
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Telephone number

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Date of previous inspection

October 2009

DFE School number

331/3414

Unique Reference Number

103716

Headteacher

Mrs Anne Aston

DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE



Evidence

The inspection was carried out by one Diocesan Inspector. The focus of the inspection was on the effectiveness and use of the school's self evaluation of religious education (RE) and Catholic life. To validate the effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation of teaching and learning, the inspector observed two full RE lessons with the headteacher. In addition the inspector completed a work scrutiny and held a discussion with pupils to evaluate the impact of teaching on their learning over time. She held meetings with the vice-chair of governors, staff, and parish priest. She observed a Key Stage 1 assembly, attended a whole school Mass and undertook a learning walk with the headteacher to look at aspects of learning and teaching in RE, the presentation of the Catholic life of the school, and pupils' behaviour. She looked at a range of evidence related to the school's self evaluation such as RAISEonline, the improvement plan, teachers' planning, and learning journals. Alongside the validation of school self evaluation, the inspector gathered evidence about RE subject leadership, evidence which will be shared with other diocesan schools.

Information about the school

Good Shepherd is an average sized Catholic primary school serving the parish of St Elizabeth and St Helen in Coventry. Good Shepherd is in an area of social deprivation. The number of Catholic pupils is currently 58%. More than half of the pupils come from ethnic minority groups. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals is above the national average. The proportion of pupils with special needs and/or disabilities is lower than the average at school action compared to schools nationally but higher at school action plus and the proportion who have a statement of educational needs is higher than the average. Attainment on entry is below the national average.

Main Finding

In its self-evaluation Good Shepherd school judges itself a good school. Evidence collected as part of the inspection process supports that judgement. The school has improved from the last inspection in 2009, the headteacher has taken on the role of subject leader and has introduced systems to monitor teaching and learning in RE and now has a strategic plan for the Catholic life of the school. Planning has improved significantly and assessment is now following diocesan guidelines. The school is rightly proud of the welcoming atmosphere where Gospel values are lived, based on the teachings of Christ. The headteacher, senior leaders and governors know the school very well. They continuously strive for excellence to enhance life chances for all. This is a real strength of the school as all members of staff are committed to this.

School self evaluation

The school's self-evaluation of RE and Catholic life is accurate and reliable having been monitored by the headteacher over a period of time. Staff and governors are aware of the school's strengths and areas for development. This is based on the processes for monitoring and evaluation of RE which have been implemented since the last inspection. Lessons are observed by the headteacher; those observed with the inspector shows that she does this accurately and positively supports the teacher in moving learning forward. In the best lesson observed, the teacher had high expectations, the lesson was differentiated, delivered with a good pace, the teacher

had good subject knowledge, the teaching assistant gave good support to some pupils with special educational needs at the start of the lesson and later on in the same lesson was stretching more able pupils. Progress of pupils with special educational needs is very good because pupils are well supported by teaching assistants and higher level teaching assistants. The scrutiny of pupils' written work supports staff in their desire to improve their work. The evidence that has been gathered from the monitoring needs to clearly identify the areas for development and then a process of checking needs to be established. Key documentation needs to link more closely together to ensure that the main priorities are clear and success criteria identified. The school needs to make more use of the guidance in the inspection schedule.

In the previous inspection report the school was asked to produce a curriculum plan for RE, supported by medium and short term planning. This has been achieved. RE is still a discrete subject and is given the correct allocation of time and coverage of all units in the scheme. The school has identified that the curriculum need to be adapted further so that all pupils can learn about and from other religions. Assessment has developed since the last inspection; staff are using the diocesan assessment focus sheets taking a different strand to focus on each year. The school has plans to use the national levels of attainment to moderate work.

The headteacher, staff and governors share the strong commitment to the Catholic life of the school and have developed a loving community which pupils greatly benefit from. There is a link governor for RE who has extensive expertise in RE and she meets regularly with the headteacher. She is involved in looking at evidence and outcomes for the pupils. The headteacher's report to governors always has a section on the Catholic life of the school; however the school is now looking at ways of carrying out formal audits of the Catholic life and including this in the monitoring and evaluation cycle. The parish priest is a regular visitor to school and supports the staff and children particularly in Sacramental Preparation. The links with the parish have been strengthened since the last inspection with the celebration of the centenary of the parish where both schools in the parish worked creatively together to have a high profile in all the celebrations.

Governors are well informed about the school's strengths and areas for development. They validate the judgements made by senior staff and are supportive and challenging in the school's drive to secure further improvement. In view of this, the effective measures that the headteacher has put into place since the last inspection and the development points identified in the school's self-evaluation document, the capacity to improve the Catholic life and RE is good.

Overall effectiveness of the school¹

Outcomes and provision for pupils are good. Attainment at the end of Key Stage 1 is good because on entry attainment is lower than usually expected. Progress in Key Stage 1 is also good. Attainment in Key Stage 2 is generally good. Pupils with special educational needs make very good progress. Pupils are fully engaged in their RE lessons, they particularly enjoy taking an active part in lessons and their behaviour in lessons and around the school is very good.

Pupils, spiritual moral and vocational development is good. Pupils demonstrate a respect for each other and live out their vocational calling by asking, 'What is God

¹ As the quality of the school self evaluation has been affirmed, the judgements in this section of the report conform to those of the school.

calling me to be?' Collective worship involved gathering, listening and responding to the word of God and being sent forth to live the word of God in their everyday lives. Children's response and participation in worship is good. They help to lead worship and a chaplaincy team has been formed and commissioned by the parish priest. They have responsibility for supporting assemblies and Masses, writing their own bidding prayers. Pupils participate enthusiastically and reverently in school Masses and they sing joyfully. The school has identified that when the mission statement has been reviewed it will be a main focus for the whole community.

Provision overall is good and the overall quality of teaching is good. Although marking is supportive, pupils need to know what to do next and how to improve their work. Non Catholic members of staff are well supported by the subject leader. The range and quality of worship provided is good. Children are familiar with a range of prayers and the beautiful memorial garden provides a reflective space which is well used by all members of the school community.

Good Shepherd is a good school which benefits all pupils; they thrive in the strong Catholic ethos and are happy and secure.

Recommendations

- Re-write the school's mission statement to make it relevant, well known and understood by all.
- Develop the sharing of good practice to improve teaching in RE in order to raise pupil attainment.
- Ensure that assessment of pupils' work in RE helps them to improve and informs teachers' planning so as to improve the challenge of learning activities.
- Create opportunities to develop pupils' understanding and awareness of other faiths by making links with other faith leaders and visiting places of worship.



Diocesan Education Service,
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November 2012

Dear Parents and Carers

Section 48 (Diocesan) Inspection of Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School,

I am writing this letter to share with you the findings of the diocesan inspection of your children's school. Diocesan inspection now explores in detail the school's own view of itself as expressed in its self-evaluation. For this reason, much of the report is more technical than used to be the case. You are still entitled to have a copy of the full report should you want one and it will be available on the school website or by request from the school office.

The school has judged itself to be good in its Catholic Life and Religious Education. The inspection found that this judgement is fully justified because the school has worked hard since the last inspection in 2009 to raise standards and has a good distinctive ethos which informs all that it does. The pupils enjoy their work in RE, make good progress and those pupils needing additional support do very well because of the effective support they receive from teachers and teaching assistants. The children respond well to the collective worship they help to provide,

We have recommended that you work together to rewrite your mission statement so that this becomes a lived vision which everyone is committed to. We want the teachers to share what they do best with each other to make sure that all teaching is at the standard of the best. I have asked the school to ensure that they guide pupils clearly in how to improve the quality of their work. Finally, we would like teachers to give your children more opportunities to visit other places of worship.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Aston, her staff and all the children for their welcome. It was a privilege to inspect your school because everyone is committed to being the best they can be. The children are a credit, not only to Good Shepherd School, but also to you their parents and carers. I thank you, on behalf of the Diocese, for the ways you encourage your children in the development of their faith.

Yours sincerely

Sister Susan
Diocesan Inspector