



Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for  
**Our Lady And St Patrick's Catholic Primary School,  
 Maryport**

URN: 149245

Carried out on behalf of the Right Rev. Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster on:

Date: 15th and 16th November 2023

Overall effectiveness The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school.....	1
Catholic life and mission (p.3) How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.....	1
Religious education (p.5) The quality of curriculum religious education.....	1
Collective worship (p.7) The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.....	1
The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference	✓
The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop	✓
The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection	Fully

## Summary of key findings

### What the school does well

- The mission statement is fully lived out by the whole school community.
- Strong leadership with an experienced head teacher who lives out her own Catholic faith and shares this with the whole community.
- Head teacher's collaboration and supportive role within the diocese and Mater Christi Multi-Academy Trust which benefits and enhances Our Lady's and St Patrick's School.
- A welcoming community that permeates love and kindness to all.
- A beautiful, calm, purposeful environment that nurtures, values and enhances faith.

What the school needs to improve:

- To further develop the oracy of pupils to articulate a deeper understanding of the theology underpinning their everyday actions.
- To develop the new assessment system to allow a more detailed analysis of significant groups of pupils.
- Pupils leading worship to evaluate their own provision to encourage self evaluation and reflection.

## Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade:.....

1

### Pupil outcomes

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school .....

1

### Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school .....

1

### Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school .....

1



Our Lady and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is a caring, happy school where pupils feel loved and safe. The mission statement '*we recognise Christ in everyone, as we grow together in faith and love to serve our community*', is lived out by pupils, staff, parents and governors who work together to create a safe and caring learning environment. Pupils are proud to be part of the community and could speak to inspectors eloquently about its uniqueness where everyone is valued, 'cares and loves each other.' Pupils spoke of the teachings and love of Jesus guiding them in their daily lives. The positive parental questionnaires showed how these values are appreciated at home. Pupils spoke confidently about their responsibility to help others and the *Ethos* and *Laudato Si* groups detailed the work they do to help vulnerable groups, both locally and nationally, through the corporal works of mercy. Pupils recognise the call to help those in need and refer to the teachings of Jesus, making links to their own lives and their personal responsibility to help others. Pupils shared their understanding about the importance of being respectful to all and were able to link this to their own school values. Behaviour is exemplary and the interactions between the whole school community were evident during inspection. The parish priest is a regular visitor to school, assisting the religious and spiritual formation of staff and pupils.

The mission statement is linked to everything that happens at Our Lady and St Patrick's school. It is well established and reviewed regularly by all stakeholders. Consequently, it has a significant impact on the life of this outstanding school which is a beacon of love and support within a deprived community. The school has a very strong Catholic identity, built on strong Catholic values and tradition. Staff feel appreciated and cared for and contribute to and participate in activities which enhance the Catholic life and mission of the school. There is a strong culture of welcome to all members of the community and staff have worked hard to establish trusting relationships with

parents and carers. The school goes the extra mile to create this supportive ethos. On the day of inspection, one parent spoke to the inspectors about how, since moving her children to this school recently, she has noticed a huge difference in their behaviour and respect at home. This culture of welcome also ensures that those families from different faiths and backgrounds feel well received and respected. The staff are a close, strong team who are exemplary role models for the pupils. The school has a sense of calmness and safety which is felt by many who visit and work there. The school environment is remarkable, and bears witness to the school's distinctive Catholic character. The provision for relationships, sex and health education is carefully planned and monitored and meets all statutory requirements.

Leaders and governors are mindful of their duty as guardians of the Catholic life and mission of the school. Policies and procedures clearly demonstrate the priority given to the Catholic identity of the school. A working group devoted to the Catholic life meets regularly, driving forward the distinct Catholic nature of the school. The school has embraced the bishop's vision for collaboration and became part of the Mater Christi Catholic Multi Academy Trust in September 2022. The head teacher provides support and training for the new *Religious Education Directory* to other colleagues in schools across the diocese. The governors recognise how the school benefits from the head teacher's expertise and clearly understand the school's strengths and areas for development. The dedicated senior leadership team, including the religious education leader, have much experience and a clear vision for Our Lady and St Patrick's school. The leader spoke of her vision that was rooted in Christ's love and mission. The many prayer spaces invite the pupils to reflect on their faith. All classrooms have designated prayer areas with colours and readings connected to the liturgical year.

## Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade:.....

1

### Pupil outcomes

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education.....

1

### Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education.....

1

### Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor, and evaluate the provision for religious education.....

1

Pupils are developing excellent knowledge, understanding and skills across all aspects of religious education. The curriculum has been sequenced well and as a result pupils are making significant progress. Pupils were able to speak to inspectors about their learning and the oracy of pupils is being developed to extend their knowledge about theology that underpins religious education. Pupils show engagement and enthusiasm for the topics that they are learning about. During lessons observed, pupils were able to talk about previous learning about Samuel and could link this to the work they were doing about being called to serve. Pupils are able to use appropriate religious vocabulary in whole class discussions and in the high-quality work they produce, which demonstrates the high expectations at Our Lady and St Patrick's school. On the day of inspection, pupils were able to share, 'I am a follower of Jesus because,' and link this to the school values. Pupils are able to ask questions about what they wonder about, and staff encourage them to think deeply, through skilful and effective questioning. Pupils' attention and behaviour is exemplary due to the high levels of enjoyment they have for religious education. Pupils are very proud of their books and were able to share how they could improve their work and make effective use of the knowledge organisers. They have a clear understanding of the progress they have made. Data demonstrates that pupils have above average attainment when compared with other core curriculum subjects.

Teachers have secure subject knowledge as observed in their creative and thoughtful lessons. These are well planned and follow a sequence of prior learning, current learning and then moving on to next steps. All staff have a strong commitment to ensuring religious education is taught exceptionally well and they have been provided with a wide range of training opportunities to support this. They engage the pupils through written and practical tasks,

including art, music and dance. On the day of inspection, Year 4 pupils performed a retelling of the story of Samuel, using interpretive dance, singing and scripture, with parents sharing this celebration of the Word of God. This demonstrates their learning in a creative and highly motivating way. Teachers question the pupils skilfully, encouraging them to explain their answers and celebrate pupils' answers when they respond well. Teachers' plans show clear adaptations so that all pupils can achieve, with support staff deployed effectively to maximise learning. Each class has a discussion book which focuses on wonder and deeper understanding through questioning. Staff have a very clear understanding of how religious education supports children's moral and spiritual development and one member said, 'we teach them skills to help them in life'. Teachers demonstrate a secure understanding of how religious education impacts on the moral and spiritual development of their pupils and time is given for reflection and thinking in lessons.

Leaders and governors ensure that the religious education curriculum is planned effectively and progressively. The implementation of the new *Religious Education Directory* has begun in some classes with full implementation intended by 2025. The adequacy and suitability of learning resources is excellent and religious education is extremely well resourced. It has full parity with other core curriculum subjects. The development and needs of teaching staff are identified through discussions, staff meetings and as a result of effective monitoring. Leaders have a very clear timetable which details continuous professional development for the whole academic year. The experienced subject leader is a member of the senior leadership team and uses her excellent leadership skills to support and develop all members of staff. She maintains a high-quality portfolio of pupils' moderated work and supports staff very well in the planning and assessment process, always striving for high standards. Her recently produced knowledge organisers have been shared across the diocese. Leaders ensure that the curriculum is planned to meet the needs of all learners, using imaginative and creative experiences to engage and motivate all pupils. School provides a variety of enrichment experiences and engage positively with parents and carers, keeping them involved in how their children are progressing in school, through termly reporting, website information and regular celebration of the Word assemblies. Governors and leaders have embedded a rigorous monitoring system in school and local and diocesan moderation takes place. Governors and leaders have a very secure understanding of the standards of religious education in school and consequently have the knowledge and skills to self evaluate Our Lady and St Patrick's school accurately.

## Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.

Collective worship key judgement grade:.....

1

### Pupil outcomes

How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship .....

1

### Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school .....

1

### Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship .....

1

Pupils are provided with a range of prayer and liturgy experiences and respond exceptionally well. The reverence and respect demonstrated by pupils indicate that prayer is deep and meaningful to them. Pupils are provided with a variety of ways of praying that are part of the Catholic tradition and appropriate and relevant to their age. They take part in regular hymn practice and joyful singing could be heard on the day of the inspection. Prayer and liturgy has been carefully and progressively planned with older pupils leading worship for younger pupils, confidently and with devotion. Pupils spoke of how prayer is an important part of their lives and attribute this to attending Our Lady and St Patrick's school. Some parents stated that their children have constructed prayer spaces in their own homes. Pupils are able to articulate how prayer affects their daily lives and actions. Christian meditation has been introduced in classes from Foundation Stage to Year 6 and this practice was observed by inspectors. Some pupils said that this form of prayer brings great spirituality and inner peace and is a different way of connecting with God and welcoming Him into their lives.

Prayer and liturgy is highly valued across school and is central to all parts of school life. There is a clear and embedded pattern of prayer which is integral to daily gatherings of pupils and staff. The call to prayer was evident during the celebration of the Word and pupils and staff respond with reverence and respect. Appropriate scripture is central to all prayer and liturgy experiences, and these are intrinsically linked to daily life. Staff are inspirational models to pupils and demonstrate a deep understanding to the liturgical norms of the church. They bring their own skills and gifts to enhance prayer and liturgy experiences. Prayer spaces are created in a thoughtful and simple way, but they are deeply symbolic to the experience. On the day of the inspection pupils were observed using art and dance to present scripture to their parents.

Parental questionnaires were extremely positive about the support and inclusivity of the school. One parent spoke with inspectors about her children's behaviour being 'a testament to values and qualities instilled in them by school'.

Clear policies and procedures are in place, and these are effectively communicated to all stakeholders. A Catholic handbook is given to all staff to establish clear expectations and overviews. The new prayer and liturgy directory has been integrated into the prayer and liturgy policy and development plan. The prayer progression document clearly identifies how pupils build on their prayer skills as they grow in faith. There is an established calendar which incorporates liturgical feast days, class saints days and holy days of obligation which are supported by the parish priest. High quality continuous professional development is in place through a concise plan which ensures staff have the appropriate knowledge and skills to lead high-quality prayer and liturgy sessions. As a result, staff understand the centrality of prayer and liturgy in the school. Leaders regularly monitor prayer and liturgy across the school by taking part in class sessions, speaking with pupils about the prayer life of the school and reviewing resources. They ensure that time and budgeting never restrain the effectiveness of prayer and liturgy.

## Information about the school

Full name of school	Our Lady and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	149245
Full postal address of the school	Ennerdale Road, Maryport, CA15 8HN
School phone number	01900 812582
Name of head teacher or principal	Mrs Jacqueline Hampson
Chair of governing board	Mrs Joy Byrne
School Website	<a href="https://www.st-pat-maryport.cumbria.sch.uk">https://www.st-pat-maryport.cumbria.sch.uk</a>
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	Mater Christi Multi-Academy Trust
Type of school	Primary
School category	Academy
Age-range of pupils	2 to 11
Trustees	Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	June 17
Previous denominational inspection grade	1 - outstanding

## The inspection team

Michelle Holden	Lead inspector
Liz Kendall	Team inspector

## Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement