



ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

INSPECTION REPORT

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL

NEWTON-LE WILLOWS

Inspection Date Tuesday 23 September 2014

Inspectors Rev D Melly Mr A Ford

Unique Reference Number 104817

Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Acts 2005 and 2011

Type of School Infant

Age range of pupils 3-7

Number on roll 232

Chair of Governors Mr S Massey

Headteacher Mr G Southworth

School address Victoria Road
Newton-le-Willows
Merseyside
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Date of last inspection 10 February 2009

Introduction

This inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Acts 2005 and 2011

The report of the inspection is produced for the Archbishop of Liverpool (Code of Canon Law 804 and 806) and for the governors of the school.

The inspectors are members of the Christian Education Department and their associates approved by the Archbishop of Liverpool for this purpose.

Information about this school

- St Mary's school is a larger than average sized Catholic Infant School situated in Newton-le-Willows serving the parish of St Mary and St John, St Patrick's, and St Davids.
- There are 227 children on roll of whom 211 are baptised Catholic, Five come from other Christian denominations, one from another faith tradition and ten have no religious affiliation.
- There are 12 teachers of whom 7 teach Religious Education and 7 have a suitable qualification in Religious Education. Ten teachers are baptised Catholic.
- Since the last inspection a new executive headteacher has been appointed together with a deputy headteacher who is head of the infant school and Religious Education coordinator.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Requires Improvement
Grade 4	Inadequate

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Further copies of this report are obtainable from the school.

Overall effectiveness:

St Mary's is an outstanding school in providing Catholic Education.

Inspection Judgements

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

- The extent to which the pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school is outstanding.
- Pupils know and understand the school's Mission Statement and understand the part they play within it. They are clearly involved in its evaluation, which has led to the production of their own version.
- Pupils have a deep sense of belonging to the school community and value and respect others.
- Pupils are encouraged to take on roles of responsibility in the school, e.g. they are buddies, dinner monitors and members of the school council.
- Pupils are actively involved in developing the Catholic character of the school, witnessed by the way they live out their mission statement, *'We learn, we love, we follow Jesus'*.
- Pupils benefit from participation in many educational visits.
- Pupils have a good sense of right and wrong and apply this in their personal relationships. They take an increasing responsibility for themselves and their actions.
- They praise and acknowledge the contribution of others. They show a readiness to embrace and celebrate their lived experiences.
- Pupils embrace opportunities to meet their potential in all aspects of school life as envisaged in the full Mission Statement.
- Pupils are involved in service to the local faith and religious communities by the regular contributions they make to Sunday Mass and their commitment to the wider community can be seen in their charity work, e.g. the shoe-box appeal and Harvest. They show respect and understanding of other faiths and religions.

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education

- Pupils' achievements and enjoyment in Religious Education is outstanding.
- Their attainment in Religious Education is outstanding.
- They make outstanding progress in relation to their starting points and capabilities.
- On entry to school many children have a limited knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- There is no difference in performance between pupils of different gender.
- Outcomes for pupils with additional or special needs are well catered for.
- Analysis of assessments undertaken provides evidence of pupils generally attaining appropriate level for their age and stage of development in each key stage.
- Pupils are becoming increasingly more religiously literate. Their knowledge, understanding and skills are developing appropriate to their age or capacity for the majority of children, and beyond for some.
- They are developing the skills that enable them to reflect spiritually, think ethically and theologically and are becoming more aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
- Pupils' engagement in and enjoyment of their learning is outstanding as shown by their interest, enthusiasm and behaviour.

- Pupils are encouraged to work independently and collaboratively.
- Pupils are eager to learn and improve their knowledge, understanding and skills as they become independent learners.

How well pupils respond to and participate in Collective Worship

- Pupils' response to and participation in Collective Worship is outstanding.
- They show interest, respond well and actively participate in Collective Worship.
- They act with reverence and are keen to participate in a variety of gatherings.
- Pupils' knowledge of prayer and liturgy is increasing.
- They become familiar with a variety of prayer styles. They appreciate and are open to the Word of God in the scriptures.
- They sing joyfully, reflect in silence and join in community prayers appropriately and with confidence.
- They are becoming increasingly more confident preparing and leading worship.

The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education

- The quality of teaching and purposeful learning in Religious Education is outstanding.
- It is consistently effective in ensuring that pupils are interested, engaged and make outstanding progress.
- Teachers display good subject knowledge and deploy a range of teaching styles to motivate and inspire pupils.
- Teaching encourages pupils' enjoyment of and enthusiasm for Religious Education.
- Teachers take into account pupils' prior learning and ensure that creative tasks are provided when planning so that the work consolidates, builds on and extends their knowledge and understanding.
- Teachers provide opportunities for pupils to work independently and collaboratively.
- Excellent use is made of time and resources including: other adults during group work, the church, photographs, music and Information and Communication Technology to maximise learning.
- Pupils are informed of their progress and how to improve both orally and through age-appropriate marking. They are given opportunities to discuss their work and how to improve. Effort and achievement are celebrated.
- The assessment of pupils work in Religious Education is outstanding, both formative and summative.
- The school has outstanding assessment strategies which provide accurate and detailed information on the achievement of all the pupils.
- Teachers are able to identify how well pupils are achieving and tackle underachievement.
- Teachers enable pupils to evaluate their own work.

The extent to which the Religious Education Curriculum promotes pupils' learning

- The extent to which the Religious Education Curriculum promotes pupils' learning is outstanding.
- The curriculum is outstanding in meeting pupils' needs.
- The school using the *Come and See* programme recommended by the Archdiocese meets the requirements of the Curriculum Directory for Religious Education. Appropriate levels of the programme are being followed in different classes. This ensures complete Religious Education entitlement for each child and meets National and Archdiocesan requirements.

- Of the total curriculum time 10% is allocated to Religious Education. This fulfils the requirements of the Bishops of England and Wales.
- Planning ensures full coverage of the Religious Education programme. Imaginative and well planned strategies are deployed to enrich pupils' learning.
- The school implements new curriculum developments as appropriate.
- Enrichment activities such as out of school clubs and educational visits have a positive impact on the curriculum.
- The Religious Education curriculum provides outstanding opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral development and vocation.
- The curriculum is customised to meet the needs of groups and individuals.
- Children have explored the beliefs and values of other faiths and religions. This helps to promote tolerance and respect for those who think differently. Plans are in place to invite people of other faiths to share their experience with the children.

The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.

- The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school is outstanding. It reflects the Catholic character of the school and takes into account the variety of faith backgrounds among the pupils.
- Collective Worship has a high profile and is central to the life of the school.
- Collective Worship plays a key part in meeting the spiritual needs of the pupils. Opportunities are provided to enable full, active and conscious participation.
- Children are enabled to pray formally and informally using a variety of prayer methods and styles.
- The school provides opportunities for staff to develop the skills in planning, leading and evaluating Collective Worship.
- The teachers provide the necessary resources and opportunities to help children to develop the skills necessary to plan, lead and participate in Collective Worship and to evaluate it effectively. A priority for the school is the further development of this work.
- Opportunities are provided for parents, carers the local and wider faith communities to participate in a variety of celebrations of the *Come and See* programme and the Church's liturgical year.

How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.

- Leaders, governors and managers are outstanding in promoting monitoring and evaluating the provision for the Catholic life of the school and in the way they plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.
- This is reflected in the school's own Mission Statement. All who form part of the school community including parents, clergy, governors and children were involved in the development and review of the Mission Statement. Its aims and practical objectives direct and guide every aspect of school life and are a useful tool by which the school can evaluate its effectiveness.
- Leaders, governors and managers are outstanding in the way they use monitoring data to evaluate the schools performance, celebrate, and plan future improvements.
- Outstanding opportunities are provided for the staff and pupils to play an active part in Catholic life and Mission of the school. They know, own and live out their Mission Statement. They treat each other with great care, reverence and respect.
- The Self Evaluation Document provides evidence of the schools monitoring, searching analysis and self challenge.

- Their analysis provides a basis to celebrate the school's strengths and the outlining of areas for development. The Self Evaluation Document is comprehensive and accurate, and obviously impacts on the Catholic life of the school.
- The school provides outstanding induction and in-service training to enable staff to further understand the Church's Mission in Education and play their unique part in it.
- The quality of Collective Worship is a priority for the school. It is effectively monitored and evaluated by leaders, governors and managers. An up to date policy is in place.
- Leadership at all levels respects difference, values diversity and ensures equal opportunities for all.
- Prayer, worship and the liturgical life of the school reflects and respects the religious diversity within the school.
- There are positive relationships at every level within the school.
- Parents are consulted regularly and involved in a variety of ways in the life of the school e.g. they are invited to attend assemblies and school Masses, and their views and opinions are sought regularly.
- Governors are outstanding in fulfilling their responsibilities. They have effectively helped to shape the direction of the school through the variety of expertise available.

How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Religious Education of the school and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.

- Leaders, governors and managers are outstanding in promoting monitoring and evaluating the provision for the Religious Education of the school and in the way they plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.
- Monitoring data is used effectively to evaluate the schools performance and plan for future improvements.
- There is a robust programme for the monitoring and evaluation cycle.
- Teaching and learning is monitored regularly and appropriate feedback and support given as necessary. Good practice is shared and celebrated.
- Continuing professional development opportunities are provided for all, particularly in the Department for Christian Education.
- Assessment information is collated and tracked by the subject leader and shared with the leadership team, governors and parents.
- Formal assessment tasks are appropriately undertaken in line with Archdiocesan guidance.
- The subject leader is outstanding in guiding Religious Education. She shows commitment and enthusiasm, and introduces new initiatives when appropriate. Excellent documentation guides and directs all staff in the delivery of the subject. This is updated as necessary.
- The Self Evaluation Document is rigorous in identifying targets, timescales and lines of accountability.
- Curriculum outlines are provided for parents who are consulted on different issues depending on the topic being covered.
- Achievement and effort are celebrated.

What the school needs to do to improve further?

- Further enhance provision for curriculum Religious Education by:
 - enabling the high quality Teaching Assistants to support learning more effectively throughout the input to the lesson.
- Further enhance provision for Collective Worship by:
 - implementing the planned development of pupil leadership.

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education	1
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OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS

How good outcomes are for individuals and groups of pupils	
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

PROVISION

How effective the provision is for Catholic Education	
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

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

How effective leaders, governors and managers are in developing the Catholic Life of the School	
How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils	1
How well leaders, governors and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils	1

<i>Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, Grade 2 good, Grade 3 requires improvement and Grade 4 inadequate</i>
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