

DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH VALIDATION REPORT



St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Andover

Floral Way, Salisbury Road, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3PF

URN: 116382
Date of previous validation: May 2009
Date of this validation date: 17th June 2014

Overall effectiveness	Previous validation:	Good
	This validation:	Good with outstanding features

The school community:	Outstanding	Attainment and progress in RE:	Good
The wider community:	Outstanding	Quality of teaching in RE:	Good
Spiritual development:	Outstanding	Leadership and management of RE:	Good
Moral development:	Outstanding	Leadership and management:	Outstanding

This is a good school.

- St John the Baptist is an outstanding example of a school where Christ is truly at the centre and where faith in action is witnessed by all.
- The personal faith of the headteacher inspires everyone she meets.
- All in the school strive to do their best for all in their community – academically, pastorally and spiritually.
- Teachers work hard to ensure that RE has a high profile in the school and are ably assisted by enthusiastic support staff.
- The school embraces the self-review process to drive continuing improvement. Governors challenge the school to live out their mission ‘to work together and always do their best’.
- The school makes an outstanding contribution locally, as well as fostering strong links with local Catholic schools and the diocese.
- A large majority of parents are positive about all aspects of school life.
- The RE leader works tirelessly to support staff in ensuring that RE teaching and learning continues to improve.
- Standards in RE are good and school leaders are clear about the way forward.
- Spiritual and moral development are outstanding.
- The range and quality of worship are of an extremely high standard. Prayer is a natural part of the daily rhythm of the school day. The school’s Catholic ethos is enhanced by the physical environment and the many displays celebrating its Catholic and cultural identity.
- The parish priest and the deacon are very supportive of the school.

What does the school need to do to improve further?

In order to continue to move forward, the school should consider the following:

- Match activities more closely to learning objectives to encourage success.
- Continue to improve the quality of the evidence so that it reflects key RE learning and ensure next steps are identified through focussed questioning and marking.
- Embed the assessment process, paying close attention to the levels of attainment and key questions.

Full Report

The school as a Catholic community

The school community:	Outstanding
The wider community:	Outstanding

- The community of St John the Baptist is truly a community of faith, firmly embedded in Gospel values, where every member is nurtured, valued and encouraged to be the best that they can be.
- The headteacher's inspirational personal witness to the faith empowers her colleagues in the school to experience Christ in their daily lives.
- The joy and reverence of morning prayer in the playground is a daily reminder to the school and local community of how this school celebrates and acts as witness to the message of Christ.
- The school effectively communicates with parents, ensuring that they are kept up to date with what is happening and are given every opportunity to visit and participate in the life of the school.
- Parents are very supportive of the school. A large majority were positive about all aspects of school life.
- Pupils from a wide range of groups have a strong and highly valued voice through the house system, school council, buddy system, playground friends, climate ambassadors and bluebird club and are well prepared for their roles as global citizens.
- All members of the school community demonstrate their commitment to the principles of stewardship, through support of many local, national and international initiatives including, collecting for the Food Bank (Harvest, Advent and Lent), KS1 Food Bank Kitchen Garden, choir visiting residential homes, donating May Flowers, Andover Trees Project, supporting CAFOD and schools in Bamenda.
- Visitors to the school experience a very warm welcome.
- St John's is a strong, mutually supportive partner of local and diocesan Catholic schools.

Curriculum religious education

Attainment and progress:	Good
Quality of teaching:	Good
Leadership and management of RE:	Good

- The RE Leader is a key figure within the school and provides outstanding support for all staff. Her theological knowledge is a great resource for teachers.
- Exemplary relationships between all members of the school contribute significantly to learning.
- Curriculum RE is valued highly within the school. This is evidenced in the RE books.
- Learning is supported by well-presented and organised environments, well-chosen resources and targeted support from learning support assistants.
- The school has begun to further develop the use of assessment, based on the national levels of attainment, which will help to further improve standards.
- There is a range of evidence to support learning in RE but this is not consistent. The school needs to focus on the provision of more focussed and challenging tasks as they journey from 'good' to 'outstanding'.
- Teaching observed on the day was good and evidence in the pupil's books supports this judgement. In the best lessons, planning and vocabulary were closely linked to

differentiated levels of attainment. Planned activities allowed children to demonstrate learning and application of knowledge.

- The Spiritual Journey books in each class provide strong evidence of attainment in applying religious knowledge.
- The school is working hard to develop assessment procedures that will ensure all children are challenged in their learning. This is not yet fully embedded.
- Teachers work very hard to ensure there are examples of children's work for every RE topic. However, they need to ensure that the work evidences the learning objectives and that marking and questioning encourages 'next steps'.
- Displays throughout the school support RE learning.

Spiritual and moral development

Spiritual development:

Outstanding

Moral development:

Outstanding

- St John the Baptist school is a deeply spiritual school, with Christ at the centre of all aspects of school life. Children experience a wide range of outstanding worship opportunities.
- Worship is inspirational and links closely to the liturgical year which is demonstrated in displays, prayer areas and planning. Pupils are proud of their liturgy planning and their leading of worship. 'We made the adults cry – for a good reason.'
- All members of the community are invited to join the school for liturgies and Masses. The Parish Priest, Deacon and MC provide excellent support.
- The children in the school demonstrate outstanding behaviour and Christian attitudes in their relationships and staff provide excellent role models based on Gospel values.
- The celebration of achievement, through mission leaves, certificates, house points, star of the day, golden time, Best Book and mission assemblies positively promotes pupil self-esteem and confidence.
- Pupils in the school are justly proud of their school. They describe the school as 'a place where Jesus is at the centre, teachers feel like family and you are inspired'.

Leadership and management:

Outstanding

- The personal witness to the faith provided by the headteacher, provides a strong vision and direction for the work of the school.
- There is a culture of reflection and rigorous self-review by the senior leaders, staff, pupils and governors, which leads to constant challenge and aiming for high standards in all aspects of school life.
- The staff are involved with improvement and school development planning and children are consulted informally and formally through the school council.
- Governors take a keen interest in the mission, development and progress of the school and challenge the school 'to work together and always do their best'.
- Morale is very high and staff are committed to the mission, development and success of the school, which is made possible by the unfailing support of senior management and all leaders.
- Good progress has been made on the issues identified for improvement in the last validation. The leadership team continues to work to improve the development of global links, particularly with schools in Bamenda and the planning of differentiated activities enhance children's learning.

School details

Name of school	St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School
Age range of pupils:	4 – 11
Gender of pupils:	Mixed
Number of pupils on roll:	205
Chair of Governors:	Jackie Kelly
Headteacher:	Jacqueline Davies

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School is a one form entry school situated on the outskirts of Andover. The school mainly serves the parishes of St John the Baptist, Andover and St Thomas More and John Fisher, Whitchurch. The majority of its pupils are Catholic. 31% of pupils have English as an additional language and 10% of pupils are from British service families. The percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals is well below average.

Information about this validation

This report to the Bishop of the Diocese under Canon 806 of the Code of Canon Law is also the report to the governors of the school on religious education. For Catholic maintained schools, the report also fulfils the requirements of Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Validation Team

Helena Pickering	Lead Validator
Louise Buxton	Assistant Validator

Activities Carried Out as Part of the Validation

- Ethos walk.
- Discussion on the school's self-evaluation sheets.
- Discussions with various members of the school community.
- Observations of key stage 1 and class worship.
- Observations of teaching and learning in RE, including joint observations with the headteacher and RE leader.
- Pupil work scrutiny.
- Feedback of key findings to the senior leadership team.

Conclusion

The validators would like to thank the headteacher, deputy headteacher, RE leader, staff, governors, the parish priest, parents and pupils of St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School for their preparatory work for the validation, which forms part of the school's regular self-review cycle. They would also like to express their appreciation for the warmth of welcome they received and the support given during the validation process.