



## ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

### INSPECTION REPORT

## OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### LIVERPOOL

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Inspection Date 12 February 2013

Inspectors D. Melly J. Coughlan

Unique Reference Number 133337

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

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Type of School Catholic Primary

Age range of pupils 3-11

Number on roll 213

Chair of Governors Mrs B Ness

Headteacher Mr M Burke

School address Hedgefield Road  
Liverpool  
Merseyside  
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Date of last inspection 18 January 2011

## 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

- Our Lady of the Assumption school is an average sized Catholic Primary School situated in Gateacre and mainly serving the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption.
- There are 213 of children on roll of whom 165 are baptised Catholic, 6 come from other Christian denominations, and 3 from other faith or religious traditions. Thirty-nine children have no faith or religious tradition.
- There are 11 teachers of whom 9 teach Religious Education and 6 have a suitable qualification in Religious Education. Nine teachers are baptised Catholic.

### Key for inspection grades

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

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## **Overall effectiveness:**

Our Lady of the Assumption 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 always involved in its evaluation.
- Pupils have an outstanding sense of belonging to the school community and value and respect others.
- Pupils are encouraged to take on roles of responsibility in the school and wider community e.g. Exploring the Mission Statement and its aims. Planning Masses and Acts of Collective Worship. Being members of the school council and being buddies and play leaders.
- Pupils are actively involved in developing the Catholic character of the school by living out the Mission Statement and especially their Code of Conduct and by planning and leading Acts of Collective Worship. They also help to plan school and class Masses.
- Pupils benefit from participation in away days and retreat activities especially in preparation for and the celebration of the sacraments of initiation.
- 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.
- Education for pastoral care and personal relationships has fostered positive attitudes in pupils.
- 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.
- Pupils are involved in service to the local faith and religious communities and the immediate neighbourhood served by the school; they sing in local shopping centre in support of Zoe's Place. They sing at parish Masses. They have close links with St Gregory's school nearby and with St Hugh's school. 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 very good.
- 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 very good.
- 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.

- 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 anxious 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 are becoming 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 from their earliest years.

### **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 and 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 of Religious Education.
- Teachers take into account pupils' prior learning and ensure differentiated tasks when planning so that the work consolidates, builds and extends their knowledge and understanding.
- Teachers provide opportunities for pupils to work independently and collaboratively. Outstanding use is made of time and resources including other adults and year six children, Information and Communication Technology, small and large play equipment, play-do and paint and pictures to maximise learning.
- Pupils are informed of their progress and how to improve both orally and through marking. They are given opportunities to discuss their work and how to improve. The development of this work is a priority for the school. Effort and achievement are celebrated.
- The assessment of pupils work in Religious Education is outstanding.
- 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: talking partners, role play, and procession to the plenary session.
- The school implements new curriculum developments as appropriate.
- Enrichment activities include a variety of extracurricular clubs, such as, sports clubs, the gardening club, the multicultural club and the choir all 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 with the help of parents and also visitors from other religions. This helps to promote tolerance and respect for those who think differently.

### **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 of the whole school community.
- 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 are providing 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.
- 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 and does 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. This work has recently been a priority for the school. The subject leader leads and manages the subject in an outstanding way.
- Outstanding opportunities are provided for the staff and pupils to play an active part in Catholic life and Mission of the school especially in the way they live out the mission statement and the way they plan and deliver Collective Worship
- 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 outlining areas for development. The Self Evaluation Document is very rigorous and comprehensive and impacts well on the Catholic life of the school.
- The school provides very good induction and in-service training to enable staff to further understand the Church's Mission in Education and play their unique part in it e.g. They are all encouraged to take up the opportunities for continuous professional development provided by the Department of Christian Education.
- 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 outstandingly positive relationships at every level within the school where all are obviously valued and affirmed.
- Parents are consulted regularly and involved in a variety of ways in the life of the school e.g. especially when the sacraments of initiation are being celebrated. They are also invited to celebrations of the children's work and other liturgical celebrations.
- Governors are outstanding in fulfilling their responsibilities. They have effectively helped to shape the direction of the school through their selfless and willing support of the daily life of the school but also through their appropriate level of questioning and challenge.

**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. The development of this work has been a priority for the school recently.
- Continuing professional development opportunities are provided for all.
- Assessment information is collated and tracked by the subject leader and shared with the leadership team, governors and parents.
- Formal assessment tasks are undertaken in line with Archdiocesan guidance.
- The subject leader is outstanding in guiding Religious Education. She shows commitment and enthusiasm for the subject and introduces new initiatives when

appropriate. Very good 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.

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

- Raise attainment and accelerate progress further by:
  - Implementing the planned development of the monitoring and tracking already in place.
  - Implementing the further development of links between the school, the parish and the local communities;
  - Implement the plans to ensure that all staff receive ongoing training for Come and See and Collective Worship in order to keep up with new developments.

# INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS**

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

<b>How good outcomes are for individuals and groups of pupils</b>	
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**

<b>How effective the provision is for Catholic Education</b>	
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**

<b>How effective leaders, governors and managers are in developing the Catholic Life of the School</b>	
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

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