

Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for
**Our Lady Of Victories Catholic Primary School,
Keighley**

URN: 141059

Carried out on behalf of the **Right Rev. Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds** on:

Date: 29-30 June 2023

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The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection	Fully

Summary of key findings

What the school does well

- High levels of pastoral care and the warmth of welcome to all are providing pupils, their families, and staff with a place where they can all 'Achieve together in God's love'.
- Well-planned chaplaincy opportunities are ensuring that the language of the virtues is embedded in the Catholic life and Collective Worship within the school.
- The unique provision of additional curriculum experiences provided by the school is significantly enhancing the pupils' understanding of Catholic life and mission.
- Good outcomes in religious education lessons are the result of raised expectations and the impact of well targeted professional development for staff.

- The consistently well-taught, structured progression of skills programme is ensuring that pupil-led worship is a strength across the school.

What the school needs to improve:

- Provide more consistent and progressive opportunities across the school to allow all pupils to demonstrate and record a true reflection of their levels of knowledge and understanding in religious education.
- Ensure pupils have regular opportunities to reflect on the impact that the school's Catholic life and Collective Worship have on their personal beliefs and daily actions.

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

2



The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school is outstanding. Pupils live and bear witness to the school's mission statement: 'Achieving together in God's love'. From their earliest years they have a secure understanding of the mission and can clearly articulate how this is translated into the daily lives of all at Our Lady of Victories School. They are happy, confident and feel secure at school. They describe the school as being a 'fantastic, loving, caring' community to be part of. Pupils show a deep respect for all in their school and wider parish community. This is particularly evident in the many interactions that take place around the school. Pupils' responses about their understanding of different faiths demonstrates the school's commitment to recognise that all are made in God's image. Those pupils that are not baptised Catholic feel comfortable when articulating their beliefs and are able to contribute effectively. Pupils respond readily to the demands of Catholic Social Teaching through their support of a variety of local, national and global charities. Pupils across the school accept leadership responsibilities readily but need to develop their understanding of the theology underpinning their roles. The Mini Vinnies group regularly identify and celebrate 'Good Samaritans' from within the school community. The School Council, Religious Education Council and Faith in Action groups support their peers in using the language of the virtues confidently. They can articulate why and how they are required to care for our common home and serve those in need.

The school mission statement - 'Achieving together in God's love' - has a significant impact on the life of the school. It is deeply rooted in the word of God and provides clear, agreed values for all members of the school community to be guided by. All staff embrace the mission of

the school: they are exemplary in the way they participate and contribute to the life and mission of the school. There is a strong sense of community and everyone is welcomed in a spirit of generous hospitality. Adults and pupils talk proudly about 'the family feel of the school' and the values that they aspire to. The school environment provides the community with areas to reflect and pray with well-chosen religious imagery and a wealth of pupils' work and achievements to celebrate. Chaplaincy provision is strong in the school; there are well-planned and effective opportunities provided for staff and pupils. These are regularly supported by the parish priest. The school's spiritual, moral, social and cultural curriculum is providing staff and pupils with effective tools for growth in these areas. The provision for relationship and health education meets statutory and diocesan requirements. The school has adopted the 'Journey in Love' scheme of work and staff have received relevant training.

The dedicated executive headteacher, head of school, senior leaders and governors bear witness to the Church's mission as guardians of the Catholic life and mission of the school. This is viewed by all leaders and governors as a core responsibility. Governors have an insight into this aspect of the life of the school and are active participants. They are committed to their role and, as a result, the school works in partnership with the diocesan bishop. The school is highly regarded by parents and families. It has highly effective strategies for engaging parents and carers to the benefit of pupils. Staff feel highly valued and supported in maintaining their health and well-being. The school's self-evaluation, led by the executive head teacher, head of school and senior leaders, is based on regular monitoring, analysis and self-challenge, but pupils do not formally contribute to the school's self-evaluation at present. Effective professional development and coaching is enabling all new staff to develop and secure their knowledge and understanding of Catholic life and mission when they join the school.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade:.....

2

Pupil outcomes

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

2

Provision

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

2

Leadership

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

2



Pupil outcomes are good. Progress in knowing and remembering more relative to pupils' age and capacity is good across school. Pupils can orally articulate their developing knowledge and use it to think ethically and theologically. However, the tasks chosen by some teachers to capture this knowledge do not always provide the pupils with scope to express themselves independently and with required detail. Where teaching and learning is strongest, the pupils enjoy their learning, behaviour is good and engagement in lessons is high. Children in the Early Years enjoy a wealth of well-chosen religious education activities in their setting which enable them to be curious, creative in their responses and develop their vocabulary. The consistency of approach to marking and feedback is supporting progress across the school. Pupils are informed where and how they need to improve their work and the positive impact of this feedback can be seen in their books, particularly in upper Key Stage 2.

Teachers are secure overall in their subject knowledge and are committed to the value of religious education. Where best practice is seen in the school, planning is linked to current assessments. The positive impact of recent developments in assessment procedures is evident in some areas of school. Most teachers communicate high expectations effectively to the pupils and the skilful use of questions during lessons ensures that they can identify where pupils are in their understanding. The school has worked hard to broaden the range of activities that pupils use to express themselves in their learning. The study of religious art and use of role play is resulting in high levels of engagement in some classes. Pupils in Key Stage 1 can describe the behaviours and feelings of people in Bible stories about miracles and Pentecost. Pupils in lower Key Stage 2 are able to describe a range of ways to pray and identify the different elements of the church's liturgical year. In some classes pupils are given time to

reflect on the key themes from their learning and how they impact on their daily lives.

All leaders ensure that the school curriculum for religious education is a faithful expression of the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory (2012)*. It is comparable to other core subjects in terms of professional development, resourcing, timetabling and staffing. Senior leaders regularly scrutinise work samples and accurately report their findings to governors. Targeted professional development is provided for all staff regularly and, as a result, teaching is at least good across all year groups. Curriculum planning ensures clear progression of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and other world religions. This is further enhanced with visits to places of unique religious significance for the school community, including the Basilica of Notre Dame des Victoires in Paris. The subject leader for religious education, supported by the executive head teacher and head of school, has a clear vision for high quality teaching and learning and a high level of expertise in working to securing this vision. She willingly shares her expertise to the benefit of other schools in the Blessed Christopher Wharton Catholic Academy Trust. Leaders and governors' self-evaluation of religious education is informed by regular monitoring and analysis. The strategic action taken as a result of these activities has led to good outcomes.

Collective worship

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

Collective worship key judgement grade:.....

2

Pupil outcomes

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

2

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

2



Pupils respond well to experiences of prayer and liturgy at Our Lady of Victories School. Across the age groups they participate reverently in silent reflection and community prayer. Pupils are able to explain why the prayer areas around school have the colour green at this time in the liturgical year and can relate the additional red cloths to the celebration of special feast days. Pupils work collaboratively with others and undertake liturgical ministries with increasing skill, understanding and confidence. The school ensures that the pupils use the virtues as regular themes within their worship. From their youngest years, pupils lead and experience celebrations of the word which include well-chosen scripture passages, meaningful visual focal points, spontaneous and traditional prayers and moments of quiet reflection. Liturgies provide the pupils with clear guidance for their daily lives rooted in the teachings in the gospels. However, planned opportunities for pupils to reflect on the impact of this guidance on their moral and spiritual development are not embedded in the practice of the school.

Prayer is woven into the daily life of the school. Class prayers written by the pupils are proudly said within class liturgies and voluntarily at different parts of the day. Opportunities for spontaneous prayer are embedded in the pupils' experiences. They confidently pray for each other, for family members and for people in need when they gather at the prayer focus in the school's entrance. Pupils regularly lead elements within the celebration of Mass at the parish church during the week and at weekends. Parishioners and parents are complimentary about their reverence, attentiveness and prayerfulness. The staff skilfully support pupils throughout the liturgical year in preparing liturgies and mass in school and at church. The senior staff generously share their liturgical expertise with their colleagues. This has had a positive impact

on the engagement of staff, they work hard to involve the school's families in liturgical celebrations, and to support the developing the prayer life of the pupils. The school has very strong links with the parish and the parish priest supports the school's leadership in their mission to develop the prayer life of all its community. The pupils recognise the important role that the parish priest has in their faith journeys.

Leaders and governors are keen to continue to provide high quality worship for the pupils. The school has clear expectations for the development of the prayer life across the year groups which are embedded in its practice. This ensures that pupils from their earliest years are introduced to the traditional prayers of the Church alongside being encouraged to formulate their own prayers. Pupils are not given consistent opportunities across the school to evaluate worship and share their reflections on how worship impacts on their daily lives. Leaders and governors review the quality of prayer and liturgy and observe collective worship with regularity. The inspectors could see the impact of feedback to staff from these reviews in the high-quality worship experienced by the pupils across the school.

Information about the school

Full name of school	Our Lady of Victories Catholic Primary School, Keighley
School unique reference number (URN)	141059
Full postal address of the school	Guard House Road, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 6JP
School phone number	01535 607149
Name of head teacher or principal	John Devlin, Executive Head. Katie Mitchell, Head of School
Chair of governing board	Nick Watson
School Website	https://www.olvschool.co.uk/
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	Blessed Christopher Wharton Catholic Academy Trust
Type of school	Primary
School category	Academy
Age-range of pupils	3 -11 years
Trustees	Diocese of Leeds
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	June 2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

The inspection team

Alixena Lubomski

Lead inspector

Anne Gilpin

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