



Archdiocese of Birmingham

Section 48 Monitoring Visit

OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

East Meadway, Tile Cross, Birmingham, B33 0AU

Inspection date	27 th April 2016
Reporting Inspector	Mr Paul Nutt

Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	4-11 years
Number on roll	209
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Mrs P Conlon-Swain
Telephone number	0121 464 4459
E-mail address	enquiry@ourladays.bham.dch.uk
Date of previous inspection	June 2011
DFE School Number	330/3357
Unique Reference Number	103449

Headteacher **Mrs M Johnson**

Previous inspection:	1
This inspection:	2

DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE





May 2016

Diocesan Education Service,
Don Bosco House,
Coventry Road,
Coleshill,
B46 3EA

Mrs M Johnson
Headteacher
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School
East Meadway
Tile Cross
Birmingham
B33 0AU

Dear Mary

Section 48 Monitoring Inspection: 27 April 2016

Thank you for the welcome you, your staff and pupils gave to me when I inspected your school on Wednesday 27 April 2016 and for the information you provided both before and during the inspection. I am grateful for the time given by all including the 3 governors and Father Anthony in speaking with me.

The inspection was a "light touch" monitoring inspection because it is now five years since you last received a section 48 inspection. The purpose of the inspection was to assess the quality of the school's self-evaluation and improvement planning for Catholic life and religious education. In order to make this judgement I read school documents, including a summative self-evaluation; met senior leaders and Father Anthony, 3 key governor representatives, your subject leader for RE, the school council and learning detectives; observed two lessons; and looked at a sample of pupils' written work. I attended a whole-school Mass and a staff prayer service.

In your self-evaluation document, Our Lady's is judged to be a good school overall, and good in all individual elements but pupils' contributions to and benefits from collective worship, which is outstanding. Initial reading of the self evaluation document had caused a few uncertainties: it is descriptive rather than evaluative in places, with too little specific evidence in some sections, and some confusions over RE and Catholic life and worship. Following my day spent in school, I am able to endorse your judgements fully, despite some over-reliance on verbal and informal communication in Catholic life, and too little documentary evidence at present to show regular use of secure processes and procedures. Both the leadership team and governors are fully aware of this identified area for development and any action will be of service to the palpable Catholicity of the school.

Leadership and management of the school are strong, at both senior and departmental levels. The reconstituted governing body demonstrates a range of skills, expertise and commitment further to develop its rigorous challenge and generous support towards ensuring the best outcomes for all pupils. The school is committed to the development of the whole child, and at the same time to the support and enrichment of their families and the wider parish community where possible. The links between the church, the community and the school are very valuable, and reflect the inclusive nature and popularity of Our Lady's. Collective worship is fully inclusive and of a high order, with regular evaluation affording significant opportunities for children to be involved in planning and leadership, which they welcome. The parish priest works closely and very effectively with the school and its community, and his professed missionary zeal is of real benefit to all. Similarly, the school chaplain, a staff member from the local Catholic secondary college and link governor for RE, offers targeted support through his frequent visits. The engagement of all staff and children ensures both reverence and joy; the blend of scripture, music and prayer is uplifting. There are daily opportunities for collective worship and prayer. The school clearly has the capacity for continuing improvement.

The Catholic life of the school is very strong, supportive and inclusive of all: staff, children, visitors, Catholic and non-Catholic. Catholic values are given prominence around the school and consistently promoted by staff and governors. There are artefacts and statues, crucifixes and displays, including examples of children's work and prayers, around the school, in the hall and in individual classrooms. The mission statement is familiar to all and lived out on a daily basis. There is generous support through the year for identified charities. Behaviour and interpersonal relations are excellent. The



children demonstrate mutual trust and respect for all groups within their community and speak with pride about their school. While the Catholic life of the school is very good, the evaluation of its provision does not focus sufficiently on the impact of that provision, on the benefits it brings to pupils. It is not simply a documentary issue; identifying strengths and development needs are necessary for school improvement. It is essential that processes for monitoring and evaluating Catholic life are strengthened, to bring them more closely in line with worship and RE, and to sustain impact and school improvement.

Religious education is very well led. There are processes now in place with a planned termly programme of observations, work scrutiny, learning walks and moderation meetings, conducted by both senior staff and governors using school proformas. Outcomes of these processes are reviewed with individual colleagues or collectively, as appropriate, with further targets or interventions agreed so that next stages are clear and realistic. The subject leader meets regularly with the RE link governor so that governors are kept informed of progress and concerns. Baseline assessments on entry indicate that most children enter Our Lady's with little or no prior learning. However, records over time, exercise books and discussion with pupils indicate that progress is good across individual years and key stages; attainment is also good. Teaching is good and well planned. The lessons seen revealed close agreement with evidence of internal observations. Teachers, including non-Catholics, demonstrate secure subject knowledge and developing skills in assessment, and use a wide range of strategies, including a range of questioning techniques, IT, music, prayer and scripture, to secure engagement and progress. The children clearly enjoy their work in RE and gain enormously from it.

I can confirm that the areas for development identified at the last Section 48 Inspection in 2011 have been addressed and implemented, though developments are continuing.

I am recommending three areas for improvement:

- develop stronger procedures for evaluating the quality and impact of Catholic life so as to inform further school improvement;
- develop analysis of progress and attainment further to ensure consistency and continuity within and between groups;
- develop further explicit consideration of vocation perhaps with a focus for pupils on "what God wants me to be."

Yours sincerely

Paul Nutt
Diocesan Inspector