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DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

CANON LAW 806 FINAL INSPECTION REPORT INCORPORATING SECTION 48

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Barkston Ash Catholic Primary School
London Road
Barkston Ash Nr Tadcaster
North Yorkshire LS24 9PS

School URN

121635

Date of Inspection and OE
grade

21st-22nd June 2016
Outstanding

E-mail address

headteacher@barkstonash.n-
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Chair of Governors

Eden Noblett

Headteacher

Christopher Power

RE Subject Leader

Christopher Power
Elizabeth Bracewell

Date and grade of last S48
inspection

May 2011
Good

Section 48 Inspector/s

Mrs Kath Spillane

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Inspection Grades: 1 is Outstanding, 2 is Good, 3 requires improvement in order to be good, 4 is Inadequate

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS: how effective the school is in providing Catholic Education.

1

The above judgement on overall effectiveness is based on all the available evidence following the evaluation of:

- *Outcomes for pupils,*
- *The provision for Catholic Education*
- *Leaders and Managers*

OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS

1

THE PROVISION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

1

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

1

Summary of key findings:

This is an Outstanding school

- This is a school with God at the centre of all its work. The recently developed Mission statement, 'With God's guidance we grow and learn' is lived out in every aspect of school life and it is clearly believed by everyone.
- The dedicated and committed Headteacher provides strong leadership and has a very clear vision for the school that is shared by the Governing body and staff. The Headteacher is sharing the leadership of RE with another member of staff in order to pass over the role in the new school year. The commitment to the role and to ensuring that the RE curriculum and the Catholic Life of the school is shared with all staff and governors and is clearly at the heart of its ethos, mission and purpose.
- The staff and pupils are proud of the school and morale is high.
- It is a school which is highly valued and is at the centre of both the parish and the wider community. Parents speak highly of the school and feel privileged to be part of the 'wonderful community'.
- All leaders and managers, including the Parish Priest and the Governing Body, have a shared vision and commitment to ensure that the school provides the best Catholic education for its children and that everyone in the school is committed to its mission and aims .
- The behaviour of pupils is exemplary and they are extremely proud of their school and community.
- Teaching is never less than good, and standards pupils achieve is high with some aspects being outstanding. Through skilled questioning in lessons staff are able to elicit responses which exemplify the pupil's understanding and confidence. The self-confidence of the pupil's is carefully nurtured to allow them express views and develop their talents in a secure learning environment.
- The whole school environment is steeped in the faith and celebration is central to learning in the school.

- The rich and varied curriculum provides the pupils with a range of learning opportunities which they enjoy, appreciate and take part in enthusiastically.

What the school needs to do to improve further.

- Continue to develop pupils' involvement in the planning, preparation and delivery of Collective Worship to ensure that all pupils from the youngest in the school, are confident participants and leaders, in this key area.
- Continue to develop the use of the new Prayer Garden to ensure that it is used as a key resource for the spiritual development of both pupils and staff in the school.
- Ensure that all staff new to the school community have a clear understanding of their role in a Catholic school through the identification of a Faith Mentor who would support their development and knowledge in the Catholic faith.

Information about this inspection

The Inspection of Barkston Ash Catholic Primary School was carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, and in accordance with the Leeds Diocesan Framework and Schedule for Section 48 Inspections approved by the Diocesan Administrator of Leeds. The inspection reviews and evaluates how effective the school is in providing Catholic Education. This process begins with the school's own self-evaluation and the inspection schedule follows the criteria set by the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (NBRIA 2012).

The inspector reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- The extent to which the key issues identified in the previous Section 48 RE inspection have been addressed.
- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in R.E.
- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship.
- The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in R.E.
- The extent to which the RE curriculum promotes pupils' learning.
- The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.
- The accuracy of the school's self-evaluation system.
- How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate provision and plan for improvement to outcomes.
- The school's partnership activities-including home/school/parish links.

The inspection was carried out by 1 inspector over a 1.5 day period. A sample of 5 lessons were observed, covering all classes and included two paired observations with the Headteacher /RE Co-ordinator. In addition, two whole school and one class Collective Worship were observed.

Meetings were held with the Headteacher and the member of staff who will be leading RE in the new school year, the Parish Priest, Chair of Governors, parents, representatives of the Minnie Vinnies and the School Council.

A selection of evidence was presented including work samples of RE and literacy books, planning, monitoring and evaluation reports, RE coordinators file, evidence from newsletters and the schools website. The school's RE data and tracking was also scrutinised.

Information about this school

- The school is in the parish of St Joseph the Worker in Sherburn in Elmet and the parish churches are St Joseph the Worker and The Immaculate Conception in Scarthingwell.
- The school is smaller than average with 136 pupils on roll.
- The proportion of pupils with special educational needs is around national average (9%) and free school meal numbers are smaller than average (2%).
- The majority of pupils are White British, with 0.7% from BME groups; there are no pupils with EAL.
- Attendance is above the national average (97.4%)
- The majority of pupils (62%) are baptised Catholics, with a minority coming from other Christian and other faiths.
- Since the last Section 48 RE inspection there have been several staff changes including the appointment of a new Headteacher and a new Chair of the Governing Body.
- Children are taught in 5 mixed age classes and there is no nursery provision.
- There are 5.6 f.t.e teachers, 2 who are of the Catholic faith and 2 teachers hold the CCRS.
- The school works in several partnerships including partnership working with St John Fisher High School, where a number of children transfer to for their secondary education.

Full report - inspection judgements

Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils are

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.	2

- Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils are outstanding.
- The school’s Mission statement, ‘With God’s guidance we grow and learn’ is deeply rooted in everyone and everything in the school.
- Pupils benefit from a calm, secure learning environment, strongly based on Gospel values
- Pupils are proud of their school. One of the pupils commented that, “We are one big family because we worship together”. They take responsibility for many areas of school life, from acting as Buddies to the youngest children and organising lunchtime sporting activities, to being members of the School Council and presenting information regarding the ‘Minnie Vinnies’ to the congregations of the two churches in the parish.
- The school plays an active part in the local community, singing at the local Residential home, litter picking in the village and taking part in the local Scarecrow competition.
- Through their participation in activities and membership of groups, the pupils at Barkston Ash feel that they have a voice which is heard and contribute to whole school and community life. They were active in developing the school’s new Mission statement.
- The behaviour of the pupils is outstanding. They have a true sense of community and togetherness and respect and care for each other.
- Pupils enjoy their RE lessons and teachers plan a variety of creative and interesting

activities which engage and interest the pupils. There is good use of resources including ICT, drama and art which enhance their whole learning experience.

- The school's tracking system shows that progress in RE in each key stage is very good and the standards which the children achieve in Religious Education is very high, sometimes outstanding. Pupils concentrate well in lessons and want to produce their best work. Teachers use a variety of teaching and learning methods to ensure that all pupils enjoy and achieve in RE lessons.
- The quality of work in books is high and shows a range of teaching and learning activities. The presentation, volume of work and marking is high and consistent .
- The planning for Theme weeks throughout the year enrich the curriculum and provide pupils with a range of different learning opportunities which they enjoy and appreciate.
- Prayer is central to the life of the community. Pupils have many opportunities to participate in different forms of Collective Worship and pupils act with reverence and enthusiasm. They are becoming skilled at preparing and leading worship as well as leading the weekly Friday Celebration assembly. This is an area which can continue to be developed to give all pupils the opportunities, and in turn the confidence, to plan and lead Collective Worship.
- The school has a choir who enthusiastically lead the singing and there is also a weekly 'Singing Liturgy' in school which the children enthusiastically participate in and also lead.
- Whole school masses are held at the beginning and end of term and Stations of the Cross are prayed in the two parish churches.
- The school has a new Prayer garden which is well used by all pupils and has become a focus for prayer and reflection in the school. Pupils visit it for private prayer and reflection and there is a timetable for its use and planned activities to enable pupils to get the most out of their time.
- The school supports the needs of others through a variety of fundraising activities. Each class has a charity which they raise funds for during the year, and the parents have their own successful fundraising and support group, 'Helping Hands' which helps to financially support the school.

The provision for Catholic Education is outstanding

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

- The quality of teaching is never less than good and some is outstanding. In the best lessons teaching is inspirational and pupils are challenged and motivated throughout the lesson to produce work of a high standard.
- Pupils are keen to learn and the quality of their work is of a high standard. Pupils understand the use of targets to support their learning and appreciate their use to challenge them and enable them to make good progress in RE. Marking is consistent, but the use of next step marking would further enhance the pupils' progress.
- Teachers' excellent RE subject knowledge is very effectively applied to both challenge and inspire pupils to make accelerated progress.
- High quality displays and Catholic imagery enhance the learning environment within the classrooms and throughout the public areas of the school giving a positive impression and impact on entering the school.
- The school plans for many different theme weeks during the year to support the whole curriculum, including the World Faiths and Positive Psychology weeks which in turn

enrich the Religious Education curriculum.

- There are many opportunities for pupils to develop their spiritual and moral understanding, in worship and in carefully planned activities.
- The new Prayer Garden is a key addition to the school and its use is well planned and effectively used through the commitment of a skilled Teaching Assistant who has enthusiastically taken on the role of planning for its use.
- There are many opportunities for children to pray both formally and informally, individually, as a class and as a whole school. The older children are confident in planning and preparing liturgies, and this should cascade through the school so that all pupils are involved in planning Collective Worship and their role increases.
- The provision for Collective Worship is outstanding and all staff are involved in planning for its delivery. Staff and pupils have a clear understanding of their place in the worshipping community and the impact of worship on their school life.
- At Barkston Ash the RE curriculum is fundamental to the spiritual, moral and personal development of the pupils, and the school meets the Bishops Conference (RE Curriculum Directory 2012) requirements and fully supports the directives of the Diocese of Leeds. Policies pertinent to the Catholic life of the school are developed by the leadership of the school and are in line with diocesan guidelines.
- The school's Education for Personal Relationships Policy, (EPR) is in line with diocesan recommendations. Parents confirm that the school follows the EPR policy and that they are aware of the contents of the programme of study so that they can support their children at home.
- The school works within a number of partnerships including the STAR Alliance and with St John Fisher High school where a large number of children transfer in Year 7.
- Staff training is identified in the School Improvement Plan and training needs regularly reviewed.
- Teachers use assessment information to plan an innovative and interesting curriculum which provides challenge and support for all abilities. This enables children to make good, sometimes outstanding progress with 2015 results showing over 70% of pupils making three levels progress by the end of key stage 2. 2016 results show that 31% of children achieved Level 3 at Key stage 1 and 81% achieving Level 5 in Year 6.
- Everyone speaks very highly of the school and are extremely positive about the transformation which has taken place in recent years. Parents describe the school as a 'wonderful community which is lived in'. They appreciate the opportunities to come into school and share in the Collective Worship as they too feel uplifted and privileged to be part of the celebrations.

The Leadership and Management are outstanding

How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.	1
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- Leaders, governors and managers are fully committed to the Church's mission and lead by example. Governors ensure that RE, Worship and Catholic Life are at the centre of the school's curriculum and the whole life of the school. This vision and commitment are shared by all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, and their understanding of their role in promoting the Catholic life of the school. Is outstanding
- The governing body are well led and managed and hold the school to account through a range of monitoring and evaluation activities and challenge the schools self-evaluation. The governing body have conducted a skills audit and are able to act as critical friends and partners in supporting and delivering the vision of the school. They have a very clear

view of the school's strengths and areas for development and they reflect and evaluate the evidence presented to them in their committees and also through the visits they make to the school.

- RE is currently led by two highly committed members of staff, the Headteacher and a class teacher who will take over the role of RE Co-ordinator in the next school year. Both ensure that the RE curriculum and the Catholic Life of the school remain at the heart of its ethos, mission and purpose. The Headteacher inspires the whole school community and has ensured that the Catholic mission and the vision of the school as a Catholic community with Christ at the centre is shared by all.
- The schools self-evaluation is accurate and the rigorous programme of monitoring and evaluation ensures that outcomes for the majority of the pupils are outstanding. Assessment information is used effectively to plan a curriculum which engages and challenges the pupils enabling them to make good and outstanding progress in RE.
- Expenditure on RE is in line with other core subjects and has been used to develop the prayer garden and also to purchase a range of liturgical resources including the Youcat used by the older children. The governing body ensure that the school's RE budget is appropriately monitored and adequate to meet the school's identified priorities in RE/Catholic life.
- The Parish Priest is a regular visitor to the school and is extremely supportive. He works closely with the school to celebrate important dates and festivals in the liturgical calendar. He is involved in the monitoring of RE and is clear about the priorities for development in the Catholic life of the school.
- The Parish Priest and the Headteacher work together to strengthen parish links by working in partnership on parish events. Preparation for First Sacraments with both the pupils and the parents is supported in the parish by the school and parents appreciate the strong school –parish links.
- The management of the school ensures that the school is involved in the local and wider community through activities in the parish and local villages and also sharing best practice through partnership working with the STAR alliance and also St John Fisher Secondary school.
- The quality of teaching and learning and the impact of the Religious Education curriculum are carefully monitored and evaluated and new initiatives are introduced which will have a positive impact on the spiritual and moral well-being of the pupils. These initiatives are carefully planned and are included in the School Improvement Plan and the RE Action Plan.
- The school has used the areas for development from the previous inspection in 2011 as a springboard to improve the school and move it forward. The dedicated Headteacher/RE leader has a strong sense of mission and is totally committed to continuing to develop the school as a place where Christ is at the Centre and in ensuring that every member of the school community shares in this vision.
- The governors have ensured that all canonical and statutory requirements are fulfilled by the school.