



DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School,
Claughton-on-Brock**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

**THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

School:

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Address:

**Smithy Lane
Claughton-on-Brock
Preston
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School URN:

119619

Headteacher:

Mr Gerard McKeivitt

Chair of Governors:

Mr Philip Rydeard

Lead Inspector:

Mrs Michelle Holden

Team Inspector:

Mrs Angela Hill

Date of Inspection:

29th October 2019

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St Mary's is a Catholic voluntary aided primary school in the Diocese of Lancaster. The school serves the parish of St Thomas the Apostle, Claughton. It is a smaller than average Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic primary school with currently 35 pupils on roll, of which approximately 45% are baptised Roman Catholics. Other pupils come from no faith or other Christian backgrounds. Most pupils are of White British heritage with 1 pupil from another faith background. Approximately 20% of pupils are on the SEND register. There are 8.6% pupils who are eligible for pupil premium. Most pupils in Year 6 transfer to Garstang High School, Garstang or Our Lady's Catholic High School, Preston.

PUPILS	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	2	6	5	9	4	5	4	35
Catholics on roll	1	4	1	5	0	2	2	15
Other Christian denomination	1	2	4	3	4	3	2	19
Other faith background	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
No religious affiliation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No of learners from ethnic groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total on SEN Register	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	5
Total with Statements of SEN	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	A			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Mary's Claughton	35

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	16.9 hours
% of teaching time	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

TEACHING TIME FOR ENGLISH	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	3.3	4.5	3.75	5 hrs	5 hrs	5 hrs	5 hrs	31.5
% of teaching time	14%	19.5%	16.9%	20%	20%	20%	20%	

TEACHING TIME FOR MATHS	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2.5	4.5	3.75	5	5	5	5	30.75
% of teaching time	10.7	19.5%	16.9%	20%	20%	20%	20%	

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	2
Part-time teachers	0.4
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	2.4
Classroom Support assistants	3
Number of Catholic teachers FTE	100%
Number of teachers teaching RE	2
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	1
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0
Chaplaincy staffing	0

ORGANISATION	
Published admission number	7
Number of classes	2
Average class size KS1	14
Average class size KS2	21

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2018-19	Current financial year 2019-20	Next financial year 2020-21
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	£3, 000	£3,000	£3,000
RE Curriculum allowance from above	£400	£400	£400
English Curriculum allowance from above	£ 500	£500	£500
Total CPD budget	£3,000	£3,000	£3000
RE allocation for CPD	£600	£600	£600

How the school has developed since the last inspection
<p>All aspects for improvement since the last inspection have been addressed and have had a systematic and sustained positive impact on raising standards. A detailed tracking system across school has been put in place and governors are well informed and well able to monitor attainment and progress in curriculum RE. A detailed plan of action that addressed the aspects for improvement is used regularly as a working document for school improvement.</p> <p>Pupils are continuing to be given opportunities to learn about other world faiths and cultures to increase knowledge and awareness of religions around the world and prepare them for a multi-cultural society.</p> <p>The school has an outstanding capacity to sustain these improvements. The dedication of the governors together with the commitment of the headteacher and all staff, demonstrate the capacity to facilitate continuous improvement. Inspection has shown that self-evaluation is accurate and issues arising from internal and external moderation meetings have identified new and innovative areas for development in curriculum RE. The school has experienced a period of instability amongst staff since the last inspection but since the appointment of the new headteacher, the school has flourished and is in a much calmer, stable position. The headteacher has been inspirational in leading the staff and governors in his drive to improve the school. The headteacher works two days at St Mary's and three days at St Bernadette's, Lancaster. This has forged links between the two schools with staff sharing good practice and professional development. This collaboration is having many positive advantages for both schools.</p>

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

CATHOLIC LIFE

1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

St Mary's is an outstanding Catholic school. It is very welcoming and has inclusion for all as a central goal and a shared vision: pupils enjoy attending and they have positive attitudes to learning. One Year 6 pupil described St Mary's as a "place where it is very peaceful and everyone is friendly." Pupils deepen the knowledge of their faith throughout their time in school and gain a firm understanding of Catholic practice. The school lives out its mission statement ; "A small school with a big heart." This was quoted by one child who has just recently joined the school and spoke to inspectors saying 'our small school with a big heart, has lots of love in it'. Pupils are polite, happy and extremely well behaved. They are a credit to the school. Governors play a significant part in leading the strategic direction of the school in the community which it serves. The experienced headteacher has been instrumental in driving the recommendations since the last inspection and modelling the Catholic values through his assemblies, his calm manner and his knowledge on leading staff and pupils. The Headteacher/RE leader has been tireless in his efforts to ensure the Catholic life of the school and curriculum RE are outstanding. The work of the Governors, head teacher and the staff in raising standards and putting the Catholic life of the school at the forefront of their plans for the school is a strength. There is a strong team spirit and secure family bond evident in everything that takes place at St Mary's.

The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding and the commitment from the headteacher, the governors, staff, and parishioners to support pupils in their prayer life and to help them grow in faith has remained a priority. Staff set good examples, are proud of their school and work well together. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is excellent and has an impact on everyday life at St Mary's. This can be seen through pupils' responses to each other and to the notion of the common good. The pupils actively and willingly become involved in a variety of activities supporting their own and the wider community. This contributes to pupils' social, emotional and moral development. Gospel values permeate school life and pupils are helped to grow in faith, make the most of their abilities and become the best they can be.

Opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy are outstanding; pupils act with reverence and join in prayers confidently. They make full use of resources available to them and appreciate the opportunities offered e.g. Masses, liturgies, shared cluster services and worship.

The quality of curriculum RE is outstanding and pupils are provided with an excellent range of learning opportunities to deepen their faith, to understand Catholic traditions and practices, and to make progress in their learning. Pupils enjoy RE lessons, with one pupil stating that RE lessons are fun, and many aspects of the curriculum are outstanding. Clear action plans are in place to continue to raise attainment and progress is outstanding.

Teachers' subject knowledge is outstanding and has a positive impact on the delivery of curriculum RE. They are well supported in terms of professional development. The curriculum meets the needs of all learners in line with diocesan and national recommendations.

Governors challenge the Senior leaders and this is evidenced in governors' meeting minutes.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

To improve further the school needs to:

- To build on the strong foundations already established in curriculum RE by implementing a wider range of teaching resources.
- To incorporate further the statutory HRSE guidance linking into the excellent practice in curriculum RE & PSHE.
- To continue providing further opportunities for pupils to take ownership for and lead worship.

PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

1

- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school
- The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school

1

1

1

All staff members at St Mary's are wholly committed to supporting the Catholic ethos of the school and the mission of the school and this culture is embedded in the life of the school family.

The pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Life of School is greatly enhanced by their participation in and contribution to all aspects of school life. Pupils know that they belong to St Mary's Catholic Parish family and are proud to be part of the school and parish.

Pupils at St Mary's are nurtured within a strong Catholic ethos: pupils can express their views and beliefs with confidence and are able to refer to scripture, as observed in the KS2 class. Pupils used bibles confidently and discussed the differences between covenants and contracts in the lesson observed.

Inspection confirms the judgement made by the school that pupils make an outstanding contribution to the Catholic life of the school, and benefit from that life in a range of ways.

All governors, leaders, teachers and support staff at St Mary's are wholly committed to supporting the Catholic ethos of the school and its mission and this culture is embedded in the life of the school family. It is a harmonious school with a distinctive Catholic ethos.

Pupils are alert to the needs of others and seek justice for all within and beyond the school community. They raise money for charities such as Cafod and Mary's Meals. They are currently working towards the 'Live Simply' award to echo the teachings of Jesus and support the vulnerable people in our society.

All governors and school leaders are fully committed to fulfilling their role in ensuring outstanding provision for the Catholic life of the school. They have high expectations and are actively working together to implement the Catholic ethos and the Gospel values which underpin all aspects of the school. The headteacher, who is the subject leader, provides a clear direction for the Catholic Life of the school which is given the highest priority along with the spiritual and moral development of pupils. The staff work closely with local Catholic cluster schools and are affiliated with the Catholic Teaching Alliance. There are strong links

between St Mary's and Our Lady's Catholic High School which is strengthened by the experienced Chair of Governors who has the responsibility of Chair at both schools. This is conducive to the sharing of good practice and excellent CPD for staff.

The school walls display excellent examples of outstanding religious art work which reinforces that Christ is very much at the centre of everything that happens in this school. Leaders and managers ensure that parents have a thorough understanding of the school's mission and enable and value their support, as show in the very positive responses to parent questionnaires, written letters of support and discussions with staff and governors.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. St Mary's is a welcoming, friendly and inclusive community with a strong family ethos where everyone is valued and where pupils and staff flourish. Governors and staff have a shared vision with regard to the Catholic mission and ethos. There is a wholehearted expression of the relationship between faith and action. Prayer meetings take place at lunchtime which are led by the headteacher with pupils reciting the Rosary; developing and enriching their faith.

The links with the parish are strong and the parish priest visits school to offer support and celebrate Masses. Family Masses take place which are led by the children. The headteacher is an outstanding role model and his calm and quietly confident demeanour is a key factor in this successful school. He lives out his faith in his vocation as Headteacher and it is evident that he has motivated all staff since taking over at the school. He has established strong links with parents since taking over his position as headteacher and it is clear parents trust in his leadership and experience.

PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education
- How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education
- The quality of provision in Religious Education

1

1

1

The inspection concluded that pupil enjoyment and engagement at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School is outstanding.

During lessons observed, pupils were attentive and engaged in their learning and eager to answer questions. In Class 1, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils were able to reflect on their previous lessons through the 'Chatterbox' resource and skilful questioning by the teacher. The pupils could identify Old and New Testament as parts of the bible and describe the different prayers used as part of the Rosary which they called special prayers with Mary. The pupils carried out an exciting, practical activity, guiding a blindfolded partner around an obstacle course with great care to ensure their partner was safe. In the classroom, the pupils settled quickly and were able, with guidance from the teacher, to relate their experience to Mary's journey to visit Elizabeth. One Year 2 pupil stated that Mary would have felt nervous because, 'She was going on her own and did not have her parents to help her.' When asked, 'Who is always there to help us?' the pupils confidently answered, 'God.'

In Class 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils demonstrated excellent work ethics and attitudes to learning. Pupils were able to demonstrate good knowledge of scripture and religious terminology. The highly experienced teacher led stimulating discussions to clarify the understanding of, 'God's Covenant' and further develop pupils' independent ability to ask deep questions and engage with religious ideas. The good pace of the lesson and the differentiated outcomes, challenged the pupils at an age-appropriate level, to use scripture to make links between God's covenant with Noah and God's creation. They were confident in their use of bibles and continued to be involved in excellent discussions, independent of an adult. In both classes, the Teaching Assistants were effectively employed in supporting and challenging the pupils' learning, ensuring clarity of understanding and promoting progress.

The leadership and management of the RE curriculum continues to be outstanding. The Headteacher (HT) is the Religious Education Subject Leader (RESL) and he has ensured effective and rigorous monitoring and evaluation of the provision for Religious Education. The experienced and confident governors, clearly understand the priorities of the school and are challenging and supportive in their monitoring role. The inspection found the self-evaluation of governors and leaders to be reflective and accurate. The School Improvement Plan focuses on developing the school culture to, 'encourage happiness, confidence and personal fulfilment,' through the

development of the RE curriculum; supporting pupil progress; embedding RE assessment; promoting Prayer and Worship and effective Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for staff. This comprehensive and cohesive plan gives equal acknowledgement to the spiritual, personal and academic development of pupils. There is a culture at St. Mary's of shared vision and commitment to high standards and the RE is visibly central to the school's curriculum and priorities.

The school is an active member of the Catholic cluster and an affiliated school to the Catholic Teaching Alliance; all staff are in receipt of quality CPD which impacts positively on classroom practice.

From a very low Baseline Assessment, on entry at Reception, pupils make rapid and sustained progress across all phases to achieve consistently high standards.

The quality of provision at St. Mary's is outstanding. The school delivers the RE Curriculum content through a very carefully planned, three year Key Stage 1 and four year Key Stage 2 rolling programme, which maps the links between the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, the published scheme, The Way, the Truth and the Life and the CAFOD Educational Resources. The experienced and skilled teachers, effectively plan for multiple year groups within their class and provide high quality marking and dialogue to support pupil's learning and progress. Pupils gain a good understanding about other World Faiths and through a pupil questionnaire in April 2019, initiated by the HT/RESL, requested to learn more. Visits to a local Mosque and Hindu Temple have deepened their knowledge about Islam and Hinduism. The school has established links with an inner city Catholic Primary School with a wider diversity of pupils from other World Faiths. Successful visits, which have been mutually beneficial for the schools involved, have been carried out and will be continued. St. Mary's has been a pilot school for the introduction of the revised assessment procedures for the RE curriculum. The HT/RESL and staff have worked hard to implement the age-related framework and have developed a bespoke recording system which accurately informs leaders about pupils' attainment in Curriculum RE. The HT/RESL and staff hold termly 'in-house' moderation sessions, cross referencing lesson observation notes, work scrutiny and teachers' planning to ensure accuracy of assessment. St. Mary's also attends moderation sessions within the Catholic Cluster and Diocese to affirm judgements. The quality of provision would benefit further by increasing the variety of published resources used to plan and teach RE.

RE attainment is reported to parents at Parents' Evenings and in the End of Year School Report. Parental questionnaires were very positive about the information received from the school.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Overall Effectiveness	1
Capacity for sustained improvement	1
Catholic Life	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders and managers promote and ensure provision for the Catholic Life of the school through monitoring and evaluation. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school. 	1
Religious Education	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision in Religious Education. 	1

	Pupil Outcomes	Leadership & Management	Provision	Overall
Catholic Life	1	1	1	1
Religious Education	1	1	1	1