



**DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION  
REPORT (Section 48)**

**St. Catherine's Catholic Primary  
School**

**Penrith**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION  
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

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

<b>School:</b>	<b>St. Catherine's Catholic Primary School</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Drovers Lane Penrith CA119EL</b>
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	<b>01788864612</b>
<b>Email Address:</b>	<b>head@st-catherines.cumbria.sch.uk</b>
<b>School URN:</b>	<b>112305</b>
<b>Headteacher:</b>	<b>Mrs Angela Hill</b>
<b>Chair of Governors:</b>	<b>Mr Denis Smith</b>
<b>Lead Inspector:</b>	<b>Mrs Adrienne Delaney</b>
<b>Team Inspector:</b>	<b>Mrs Michelle Holden</b>
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St. Catherine's is a Catholic voluntary aided primary school in the Diocese of Lancaster. It is a below average-sized primary school in a rural location. It has a low percentage of SEND pupils compared to national average. Due to its popularity and to future plans in the locality, the school is looking to extend its building in order to accommodate more pupils, thus providing a one form entry school.

Its geographical position is such that it is twenty miles from the nearest Catholic high school.

PUPILS	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	20	20	20	19	19	18	15	132
Catholics on roll	8	10	8	5	5	8	8	52
Other Christian denomination	4	7	7	7	8	7	6	44
Other faith background	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No religious affiliation	6	0	5	7	6	3	0	27
No of learners from ethnic groups	2	5	1	1	4	6	1	20
Total on SEN Register	0	0	3	3	3	4	3	16
Total with Statements of SEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	0.1			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Catherine's	132

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	16.5
% 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)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	35
% of teaching time	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25

TEACHING TIME FOR MATHS	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	35
% of teaching time	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	5
Part-time teachers	2
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	
Classroom Support assistants	6

ORGANISATION	
Published admission number	20
Number of classes	AM 5 PM 4
Average class size KS1	30
Average class size KS2	35

Number of Catholic teachers FTE	50%
Number of teachers teaching RE	7
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	1
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0
Chaplaincy staffing	

<b>EXPENDITURE (£)</b>	<b>Last financial year 2016-17</b>	<b>Current financial year 2017-18 (up to Dec 2017)</b>	<b>Next financial year 2018-19 Projected</b>
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	£ 11152.69	£ 12301.51	£ 9000
RE Curriculum allowance from above	1311.31	735	600
English Curriculum allowance from above	1059.55	2797.92	1500
Total CPD budget	3500	3500	3500
RE allocation for CPD	1150	1500	1150

**How the school has developed since the last inspection**

The school was previously inspected under Section 48 in 2013. The headteacher has continued to work tirelessly in order to maintain the very strong parish links and to effect positive improvements in the Catholic Life and curriculum RE at St. Catherine's. All aspects for improvement since the last inspection have been addressed and have had a sustained and positive impact on raising standards. A well-embedded baseline assessment and detailed tracking system across the school are in place and governors are highly effective in challenging and supporting the monitoring of attainment and progress across curriculum RE. Improvements are consistently identified and acted upon through rigorous marking, monitoring and assessment.

The school has an outstanding capacity to sustain this continuous improvement. The dedication of the governors together with the commitment of the leadership team and all staff, demonstrate this capacity.

## INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS**

1

**CATHOLIC LIFE**

1

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS**

St. Catherine's is an outstanding Catholic school. It is a very welcoming and inclusive learning environment where the school's mission statement states that 'as part of the Catholic Church community, we respect and value each other and our uniqueness given to us from God.' This statement underpins and drives the life of the school. Governors speak with great pride about their school, describing it as a safe, nurturing family school where children in their Catholic community thrive. There is a deep commitment by all governors, leadership and staff to the continued development of the school. Pupils enjoy attending St. Catherine's and they have positive attitudes to learning. On the day of inspection one Year 5 pupil said: 'There is no school like this one. We are better at RE.' Pupils deepen the knowledge of their faith throughout their time in school and gain a firm understanding of Catholic practice. The Religious Education governor regularly visits the school, supporting staff and pupils alike, offering sound advice and constructive challenge. The leadership has ensured that recommendations since the last inspection have been addressed successfully. The headteacher, her deputy and the subject leader work well together to ensure that the Catholic Life of the school and curriculum RE are outstanding.

The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding and the commitment from the head, the governors, staff and parish priest and laity to support pupils in their prayer life and to grow in faith is given the highest priority. Staff set good examples, support each other, are proud of their school and work very well together. They value the support and opportunities that they have to deepen their religious knowledge and their own spirituality. The recently appointed Parish Priest is a regular and welcome visitor to the school, actively fulfilling his role, both spiritually and pastorally. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is outstanding and has a positive and palpable impact on everyday life at St Catherine's. This can be seen through pupils' responses to each other and to their understanding of the notion of the common good. The pupils actively and willingly become involved in activities supporting their own and the wider community. They have raised funds for CAFOD, their link school in Zambia and charities such as a local hospice and food bank. This aids pupils' understanding of faith put into action as recommended by Pope Francis.

Parents appreciate this close-knit community school and they welcome opportunities to participate in school life, such as the family liturgies and Masses.

The parish community welcomes the links that the school has with it and values the unity that it demonstrates. Gospel values are integral to the life of the school where children are helped to grow in faith. The quality of Prayer and Liturgy are outstanding; pupils act with reverence and join in prayers confidently. Prayer and Liturgies observed in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 demonstrate that children prepare and plan these with increasing confidence. The half termly House Days, which have RE and Catholic Life of the school at the centre, ensure that pupils across the key stages are able to work collaboratively and learn from each other. This enables them to make full use of resources available to them and to appreciate the opportunities offered, for example, Masses and liturgies.

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 and many aspects of the curriculum are outstanding. The pupils spoken to on the day of inspection demonstrated excellent scriptural knowledge. All books scrutinised on the day confirmed this. Clear action plans are in place to continue to raise attainment and progress. The monitoring and assessment of all strands of AT1 and AT2 is having an excellent effect on the evaluation and the provision of curriculum RE.

Teachers' subject knowledge is outstanding and has a positive impact on the delivery of curriculum RE. Teachers are well supported in terms of professional development. The curriculum meets the needs of all learners in line with Diocesan and national recommendations. Governors and leaders take full account of the '*Fit for Mission? Schools*' guidance. The recent HRSE recommendations are being acted upon and the policy is in place and teaching is becoming embedded.

The school's capacity to maintain improving standards is outstanding.

## **WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER**

To improve further the school needs to:

- Improve outcomes for all pupils by continuing to share the best practice that exists in the acts of Prayer and Liturgy, so that all pupils are able to participate in quiet times of reflection on scripture.
- Celebrate successes by providing further opportunities for pupils to deepen their knowledge of world faiths, particularly those have a monotheistic tradition.

## PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

### THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

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- 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

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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. Catherine'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 very harmonious school with a strong Catholic ethos. Pupils were observed praying together reverently using both traditional prayers and beautiful singing voices.

The pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Life of the School is greatly enhanced by their participation in and contribution to, all aspects of school life. Pupils are proud to belong to St Catherine's Catholic Parish family and community. Pupils' leadership of Prayer and Liturgy is outstanding. From the Foundation Stage onwards pupils develop their ability to share their own faith through whole class Prayer and Liturgy. During the inspection pupils in the Foundation Stage chose artefacts for their prayer area. They spontaneously made the Sign of the Cross before and after prayer and knew that the reading came from the Old Testament. However, the good practice seen during Prayer and Liturgy now needs to be shared across the school so that there are regular opportunities for quiet reflection.

Pupils understand that the Catholic faith is different from other faiths and that they share this distinctiveness with other Catholic schools. Activities that have enabled this understanding are the celebration of Masses with the parish, fundraising with the parish and collecting money for CAFOD. All these activities are visible demonstrations of pupils' understanding of the commandment that the pupils could articulate on the day of inspection, 'The most important message that Jesus gave is to love one another'. This articulation of ethos encourages best behaviour and focused learning. Catholic principles and values underpin behaviour and relationships, resulting in a strong, shared vision for the Catholic Life of the school.

The Parish Priest, governors, school leaders, teachers and support staff 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 philosophy of education and Gospel values which permeate all aspects of school life. An example of this is the time given by all stakeholders, including parents, to examine the school's mission statement. This is resulting in a clear understanding of the meaning of mission within the school and the wider community. It is also the basis for stimulating religious artwork displayed in all areas of the school. The headteacher 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. Her deputy and all staff have a strong vision for the school, which is demonstrated through their actions.

The governors, leaders and managers are fully committed to partnerships with the diocesan family of parishes and schools. The school has good links with the primary and secondary schools in the local Catholic cluster, even though the school's geographical position does make it somewhat isolated.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. St Catherine's is a welcoming, inclusive, friendly community with a very strong family ethos where everyone is valued and pupils and staff flourish. Governors, managers and staff have high expectations and a shared vision with regard to the Catholic mission, particularly as the pupils will not usually transfer to the local Catholic high school and their Catholic education may well finish there.

The school is a prayerful Catholic community that provides a caring and stimulating learning environment to reflect the school's mission and Catholic character. Staff and governors work hard to develop and enhance the school for the benefit of everyone at St. Catherine's. Staff INSET has ensured Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in RE and staff subject knowledge has been strengthened through reflection days and training offered. For example, as a local leader, the headteacher has ensured that her staff have access to the most innovative training through partnerships with regional schools.

## PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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- 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

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Inspection confirms the school's judgement that the extent to which pupils enjoy and achieve in Religious Education is outstanding.

The vast majority of pupils at St Catherine's enjoy RE, are religiously literate and engaged in their learning. Through active participation in prayer and liturgies, together with outstanding, creative and innovative curriculum coverage, pupils show excellent knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith. During the inspection, the Reception Class pupils were able to discuss the Last Supper. They understand that Christ is at the centre of all school life and they are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. The vast majority of pupils make rapid and sustained progress from a low baseline in RE when they join St. Catherine's in Foundation Stage. They develop and apply a range of skills throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, including independence and creativity. This is built upon in Key Stage 2 where pupils reflect upon their own Scriptural knowledge that enables them to forgive, love and respect. They are able to reflect on the notion of justice and the common good. Pupils interviewed could articulate the Scriptural sources that influence and enable their actions. On the day of the inspection pupils in Year 5/6 were able to reflect on pieces of scripture, discuss Pope Francis' teachings and relate these to everyday situations and choices. Lessons observed across the Key Stage demonstrated the teachers' excellent knowledge of the Catholic faith. Quality teaching enables all learners to articulate their understanding to a high standard.

On the day of the inspection, pupils from Year 2 were observed asking questions around the events of Palm Sunday. The teacher skilfully encouraged the pupils to identify questions that were easy or difficult to answer, encouraging and promoting awe and wonder within Religious Education.

The RE curriculum meets all the requirements of the Bishops' Conference and is informed by the *Curriculum Directory* and the Diocesan document '*Fit for Mission? Schools*'. RE is at the centre of the school's curriculum and is given priority in the improvement planning where targets are clearly identified and set to continue to maintain outstanding attainment. Since the last inspection the drive to provide excellent learning opportunities has continued, ensuring that the common vision and commitment to high standards remain at the forefront of school life. This is largely due to the excellent practice of the head teacher, deputy and subject

leader who ensure that pupils continue to make progress in their religious literacy. Professional discussions during staff meetings explore how enthusiastic and imaginative teaching motivates pupils and deepens their understanding of the subject.

Teaching in RE is outstanding. Subject knowledge is excellent and as a result pupil outcomes are exemplary. Support staff are deployed effectively to assist pupils with additional needs. Next step marking is embedded across the school and work displayed around the school and in all exercise books is very good. Pupils know what to do to improve through next step marking and targets that are consistently displayed in their books.

Since the last inspection the school has continued to implement its rigorous system of monitoring. This includes the monitoring of lesson plans, book scrutiny, informal and formal observation of lessons and conversations with pupils. This practice, together with pastoral and behaviour support, has made a significant impact on the continuous improvement in the teaching and learning in RE.

Teachers' planning is based on diocesan advice. It does not rely heavily on any one scheme but uses various resources to enhance pupils' learning. The school is currently trialling resources that are creative, are able to provide opportunities for higher order questioning and enhance the pupils' understanding of scripture. Teachers' own subject knowledge and great enthusiasm enables them to make outcomes for pupils outstanding. They use this excellent subject knowledge as well as Catholic schemes such as *Caritas in Action*, *Come and See*, in order to enrich the curriculum. The "Curriculum Wheel" that has been devised by the Lancaster Diocese is a pivotal part of planning and work is being done to produce yearly overviews to ensure coverage in all year groups. Staff are also working on embedding the HRSE objectives into the RE curriculum. Governors are informed of the curriculum through reports at meetings and regular visits to school where they observe lessons and scrutinise books with the RE leader.

Every class has an area for pupils to celebrate Prayer and Liturgy, along with religious artefacts, Bibles and religious books to enhance spiritual growth. All pupils have access to the parish church next door to the school.

Pupils' progress in RE in each of the attainment targets, (knowledge and understanding of religion and an ability to reflect on meaning), is very good and is reported to parents in termly reports alongside other core curriculum subjects. Communication with parents is excellent. The school sends home regular newsletters and the website class areas are regularly updated. A termly report gives parents an overview of RE and the school's open door policy enables parents to discuss RE matters with school staff. Parents appreciate the school and attend liturgies and Masses, sharing refreshments with children and parish members in the meeting room afterwards. This was reflected in the parental questionnaires.

Pupil attainment and progress in RE is outstanding and is in line with high standards in English and maths. Since the last inspection, the subject leader and senior leadership team have facilitated training for all staff and modelled excellent

practice to ensure that standards in teaching RE have been maintained. Analysis of the progress of all groups of learners enables success to be celebrated. Pupils have the utmost respect for each other and can discuss their own faith and that of others. However, they would benefit from more opportunities to study other world faiths so as to gain a firm understanding of religious and cultural practices. Excellent quality teaching and effective learning are present in RE lessons. Pupils enjoy RE because teachers make their lessons engaging, interesting and relevant.

The quality of provision for RE is outstanding. Since the last inspection the parish priest, governors, head teacher, deputy and subject leader, have continued to plan and deliver staff meetings and INSET opportunities to reflect on the teaching of RE and the Catholic Life of the school. This contributes to excellent subject knowledge and confidence in teaching RE. Teachers inspire pupils and make sure that they make exceptional progress as independent and collaborative learners. Resources are used effectively and the support provided by other adults optimises learning. As a consequence pupils are highly motivated, enjoy tasks set and are proud of their work in Religious Education.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

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

	<b>Pupil Outcomes</b>	<b>Leadership &amp; Management</b>	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Overall</b>
<b>Catholic Life</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>