



DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

**Our Lady Star of the Sea
Catholic Primary School
St. Annes-on-Sea**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

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

School:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

School URN:

Headteacher:

Chair of Governors:

Lead Inspector:

Team Inspector:

Date of Inspection:

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Our Lady Star of the Sea is a Catholic Voluntary Aided primary school in the Diocese of Lancaster. The school mainly serves the parishes of Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Alban's in St Anne's and St Joseph's in Ansdell. It is a smaller than average sized primary school with 208 pupils currently on role of whom approximately 98% are baptised Roman Catholic. Pupils' attainment on entry to school is average. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds and 13% are from minority ethnic groups. The proportion of pupils supported for SEN is below the national average, whilst those with a statement of SEN is above average. Most pupils transfer at the end of year six to St. Bede's Catholic High School in Lytham.

PUPILS	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	30	30	30	30	30	30	28	208
Catholics on roll	30	28	30	30	30	29	26	203
Other Christian denomination							2	2
Other faith background		1				1		2
No religious affiliation		1						1
No of learners from ethnic groups	2	4	6	1	8	4	2	27
Total with further SEN support	2	1		1	3		2	9
Total with Statements of SEN	1	1		1	1	1		5
Total on SEN Register	3	2		2	4	1	2	14

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	4
Index of multiple deprivation	C			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Our Lady Star of the Sea	181
St Alban's	15
St Joseph's	6

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2.33	2.33	2.33	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	17
% 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)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	42
% of teaching time	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26%

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	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21%

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	8
Part-time teachers	2
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	8.73
Classroom Support assistants	12
Percentage of Catholic teachers FTE	99%
Number of teachers teaching RE	7
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	7 2 TA's
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0
Chaplaincy staffing	0

ORGANISATION	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	30
Average class size KS2	30

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2013/2014	Current financial year 2014/2015	Next financial year 2015/2016
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	£22,200	£19,700	Planning Feb 2015
RE Curriculum allowance from above	£1,200	£1,000	TBC
English Curriculum allowance from above	£1,000	£1,500	TBC
Total CPD budget	£5,500	£7,400	TBC
RE allocation for CPD	£1,000	£900	TBC

How the school has developed since the last inspection

All issues for improvement since the last inspection have been addressed and have had a positive impact on raising standards in RE and on ensuring pupils have access to and participate in Prayer and Liturgy.

The school has an excellent capacity for sustained improvement. The outstanding leadership and commitment of staff and governors illustrates a capacity to improve further. Issues arising from in-house moderation meetings and self-evaluation have identified areas for development and improvement in support of maintaining standards of attainment and progress in RE.

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

CATHOLIC LIFE

1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

Our Lady, Star of the Sea is an outstanding Catholic school, where rigorous and accurate self-evaluation leads to continuous improvement. Excellent leadership at all levels ensures a shared, ambitious vision which fosters the highest of expectations for all members of the school community. The school is very welcoming and inclusive; pupils enjoy coming to school and they have positive attitudes to learning. Recommendations since the last inspection have been actioned and standards throughout the school have risen, especially at the higher levels.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. The commitment from Parish clergy, governors, catechists and staff to support pupils and families in their prayer life and growth in faith is a priority. Staff set good examples, are very proud of their school and work well together. Excellent relationships and communication between home, school and parishes are key strengths. The vast majority of teaching staff have gained the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) as well as two teaching assistants and the headteacher has plans to extend this to newer members of staff. Parents have a high opinion of the popular, oversubscribed school and welcome the opportunity to participate in school life. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is outstanding.

The prayer and liturgical opportunities offered by staff are outstanding, Christ is at the centre of the school community and Gospel values permeate through everything the school seeks to achieve. The environments developed for prayer and liturgy, both in school and in the newly built chapel are of the highest standard and very child focused. Pupils act with reverence and join in prayers confidently, they plan and lead prayer and worship from an early age. Relationships between pupils, teachers and support staff are excellent and effective; they contribute to pupils' obvious eagerness to learn. The school prayer, written by the headteacher is very well used and liked by governors, staff and pupils. Displays around school are excellent and used well to enhance learning.

The quality of RE is outstanding; teaching is consistently good or better and systems for tracking, monitoring and evaluating the curriculum are robust and in

line with other core curriculum subjects. The curriculum effectively provides pupils with a deep insight into the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the relationship between faith and life.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

To improve further the school needs to:

- Enhance liturgy and prayer opportunities for the whole school community with the completion and use of the new school chapel.
- Further develop the curriculum and links with schools to give pupils a wider view of national and global communities in order to prepare them for life in modern Britain.
- Share their knowledge and experience of curriculum projects and best practice in RE with other schools in the Diocese.

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

The Mission Statement of the school is 'You are precious in my eyes'. All staff members at Our Lady's are committed to supporting the Catholic ethos and this culture is intrinsically embedded throughout the life of the school.

The pupil's 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 regularly prepare and lead Prayer and Liturgy with confidence and enthusiasm, appropriate to their age and ability: Key Stage 2 pupils assist Key Stage 1 pupils in the planning and preparation of their Prayer and Liturgy. Pupils in Foundation and Key Stage 1 have grown in their ability to share their faith through whole class Prayer and Liturgy: this ability is developed throughout Key Stage 2 as pupils plan and share their class worship with little or no direction from adults. Observations during the inspection of Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 3 confirmed this with the Year 4 liturgy in the chapel being totally pupil-led.

Pupils at Our Lady's are nurtured within a strong Catholic ethos; pupils can express their views and beliefs with confidence and are able to refer to the teaching of Jesus, as witnessed in a Year 6 lesson. Catholic principles and values underpin behaviour and relationship policies resulting in a strong shared vision for the Catholic Life of the school: this encourages best behaviour and focused learning at all times. Pupils are alert to the needs of others and seek justice for all within and beyond the school community.

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 philosophy of education and the Gospel values which underpin all aspects of the school. The headteacher and subject leader provide 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. Leaders and managers ensure that parents have a thorough understanding of the school's mission and enable and value their support, as shown in the very positive responses to parent questionnaires and discussions with staff and governors.

The governors, leaders and managers are committed to the partnerships with local schools and with the other primary schools and secondary school in their local Catholic cluster; they work as a wider family of schools to provide opportunities to celebrate their faith collectively, for example the biennial CAFOD Advent service. The school would benefit by working closer with other schools in the diocese to share curriculum projects, professional development opportunities and the best practice in RE. It would also be helpful to give pupils a wider view of national and global communities in order to prepare them for life in modern Britain.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. Our Lady's is a welcoming, friendly and inclusive community with a strong family ethos where everyone is valued and where pupils and staff flourish. Governors, managers and staff have high expectations and a shared vision with regard to the Catholic mission and ethos. There is a wholehearted expression of the relationship between faith and action. The Prayer and Liturgy of the Catholic Church are central to the life of the school, are of high quality and a key part of every school celebration as observed in the outstanding Year 5 liturgy for the whole school during the inspection. The home, school and parish partnership is augmented with the sacramental candidates in Year 3, having prayer sponsors from the household of the parish.

The school is a prayerful community that provides a stimulating learning environment to reflect the school's mission and its Catholic character. Staff and governors work hard to develop and enhance the school for the benefit of everyone at Our Lady's. Pupils take part in, lead and prepare prayer and liturgies with enthusiasm and confidence. The adults associated with the pupils' home life, as well as those of the parishes and wider communities, are facilitated to participate in the Catholic Life of the school.

Parish and diocesan clergy have been instrumental in the development of all teachers' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith through effective professional development, for example, the retreat at Tabor led by the Diocesan Director of Education that was appreciated by staff and governors and the many staff meetings led by Parish clergy.

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

Almost all pupils enjoy RE, are religiously literate and engaged in their learning. Through active participation in prayer and liturgies, together with curriculum coverage, pupils show excellent knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith. They understand that Christ is at the centre of all school life and are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. The vast majority of pupils make rapid and sustained progress in RE from an average baseline when they join Our Lady's in Nursery or Foundation Stage. They develop and apply a range of skills throughout foundation stage and Key Stage 1 including independence and imagination, this is built on in Key Stage 2 when pupils develop the ability to ask deep questions and engage with religious ideas.

Pupils are proud of their charity work and the contribution this makes to the wider community. They discussed recent fund raising for local, national and international charities with inspectors, including: Donna's Dream House, Brian House, Streetlife, Children in Need, Face to Face, Barnardos, CAFOD and a St Peter's School in Uganda.

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 improvement planning. A culture has been created in which staff share a shared vision and commitment to high standards.

Teachers' planning is based on 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' scheme of work and teachers confidently enrich the curriculum with other valuable resources e.g. CAFOD's Universal church topics and the Children's University Social Justice module. Lessons observed during inspection showed a variety of strategies used to engage pupils in their learning e.g. In Year 2 hot seating Mary and Joseph to further understand the annunciation. In Year 6, RE was challenging pupils'

understanding of justice alongside the WWII history topic. Governors are informed of the curriculum through reports at meetings and have been involved in levelling assessed pieces of work that cover both the RE and the English curriculum.

Every class has an area for pupils to celebrate Prayer and Liturgy along with full access to a prayer area at the front of school for their own spiritual growth. A new chapel has been built in the school grounds with windows depicting the life of Christ that were designed by pupils; they discussed their appreciation of this facility during the inspection. There are plans to enhance liturgy and prayer opportunities for the whole school community using the new chapel.

Data for the last three years shows that standards of attainment in RE are high across the school and broadly in line with the high standards in other core subjects. Baseline data shows that, from average starting points on entry to school, all pupils including boys and girls, pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities make very good progress through all three key stages. Pupils' progress in RE in both attainment targets; knowledge and understanding of religion (AT1) and an ability to reflect on meaning, (AT2) is above national expectations and is reported to parents annually alongside other core curriculum subjects. Communication with parents is a strength of the school with weekly newsletters, as well as information on the parishes the school serves and links on the website. The school uses the weekly 'Wednesday Word' in every class to focus on the Sunday gospel and distributes it to every pupil, to spread the gospel messages into every family home and strengthen links between home, school and parishes.

Pupil attainment and progress in RE is outstanding and is in line with the schools' high standards in English and Maths. Since the last inspection, standards in RE throughout the school have risen, especially at the higher levels.

The school serves a predominantly white British community; since the last inspection links have been made with the wider national and global communities, mainly through charity work for example St Peter's School in Uganda, but these are at an early stage and plans are in place to develop them further in the future. Pupils have visited places of worship of other world faiths, for example the local synagogue and a Buddhist temple, to foster tolerance and a deeper understanding of shared beliefs. Good quality teaching and effective learning are present in RE lessons. Pupils enjoy RE and make excellent progress because teachers make their lessons engaging, interesting and relevant.

The quality of provision for RE is outstanding. Staff regularly seek advice and guidance on specific issues related to the teaching of RE from parish clergy. This contributes to excellent subject knowledge and greater confidence in teaching RE: they inspire and challenge pupils to make sure that they make good or better progress as independent and collaborative learners. Resources are used effectively, together with the support provided by other adults, to optimise learning, consequently pupils are highly motivated, sustain their concentration well and enjoy their work. Marking and dialogue between teachers, other adults and pupils are consistently of a high quality.

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