

# DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

## **CANON LAW 806 FINAL INSPECTION REPORT INCORPORATING SECTION 48**

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL  
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
St Francis Catholic Primary School  
Highcliffe Road  
Morley, Leeds LS27 9LX

School URN

108016

Date of Inspection and OE  
grade

11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2015 Outstanding (1)

E-mail address

j.burns@stfrancismorley.org.uk

Chair of Governors

Mr Edwin Kirkwood

Headteacher

Mrs Jane Burns

RE Subject Leader

Mrs Jane Burns  
Miss Laura Murphy

Date and grade of last S48  
inspection

19<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> July 2010 Good (2)

Section 48 Inspector

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**

- 'Together in truth and faith we learn and grow as a family' is truly central to St Francis's Catholic School with the school community totally committed to ensuring that each and every child has every opportunity to grow in faith and love through their 'daily actions and words'.
- All the areas for improvement from the last report have served as a focus for development in the school since the last inspection. This has led to significant changes and improvements in the Catholic Life of the school and to teaching and learning, making it the central core subject which underpins all work in the school.
- The clearly held and articulated vision to make everything even better is driven by the leadership of the school and is shared and consciously supported by the whole staff team.
- Progress is good and sometimes outstanding. Teachers use their excellent subject knowledge to plan creative and appropriately challenging work which interests and inspires pupils to make good and sometimes outstanding progress.
- The commitment of the RE leaders in strengthening and celebrating the Catholic Life and the faith of all the pupils is obvious upon entry to the school. The quality of the displays, the celebration of the Catholic Life of the school and the development of the religious education is outstanding. Pupils appreciate the learning in RE lessons and say that they are fun and they want to share their learning at home with their families.
- The children are articulate, deep thinking and have outstanding behaviour which is deeply rooted in the mission of the school. They are very proud of their school and feel they are safe, secure and integral to the success of the community. They take part in a range of fundraising for many different charities and enjoy the responsibilities which

they have as a member of the school. One child said, "This school is fun and friendly and there's never a day when you don't want to go to school."

- The governing body are very clear of their role in leading this school and act as critical friends supporting and challenging staff to focus on the key areas of the School Development Plan and ensure that progress is monitored and assessed by the leaders and managers.
- The school's RE curriculum meets Bishops' Conference requirements. All canonical and statutory duties are fulfilled.

### **What the school needs to do to improve further**

- Continue to develop the children's role in Collective Worship in all classes in order to ensure that pupils regularly prepare and lead worship with increasing confidence and skill.
- Ensure that all staff use marking and feedback consistently in RE to provide children with the next steps to further improve their work.

### **Information about this inspection**

The Inspection of St Francis Catholic Primary School Morley 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 pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education (RE).
- The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in RE.
- The extent to which the RE curriculum promotes pupils' learning.
- The quality of Collective Worship (CW) provided by the school and in particular the extent to which pupils respond and actively participate in the Catholic Life of the school.
- How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education – including planning and implementing improvements to outcomes for pupils.
- School partnership working –including home/school/parish links.

The inspection was carried out by 1 inspector over 1 1/2 days. A sample of RE lessons and Collective Worship were observed by the inspector across the key stages.

A comprehensive range of school RE documentation was used as evidence including RE planning, monitoring and evaluation reports and RE progress, assessment and tracking data. Governing body minutes, RE workbooks and English pupil books, RE newsletters, displays, liturgical calendars, class prayer books and photos were supplied providing evidence of wider community links, charitable outreach and other faith education.

Meetings took place with the Headteacher, Parish Priest and RE coordinator, School Council, Chair of the Governing Body and parent representatives.

## Information about this school

- St Francis's Catholic School Morley is a smaller than average primary school with the majority of families living in and around Morley. It is a popular, oversubscribed school in the parish of St William of York with 54% of children on roll who are baptised Catholics. The number on roll is 162 however this is on the increase with the change in the PAN since 2012 from 22 to 30. This increase in numbers will be accommodated by the recent building of two additional classrooms and a part time nursery.
- The majority of the pupils are White British with 8.9% of children being EAL and 22% are FSM.
- The school undertakes partnership working including work with the community Family of Schools and the Leeds Diocese Catholic Compass group. These provide a range of joint training days, CPD, and teaching and learning activities for the children.
- There are 8 full time equivalent teachers, 6 full time and 2 part time, and 8 classroom assistants. 5 teachers are Catholic and 3 hold the CCRS.

## Full report - inspection judgements

### Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils are outstanding

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

- The Headteacher shows determination to ensure that everyone can grow 'closer to God through daily actions and words', in a very happy, vibrant and secure environment.
- The entire staff team and the governing body are very clear and committed to their roles in providing a Catholic education at St Francis's which is of the highest quality.
- The school's tracking system shows that outcomes for pupils in RE are at least the same as, and in some cases higher than national expectations and other core subjects. They make accelerated progress in Key stage 2 from a good position at Key stage 1.
- Children are very articulate and enthusiastic about their work and say they enjoy the creative and stimulating tasks. Work is differentiated to meet all needs and challenges the children to work at pace and think at a very high level. They enjoy tackling challenging activities with enthusiasm and concentrate well in lessons.
- Children talk positively of their roles in the school. There is an active School Council which meets regularly and discusses projects with the Headteacher and they have a high degree of impact in the school.
- Fundraising has a high profile and children raise money for a variety of charities both local, national and international.
- Year 6 pupils are designated as 'buddies' for the children in Reception class and Year 5 children are 'buddies' to the children in nursery, which they are very proud of and they enjoy spending their time with the younger children.
- Pupils feel safe in school which they attribute to the approachability of all staff and also to the fact that everyone understands the need to respect each other in order to make a happy community.
- Pupils take part in Collective Worship enthusiastically and are encouraged to pray formally and in spontaneous prayer. Opportunities should be provided for all children to develop their skills in planning and presenting Acts of Collective Worship throughout the school; the development of which could begin with establishing an Ethos Council which could take the lead in this area of development.

## 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.	2

- The provision for Catholic Education at St. Francis's Primary School is outstanding.
- The quality of RE teaching overall is good with some outstanding teaching and none less than good. Where teaching is outstanding, there is significant pace in the lesson which leads to an energy in the class which encourages full engagement and enthusiasm for the task. The teacher uses in-depth subject knowledge to support and extend the learning of the more able pupils using a range of teaching and learning opportunities, including the use of ICT to significantly enhance the progress of the group.
- Support staff play an important role in the class, and in the best lessons they are skilled at posing questions and encouraging the pupils to think carefully about their answers. Pupils with specific learning needs are provided with additional support to ensure that they are appropriately challenged and make at least expected progress.
- Children are encouraged and challenged through the work planned for them to be the best they can be.
- Marking followed the schools marking and presentation policy but was not always consistently implemented. By ensuring that the school's marking policy is consistently applied, the progress and the attainment of pupils in all classes will be further enhanced.
- Progress is good and sometimes outstanding. Excellent subject knowledge is used by teachers to enrich the RE curriculum and enables them to plan imaginative and challenging work which inspires pupils and contributes to their progress. 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' topics are used as a basis for the religious education curriculum and the scheme is definitely enriched by a variety of well planned, interesting and creative tasks. Pupils appreciate the learning in RE lessons and say that they are fun and they want to share their learning at home with their families.
- Pupils are very aware of other world faiths and enjoy themed weeks leading to a respect and appreciation of other religions.
- The RE curriculum provides good opportunities to develop their spiritual, moral and vocational understanding. 'The Statements to Live' by are used by the school and are displayed in all classrooms and general areas, they are also shared with parents each week and are displayed prominently on the school website.
- The quality of RE in workbooks and on display around the school is generally of a very high standard and the expectations for pupils in their RE work is the same as in the core subjects. Pupils are very proud of their work and are keen to present their best.
- Achievement and effort are celebrated. In the weekly 'Praise' assembly a range of skills, talents and achievements are celebrated. The children welcome the opportunity to have their achievements recognised but also enjoy sharing in the success of others. This they do with enthusiasm and genuine joy!
- Staff and children pray together regularly and they have a role in Collective Worship. All classes have a RE focal point in their classrooms which include a Bible and a book of their own prayers, which are sometimes shared, but children are also encouraged to understand that private prayer is valued. Children are confident and articulate and should be encouraged throughout the school to plan and present class liturgies around a theme or topic.
- Pupil behaviour during Collective Worship is reverent and respectful. This is especially noticeable during periods of silent reflection.

- The school works in partnership with the parish catechists to prepare children for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. Parents' meetings are also held and this is one of a number of opportunities when the school and parish work closely together.
- Parents appreciate the work in the school on SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) education and have been involved in the development of the school's policy and a curriculum which is appropriate to the age and stage of the development of their children.
- Parents agree that the school is a welcoming community which is always striving to provide the best quality Catholic education. There are lots of opportunities for parents to be involved in the Catholic Life of the school. Parents say they are always welcome in the school and are invited to Masses, liturgies and assemblies. They are kept informed of events in the school through a weekly newsletter and a regularly updated website.
- Religious education is well resourced, with additional budget funding this year providing a well-used and attractive prayer garden.

## **The Leadership and Management are outstanding**

<b>How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.</b>	<b>1</b>
---	----------

- Leaders, governors and managers are totally committed to the Church's mission in education. The Catholic Life of the school and the spiritual and moral development of the pupils are of the highest priority in the school's development plan and this shared purpose is explicit throughout the school.
- The leadership of RE is informed by a high level of expertise and a commitment to ensure that every child in the school is able to access a creative and exciting RE curriculum.
- The enthusiasm and drive of the RE leaders is a real strength of the school and an indication that the outstanding provision for RE and the Catholic Life of the school at St Francis will continue to develop.
- There is a clear programme of monitoring and evaluation relating to provision and outcomes and the strengths and areas to develop are discussed and reviewed. Governors act as a 'critical friend' to the school and hold the Headteacher and senior staff to account. They have a clear role in evaluating standards of RE in the school and provide appropriate challenge and support. This has a significant impact on the outcomes for all pupils.
- A well-established system of linked governors with specific classes is very effective in ensuring that the governing body work together with the staff and pupils of the school and they are very involved in the everyday life of the school.
- The Parish Priest is a regular and welcome visitor to the school and he helps to plan a liturgical calendar which is shared with staff, governors and parents to inform them of opportunities to share in the Catholic Life of the school.
- The school works closely in partnership with the Catholic Compass and the local Family of Schools. This provides opportunities for joint staff development and also opportunities for pupils to work with pupils in other Leeds schools in collaborative projects and joint inter-school events.
- Relationships are key to the success of the school and this is achieved through a rigorous recruitment system and an established induction programme for all staff which ensures that the faith life of the staff is maintained and nurtured.

- Parents are very positive about the school and appreciate the opportunities the school provides for their children's development in RE and Catholic Life and also the warm welcome which is extended to them to enable them to work as a partnership with the school.
- The revised Mission statement has been developed over a period of time to ensure that all stakeholders, including staff, governors, children and parents have ownership of a very well developed and truly embedded Mission Statement, 'Together in truth and faith we learn and grow as God's family' which is evident throughout the school and is celebrated and shared by all.