



ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

INSPECTION REPORT

ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PENWORTHAM

Inspection Date 20 January 2015

Inspectors Rev D Melly Miss J Coughlan

Unique Reference Number 119638

Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Acts 2005 and 2011

Type of School Catholic Primary

Age range of pupils 4-11

Number on roll 205

Chair of Governors Mr G Collins

Headteacher Mrs D Gallagher

School address Buller Avenue
Penwortham
Preston
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Date of last inspection 15 September 2009

Introduction

This inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Acts 2005 and 2011

The report of the inspection is produced for the Archbishop of Liverpool (Code of Canon Law 804 and 806) and for the governors of the school.

The inspectors are members of the Christian Education Department and their associates approved by the Archbishop of Liverpool for this purpose.

Information about this school

- St Mary Magdalen school is a smaller than average sized Catholic Primary School which is over subscribed. It is situated in Penwortham mainly serving the parish of St Mary Magdalen.
- There are 205 number of children on roll of whom 200 are baptised Catholic, 3 come from other Christian denominations, and 2 from other faith or religious traditions.
- There are 12 teachers of whom 7 teach Religious Education and 6 have a suitable qualification in Religious Education. Ten teachers are baptised Catholic.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Requires Improvement
Grade 4	Inadequate

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Overall effectiveness:

St Mary Magdalen is an outstanding school in providing Catholic Education.

Inspection Judgements

The extent to which the pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school.

- The extent to which the pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school is outstanding.
- Pupils know and understand the school's Mission Statement and understand the part they play within it. The Mission Statement was used in every lesson that was observed and is obviously at the heart of everything that is done in the school. The pupils were involved in it's last review and evaluation.
- Pupils have an outstanding sense of belonging to the school community and value and respect others.
- Pupils are encouraged to take on roles of responsibility in the school and wider community by being prefects, monitors, members of the school council, buddies, partners for younger children, by planning and leading Collective Worship and organising fund raising events for charity.
- Pupils are actively involved in developing the Catholic character of the school by their living out of the Mission Statement, by their involvement in Collective Worship and above all by the way they treat each other.
- Pupils benefit from participation in the SVP supported retreat day in Year 5, their residentials in years 5 and 6 and the transition experiences with the chaplain in the high school.
- Pupils have a very good sense of right and wrong and apply this in their personal relationships. They take an increasing responsibility for themselves and their actions.
- They praise and acknowledge the contribution of others. They show a readiness to embrace and celebrate their lived experiences.
- Pupils are totally involved in service to the local faith and religious communities, the immediate neighbourhood served by the school and the wider community. They sing in the local care homes. They are involved with the local council on work on the Green Way. They are involved with Galloways and the blind. Together with the local cluster of schools and the local high school they join with the One Voice Community Choir and the Tindale Gospel choir. They show respect and understanding of other faiths and religions.
- Pupils embrace opportunities to meet their potential in all aspects of school life.

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education

- Pupils' achievements and enjoyment in Religious Education is outstanding.
- Their attainment in Religious Education is outstanding.
- They make outstanding progress in relation to their starting points and capabilities.
- On entry to school many children have a limited knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- There is no difference in performance between pupils of different gender.
- Outcomes for pupils with additional or special needs are outstanding.
- Analysis of assessments undertaken provides evidence of pupils generally attaining appropriate level for their age and stage of development in each key stage while many are exceeding.

- Pupils are becoming increasingly more religiously literate. Their knowledge, understanding and skills are developing appropriate to their age or capacity.
- They are developing the skills that enable them to reflect spiritually, think ethically and theologically and are becoming more aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
- Pupils' engagement in and enjoyment of their learning is outstanding as shown by their interest, enthusiasm and behaviour.
- Pupils are encouraged to work independently and collaboratively.
- Pupils are anxious to learn and improve their knowledge, understanding and skills as they become independent learners.

How well pupils respond to and participate in Collective Worship

- Pupils' response to and participation in Collective Worship is outstanding.
- They show interest, respond well and actively participate in Collective Worship.
- They act with reverence and are keen to participate in a variety of gatherings.
- Pupils' knowledge of prayer and liturgy is increasing.
- They become familiar with a variety of prayer styles. They appreciate and are open to the Word of God in the scriptures.
- They sing joyfully, reflect in silence and join in community prayers appropriately and with confidence.
- They are becoming increasingly more confident preparing and leading worship.

The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education

- The quality of teaching and purposeful learning in Religious Education is outstanding.
- It is consistently effective in ensuring that pupils are interested and engaged and make outstanding progress.
- Teachers display excellent subject knowledge and deploy a range of teaching styles to motivate and inspire pupils.
- Teaching encourages pupils' enjoyment of and enthusiasm for Religious Education.
- Teachers take into account pupils' prior learning and ensure differentiated tasks when planning so that the work consolidates, builds on and extends their knowledge and understanding.
- Teachers provide opportunities for pupils to work independently and collaboratively. Excellent use is made of time and resources including other adults, Information and Communication Technology, bibles, well thought out worksheets and frame works and various artefacts to maximise learning.
- Pupils are informed of their progress and how to improve both orally and through marking. Next step marking is a priority for the school. Effort and achievement are celebrated.
- The assessment of pupils work in Religious Education is outstanding.
- The school has outstanding assessment strategies which provide accurate and detailed information on the achievement of all the pupils.
- Teachers are able to identify how well pupils are achieving and tackle underachievement.
- Teachers enable pupils to evaluate their own work and their Collective Worship.

The extent to which the Religious Education Curriculum promotes pupils' learning

- The extent to which the Religious Education Curriculum promotes pupils' learning is outstanding.
- The curriculum is outstanding in meeting pupils' needs.

- The school, using the *Come and See* programme recommended by the Archdiocese, meets the requirements of the Curriculum Directory for Religious Education. Appropriate levels of the programme are being followed in different classes. This ensures complete Religious Education entitlement for each child and meets National and Archdiocesan requirements.
- Of the total curriculum time 10% is allocated to Religious Education. This fulfils the requirements of the Bishops of England and Wales.
- Planning ensures full coverage of the Religious Education programme. Imaginative and well planned strategies are deployed to enrich pupils' learning.
- The school implements new curriculum developments as appropriate.
- Enrichment activities such as the very wide variety of lunchtime and after school clubs, their residential and 10/10 theatre experiences all have a positive impact on the curriculum.
- The Religious Education curriculum provides outstanding opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral development and vocation.
- The curriculum is customised to meet the needs of groups and individuals.
- Children have explored the beliefs and values of other faiths and religions including Judaism and Islam.

The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.

- The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school is outstanding. It reflects the Catholic character of the school and takes into account the variety of faith backgrounds among the pupils.
- Collective Worship has a very high profile and is central to the life of the school.
- Collective Worship plays a key part in meeting the spiritual needs of the pupils. Opportunities are provided to enable full, active and conscious participation of the whole school community.
- Children are enabled to pray formally and informally using a variety of prayer methods and styles.
- The school has provided opportunities for staff to develop the skills necessary for planning, leading and evaluating Collective Worship.
- The teachers are now providing the necessary resources and opportunities to help children to develop the skills necessary to plan, lead and participate in Collective Worship and to evaluate it effectively.
- Opportunities are provided for parents, carers the local and wider faith communities to participate in a variety of celebrations of the *Come and See* programme and the Church's liturgical year.

How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.

- Leaders, governors and managers are outstanding in promoting, monitoring and evaluating the provision for the Catholic life of the school and in the way they plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.
- This is reflected in the school's own Mission Statement. All who form part of the school community including parents, clergy, governors and children were involved in the recent development and review of the Mission Statement. Its aims and practical objectives direct and guide every aspect of school life and are a useful tool by which the school can evaluate its effectiveness.

- Leaders, governors and managers are outstanding in the way they use monitoring data to evaluate the school's performance, celebrate, and plan future improvements.
- Outstanding opportunities are provided for the staff and pupils to play an active part in Catholic life and Mission of the school. They know, own and live out their Mission Statement. There are also ample opportunities available for staff to develop their own spirituality especially with the schools in the cluster group.
- The Self Evaluation Document provides evidence of the schools monitoring, searching analysis and self challenge.
- Their analysis provides a basis to celebrate the school's strengths and outlining areas for development. The quality and accuracy of the Self Evaluation Document is excellent and obviously impacts on the Catholic life of the school.
- The school provides outstanding induction and in-service training to enable staff to further understand the Church's Mission in Education and play their unique part in it.
- The quality of Collective Worship is a priority for the school. It is effectively monitored and evaluated by leaders, governors and managers and by the pupils themselves. An up to date policy is in place.
- Leadership at all levels respects difference, values diversity and ensures equal opportunities for all.
- Prayer, worship and the liturgical life of the school reflects and respects the religious diversity within the school.
- There are positive relationships at every level within the school.
- Parents are consulted regularly and involved in a variety of ways in the life of the school. They receive newsletters every week and are included in all school celebrations of curriculum Religious Education and the liturgical year.
- Governors are outstanding in fulfilling their responsibilities. They have effectively helped to shape the direction of the school through the very generous sharing of their time and expertise.

How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Religious Education of the school and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.

- Leaders, governors and managers are outstanding in promoting monitoring and evaluating the provision for the Religious Education of the school and in the way they plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.
- Monitoring data is used effectively to evaluate the schools performance and plan for future improvements.
- There is a robust programme for the monitoring and evaluation cycle.
- Teaching and learning is monitored regularly and appropriate feedback and support given as necessary. Excellent practice is celebrated and shared.
- Continuing professional development opportunities are provided for all.
- Assessment information is collated and tracked by the subject leader and shared with the leadership team, governors and parents.
- Formal assessment tasks are undertaken in line with Archdiocesan guidance.
- The subject leader is outstanding in guiding Religious Education. She shows outstanding commitment and introduces new initiatives when appropriate. The PowerPoint presentation which was shared at the year 2 assembly is strong testimony to that. Outstanding documentation guides and directs all staff in the delivery of the subject. This is updated as necessary.
- The Self Evaluation Document is rigorous in identifying targets, timescales and lines of accountability.

- Curriculum outlines are provided for parents who are consulted on different issues depending on the topic being covered.
- Achievement and effort are celebrated.

What the school needs to do to improve further?

- Further enhance existing outstanding provision for collective worship by:-
 - implementing the plans to develop pupil skills in planning and leadership.
- Further enhance existing outstanding provision in assessment and moderation by:-
 - implementing the cross cluster work.

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education	1
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OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS

How good outcomes are for individuals and groups of pupils	
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	1

PROVISION

How effective the provision is for Catholic Education	
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

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

How effective leaders, governors and managers are in developing the Catholic Life of the School	
How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils	1
How well leaders, governors and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils	1

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, Grade 2 good, Grade 3 requires improvement and Grade 4 inadequate