

DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH

Inspection of Religious Education
Collective Worship
and
The Catholic Life of the School



School: St Bede's RC Primary School

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Chair: Mrs Eleanor Nicholls

Date: 2nd & 3rd December 2013

Inspector: Mrs Theresa Rogerson

A Report from:

The Diocese of Middlesbrough Schools' Service
Section 48 Inspection Team
50a The Avenue
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Middlesbrough TS5 6QT

INTRODUCTION

This inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

The report of the inspection is produced for the Bishop of Middlesbrough (Code of Canon Law 804 and 806) and for the governors of the school. The Inspection reviews, evaluates and plans further improvements in the school's witness to the Catholic faith and Curriculum Religious Education. This process begins with the school's own self-evaluation. The Inspection schedule follows criteria set by the National Board of Advisers and Inspectors.

What Inspection Grades mean

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	These features are highly effective. An outstanding Catholic school provides exceptionally well for its pupils' needs.
Grade 2	Good	These are very positive features of a Catholic school. A school that is good is serving its pupils well.
Grade 3	Requires Improvement	These features, though of adequate quality, require improvement to be good.
Grade 4	Inadequate	These features are not of an acceptable standard. An inadequate Catholic school needs to make significant improvement in order to meet the needs of its pupils.

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St Bede's Roman Catholic School is an average size primary school situated in a suburban coastal area to the south of Redcar in Cleveland. The school serves the parish of St Bede's, Marske, and Our Lady of Lourdes, in Saltburn. In addition, there are a number of children in school from the parish of St Augustine's in Redcar. The parish church of St Bede is situated 1.5 miles from the school. 89% of the pupils and 80% of the teachers are baptised Catholics. All the pupils are from white British backgrounds. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs is below average. The proportion of pupils with a statement of special educational needs is also below average.

St Bede's has achieved a number of nationally recognised accreditations and awards including, Active Mark, Arts Mark Gold, Healthy School, School Travel Plan, Leading Parent Partnership, Rights Respecting School and the Silver Quality Mark in Geography and Science. The school is currently awaiting the results of an application for a Teaching Schools designation.

Pupil Catchment:

Number of pupils on roll: 179 full time, 26 place Nursery morning and afternoon.

Planned Admission Number of Pupils: 30

Percentage of pupils baptised RC: 89%

Percentage of pupils from other Christian Denominations: 6.3%

Percentage of pupils from other World Faiths: 2%

Percentage of pupils with no religious affiliation: 2.4%

Percentage of pupils with special needs: 6.8%

Teaching Staff:

Full-time Teachers: 10

Part-time Teachers: 0

Percentage of Catholic Teachers: 80%

Support Staff:

Full-time Classroom Support Staff: 4

Part-time Classroom Support Staff: 5

Percentage of Catholic Classroom Support Staff: 55%

Percentage of teachers with CCRS: 30%

Percentage of learning time given to R.E: 10% in all classes

Parishes served by the School:

St Bede's, Marske, Our Lady of Lourdes, Saltburn

1. OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

MAIN FINDINGS

St Bede's is an outstanding school led by an innovative head teacher, who, together with the Governing Body, fully and actively promotes and develops the Catholic life of the school. The school's Mission Statement, encompassed in "Let our Light Shine", is evident in every aspect of school life. Parents, staff, Parish Priest and Governors are extremely positive about the school. They are proud to be part of such a welcoming, caring community. They praise the pivotal role the head teacher plays and acknowledge the positive impact her leadership has on the life of the school.

St Bede's provides a warm, caring, supportive environment where everyone is treated with mutual respect. The children are actively involved in the life of the school. They are polite, well behaved young people who relish responsibility and are conscientious about making a difference through the duties entrusted to them. They articulate clearly their mission as a member of a Catholic school. In the words of one pupil "just as Jesus had a mission to spread the Word, we are trying to carry this on, we are making a stand". Collectively, they praise the support they receive from the adults in school and understand the part they have to play in their mission of Worship, Love, Respect, Learn.

Outcomes for pupils are outstanding. Attainment is well above average and progress in oral and written work is outstanding. The quality of teaching overall is outstanding. Leaders and managers have an accurate and perceptive view of the school's strengths and areas for development. School self evaluation is rigorous and staff and governors are relentless in their effort for continual improvement. The school's success is a testament to the vision, energy and drive of the head teacher, who, together with a dedicated team of staff and governors, has the capacity to ensure that St Bede's mission in Catholic Education shines forth as a beacon of excellence.

What the school needs to do to improve further:

- Further develop and embed pupils' skills in planning, leading and responding to Collective Worship
- Ensure that levels of attainment remain consistently high throughout the school
- Continue to share outstanding practice in monitoring standards in Religious Education and the positive impact on pupil attainment.

2. PUPILS

How good outcomes are for pupils, taking into account variations between groups.

Pupils at St Bede's are empowered to take on roles and responsibilities enabling them to make an outstanding contribution to their school community. They have an exceptionally clear understanding of the gospel call to justice and service. This is lived out in their relationships with each other and their concern for those less fortunate than themselves. Pupils have a strong sense of personal worth and this is manifested in their desire to contribute to the Catholic life of the school in many ways including Playtime Friends, Eco Warriors, Worship Leaders and School Councillors. As a Rights Respecting School they understand that with rights comes responsibility and, in proportion to their years, they take full responsibility for themselves and their actions.

Standards pupils achieve in Religious Education in all Key Stages are exceptionally high. Attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 is significantly above average. The vast majority of pupils make at least good progress and some make outstanding progress at the end of Key Stage 2. Pupils have developed an exceptional work ethic. There is a buzz of learning in all classrooms where enthusiastic pupils are engaged, focussed and keen to succeed. A real strength of the school is the knowledge, understanding and skill the pupils have and how they can relate this to everyday life. They grasp opportunities to share this in class, from the child in the Foundation Stage constructing Bethlehem in the sand tray who can retell the Christmas story and articulate clearly that "Jesus is watching us all the time" to the boy in Year 6 who can confidently explain the Incarnation.

Pupils have the opportunity to regularly prepare and lead Acts of Worship. They show respect for each other and are confident in choosing a variety of ways to present their Worship using the elements of Gather, Word, Response and Mission. However there is scope here to deepen and embed their skills further, inspiring them in deep thought and heartfelt response.

• 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 do pupils respond to and participate in the School's Collective Worship	2

3. PROVISION

1

How effective the provision is for Catholic education

Teaching is consistently effective in enthusing pupils and ensuring that they learn extremely well. Excellent subject knowledge, combined with thorough lesson planning and a high regard for the individual learning styles, enables all pupils to sustain their concentration and thoroughly enjoy their work. Every opportunity is taken by the teaching staff, including the highly effective use of deep, probing questions, to deepen, extend and develop pupils' progress in Religious Education. In all lessons pupils are engaged and enthusiastic about learning, ranging from the Foundation children in their outdoor learning area making the journey to Bethlehem and eventually arriving at the purposefully constructed stable, to the pupils in Year 5 exploring the concept of Hope through William Holman Hunt's painting, The Light of the World. In proportion to their years, pupils clearly articulate the level they are working at. Marking and dialogue between teachers, support staff and pupils, including the effective practice of modelling responses, provide a solid structure for all pupils to make exceptional progress as learners in Religious Education.

At St Bede's Religious Education is recognised as the core subject in the life of the school reaching out to strengthen home, school and parish links. The Religious Education programme Come and See has been effectively introduced and is well resourced. The programme is used creatively within school to engage and motivate the pupils, securing memorable learning. The Religious Education curriculum fully meets the external requirements of the Bishops' Conference and is responsive to Diocesan circumstances.

Collective worship is central to the life of St Bede's and a key part of every school celebration. From the earliest years through to Year 6, pupils are taught how to choose themes relating to the Church's mission and use these to effectively plan and lead daily Acts of Worship. These are often shared with parents and extended family. Worship leaders work in partnership with the staff to plan and prepare for more formal prayer opportunities. Pupils attend Mass in church weekly during the liturgical seasons of Lent and Advent. Parents comment on the positive example this gives to

the community as children and staff make the journey on foot to St Bede's Roman Catholic Church.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. The learning environment provides a wealth of rich and meaningful opportunities for pupils, parents and staff to develop and strengthen their relationship with God. Excellent display work celebrates the extent to which issues of justice and peace are promoted across the curriculum, including Fair Trade promises, Eco team news and fundraising support for the victims of the earthquake in the Philippines. Children and their unique nature are recognised as an integral part of the faith family at St Bede's. The school promotes and develops positive, purposeful and harmonious relationships within and beyond the school community.

• 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
• The quality of provision for the Catholic life of the school	1

4. LEADERS, MANAGERS AND GOVERNORS

How effective leaders, managers and governors are in developing the Catholic life of the school

The school leadership is deeply committed to the Church's mission in education. They share its purpose by providing a curriculum with spiritual and moral development at its heart. All aspects of school life are underpinned by the school's mission statement Let our Light Shine. Governors speak highly of the inclusive nature of the school where there is "genuine compassion, mutual respect and a commitment to all pupils achieving their full potential". The school's leadership, inspired and energised by the head teacher, is relentless in promoting, monitoring and evaluating provision for the Catholic life of St Bede's. Self evaluation at all levels within the school is a coherent reflection of rigorous monitoring and self challenge. The Head teacher ensures that best practice is shared, not only within school, but also within the cluster of Catholic Primary schools. She is fully committed to ensuring the highest quality professional development for staff. The Parish Priest is proud of the school. He supports new teachers in developing their subject knowledge and engages with the pupils in spiritual discussion and learning.

The Religious Education leader, Head teacher and Deputy Head teacher, through rigorous monitoring and searching analysis, demonstrate a high level of care, vision and commitment in ensuring that outcomes in Religious Education accurately match pupils' ability. The Religious Education Governor has a very clear understanding of the mission of the school and is actively involved in shaping and supporting it.

Pupils engage fully with the Catholic Life of the school. Their understanding of Scripture and its relevance to their everyday living is outstanding. They work together and support each other in a spirit of mutual respect and teamwork, proud of their achievements and proud of their school.

The Governing Body discharge their canonical duties very well. Led by an experienced, highly motivated Chair of Governors, they are extremely supportive of the school and fully involved in its mission for Catholic Education. They are kept informed of school improvement through regular head teacher updates and termly

staff reviews including monitoring data to evaluate the school's performance. Their accurate understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development allows them to challenge when appropriate and enables them to make a major contribution to the Catholic life of the school.

St Bede's is a beacon of excellence in all aspects of Religious Education. Led by an energetic and passionate head teacher, with a pro active and enthusiastic leadership team, excellent staff and an insightful and experienced Governing Body, the school's capacity for sustained improvement is outstanding.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders, managers and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school, including collective worship, and plan improvement to outcomes for pupils 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders, managers and governors monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan for improvement to outcomes for pupils 	1