



Archdiocese of Birmingham

Section 48 Monitoring Visit

OUR LADY AND ST WERBURGH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFFORDSHIRE

Inspection dates
Reporting Inspector

9th May 2013
Brenda Beale

Monitoring Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	4-11 years
Number on roll	243
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governors	Mr A Carter
School address	Seabridge Lane Clayton Newcastle-under-Lyme Staffordshire ST5 4AG
Telephone number	01782 297451
E-mail address	office@ourlady-st-werburghs.staffs.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	October 2006
DFE School number	860/3476
Unique Reference Number	124367

Headteacher

Mr James A Devine

DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE





11th May 2013

Diocesan Education Service,
Don Bosco House,
Coventry Road,
Coleshill,
B46 3EA

Mr James Devine
Our Lady and St Werburgh's Catholic Primary School
Seabridge Lane
Clayton
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 4AG

Dear Mr Devine

Section 48 Monitoring Inspection: 9th May 2013

Thank you for the welcome you, your staff and pupils gave to me when I inspected your school on 9th May and for the information you provided both before and during the inspection. I am grateful for the time given by all including the parish priest in speaking with me.

The inspection was a "light touch" monitoring inspection because your school was judged at the last section 5 inspection to be an outstanding school and because it is now five years or more since you last received a section 48 inspection.

The purpose of the inspection was to assess the quality of the school's self-evaluation and improvement planning for Catholic life and religious education. In order to make this judgement I read school documents, including a summative self-evaluation, interviewed senior leaders, a governor representative, the subject leader for RE, and pupils, observed one lesson, and looked at a sample of pupils' written work. In addition, I gathered evidence of some of the outstanding practice in the school as part of a diocesan wide survey of good practice in Catholic life and religious education.

Catholic Life

In its self evaluation the school correctly judges all aspects of its Catholic life to be outstanding. This judgement is secure because it is based on regular auditing, meticulous monitoring and expert evaluation. Development is consistently and effectively driven forward by ensuring that the findings from monitoring and evaluation are fed into detailed and frequently reviewed improvement plans. A great strength underpinning improvement is the in-depth knowledge of the Catholic life of the school of the headteacher and his senior team. There are systems in place to enable pupils, parents, all staff and governors to feed their views into the monitoring and evaluation of the Catholic life of the school. 'Pupil Voice' and pupil questionnaires indicate how proud pupils are of the school and how they benefit greatly from the Christian values promoted so effectively by the school. Pupils' behaviour and living out of Catholic values is rigorously monitored on a daily basis by a staff, who recognise it the responsibility of all, to ensure pupils live up to the high expectations made of them. Pupil driven charity and fundraising events are numerous and their value and level of success are carefully monitored by the staff.

The parish priest, who is also a governor, works closely with the school and meets regularly with senior leadership to discuss and reflect upon many aspects of Catholic life particularly the provision of and pupil response to collective worship. It was his wish that the children should be involved in Gospel dramas and reflection. The school has readily taken this on board; plans and actions were put in place and this now an accepted part of school Mass. Governors frequently attend Masses, liturgies and assemblies and are invited to complete a form which is fed into the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship. The subject leader and senior leadership systematically carry out audits of the Catholic life and worship environment of the school and are scrupulous in ensuring displays and prayer areas are up to date and reflect the liturgical calendar and latest Church initiatives such as the Year of Faith. Parents have very good access to and input into the Catholic life of the school. The excellent highly informative school website is regularly visited by pupils and parents and provides a first rate forum for information. Improvement plans are clear and comprehensive; they are regularly reviewed to ensure that objectives have been achieved. One planned objective was to further develop



pupil involvement in planning and leading collective worship. Strategies and training were put in place and resources purchased and now Key Stage 2 pupils independently lead every Monday assembly. This school provides an outstanding Catholic life which is greatly appreciated and beneficial to all in the community.

Religious Education

The way RE is monitored and evaluated by the subject leader is rightly judged by the school's self evaluation to be outstanding. Subsequently it is also accurate in its assessment that pupil progress and attainment is outstanding. Meticulous assessment procedures, book trawls and pupil interview and questionnaires have enabled the subject leader, senior management team, and other staff to judge that by the end of both Key Stage 1 and 2, standards of attainment are above average in RE. All vulnerable groups are tracked and assessment procedures are used to identify gaps which require addressing. Recent tracking highlighted a gap in gender achievement on entry to Year 2, which allowed the gap to be closed and, by the end of the year, boys were achieving at expected levels. The school judges all aspects of its provision in RE, teaching, curriculum and opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral and vocational development to be outstanding. Teaching and learning are carefully monitored by lesson observations, book trawls, assessment outcomes and pupil questionnaires. They are reliably judged to be good and predominantly better. The RE leader and senior leadership are very clear about their expectations and whilst acknowledging excellent teaching they give clear advice for improvement.

The curriculum is carefully planned and based on the Diocesan Curriculum Strategy *Learning and Growing as the People of God*. Planning is thoroughly scrutinised by the subject leader and all members of staff under her expert guidance seek ways to enrich and enliven the curriculum. When monitoring planning, attention has been paid to ensure that attainment target 2, reflection on meaning, and opportunities for pupil self assessment are found in all lesson planning. Self evaluation rightly judges that the opportunity for pupils' spiritual, moral and vocation is greatly enhanced by the school's rich worship life, creative curriculum, multi-faith week, visits, and links with a school in Gambia. Resources are regularly reviewed and replenished. An explicit improvement plan for RE is in place and findings from the wide range of monitoring procedures used to ensure it is updated. The school provides regular and high quality INSET and its impact is carefully monitored. Governors are informed through reports created by the RE co-ordinator on the standards in RE. The parish priest who is involved in the teaching of RE keeps the governors well informed about provision of the subject and all aspects of Catholic life.

A particularly outstanding aspect of the Catholic life of the school is the life of service to the parish and wider community. The exceptionally strong links between school and parish impact greatly on the pupils' spiritual, moral and vocational development. This is also true of the creative approaches to the teaching of RE. These outstanding aspects have been used as subjects for the purpose of a survey identifying best practice in the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Senior leadership has successfully identified all necessary areas for improvement and through careful succession planning ensured the capacity to remain an outstanding Catholic school where children thrive and grow in their faith.

Yours sincerely

Brenda Beale
Diocesan Inspector