

# DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH

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



**School:** Our Lady and St Peter Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School Bridlington

**Address:** George Street, Bridlington, YO153PS

**URN:** 118036

**Head of School:** Mrs Anne Parr & Mrs Angela Spencer

**Chair:** Mrs Patricia Bullen

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
**Inspector:** Mrs M Ryan & Mrs K Siedle

**Date & Grade of Last Inspection:** 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009      **Grade:** 2

**Overall Grade for this Inspection:**      **Grade:** 1

A Report from:  
The Diocese of Middlesbrough Schools' Service  
Section 48 Inspection Team  
50a The Avenue  
Linthorpe  
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 Religious Inspectors and Advisers.

### 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

Our Lady and St Peter's is the only Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided School in the seaside town of Bridlington. The school has a wide catchment area although the vast majority of the pupils come from the immediate area.

There are 201 pupils on roll in which 34% of them are baptised Roman Catholic.

The majority of pupils are White British. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups is average. The proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language is above average. The proportion of disabled and those who have special educational needs are average. The school deprivation indicator is higher than the Free School Meals indicator as most of the pupils come from the more deprived areas of Bridlington and experience a high level of deprivation.

The school has three baptised Catholic Teachers out of 13 Teachers and it is served by a permanent Parish Priest who has been in post for many years.

The joint Headteachers of the school are providing executive headship to another primary school within the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE INSPECTION

- Teaching was observed in all classes, Reception to year 6; 2 assemblies and 2 acts of collective worship.
- Discussions with : Headteachers, Chaplaincy Team, Religious Education Subject Leader, Governing Body, Parish Priest, a small group of Parents and Carers and children.
- Informal discussion with support staff and pupils: Minnie Vinnies (pupils) Chaplaincy team (pupils)
- School documentation that included; records of monitoring of evaluation and teaching, self-evaluation document, previous Section 48 report, Ofsted section 5 report, Subject Leaders File, Action Plans for RE and Assessment file.
- A cross section of pupils' books was scrutinised.

### **Pupil Catchment:**

Number of pupils on roll: 201

Planned Admission Number of Pupils: 27

Percentage of pupils baptised RC: 34%

Percentage of pupils from other Christian Denominations: 43%

Percentage of pupils from other World Faiths: 0.01%

Percentage of pupils with no religious affiliation: 23%

Percentage of pupils with special needs: 17%

### **Teaching Staff:**

Full-time Teachers: 8

Part-time Teachers: 5

Percentage of Catholic Teachers: 23%

### **Support Staff:**

Full-time Classroom Support Staff: 8

Part-time Classroom Support Staff: 7

Percentage of Catholic Classroom Support Staff: 47%

Percentage of teachers with CCRS: 15%

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

### **Parishes served by the School:**

**Our Lady and St Peter**

# 1. OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

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## MAIN FINDINGS

Our Lady and St Peter's is an outstanding Catholic School led by two innovative Headteachers who share the post. It is supported by an outstanding Governing Body which is well positioned to support the Headteachers in the changing times to come. The pupils are delightful and a credit to the school.

The school's Mission Statement encompassed in "Children at the Centre – Jesus at the Heart" is evident in every aspect of school life. Parents, Staff, Parish Priest and Governors are extremely positive about the school. As one parent described it as a "wonderful family school".

All pupils are actively involved in the life of the school and benefit enormously from its provision of Catholic life. Relationships within the school and between the school and Parish are outstanding.

Outcomes overall for pupils are very good with outstanding progress observed in Upper Key Stage Two.

The quality of teaching overall is outstanding. The school and the Subject Leader have an accurate view of their strengths and areas for development as seen in a rigorous school self-evaluation document, which is regularly monitored and reported back for impact. The Religious Education Subject Leader is extremely knowledgeable and a positive role model to other colleagues.

The school leaders are in the very early stages of a new chapter in their school development, as they support another Catholic School within the Diocese.

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

- Embed pupils' skills in independently planning, leading and responding to collective worship.
- Continue to share the outstanding teaching throughout the school
- Further develop the effectiveness of the school tracking system by ensuring that and end of year targets for all pupils are developed and shared with pupils across the school to enable them to make rapid progress

## 2. PUPILS

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

The contribution pupils at Our Lady and St Peter's make to the Catholic Life of the school and the benefits they receive from it are outstanding. The School Mission statement "Children at the Centre – Jesus at the Heart" is well known by the pupils and lived out through their strong sense of personal worth, which can be seen in many ways including active Sports Leaders, Minnie Vinnies and the Chaplaincy team.

Pupils' behaviour is exemplary at all times as a result of consistent behavioural support programmes throughout the school. Adults who support in the school's Amber room spoke of its benefits passionately.

Within the pupil body lays a wealth of understanding and love for each other, which is evident, in all aspects of school life. The Parish supports the Catholic Life of the school through a vibrant Rosary group, which meet on a regular basis in the dedicated and well-designed sacred space. The Religious Education Subject Leader plays a pivotal part in organising and leading both the Chaplaincy and Minnie Vinnies, in which the children are actively involved. The structure of the Chaplaincy team was one of challenge and support to ensure positive participation for all pupils, in Collective Worship.

Pupils demonstrate passion and commitment in their learning. Their behaviour for learning is outstanding, as demonstrated in many lessons observed and the calm atmosphere around school. Almost all pupils concentrate very well, beginning with learning activities such as role playing, art work, liturgical dance and musical accompaniment. The school and children benefitted from a creative approach to Religious Education.

The Come and See programme is embedded throughout the school. Differentiated learning activities provide increasingly challenging tasks for all pupils. Standards pupils achieve in Religious Education in all Key Stages are high. The vast majority of pupils make at least good progress and some make outstanding progress at the end of Key Stage 2.

Some examples of creative Religious Education interpretations were observed in classes. This gave the children a deeper learning experience. In Foundation Stage the children were participating in a very lively speaking and listening activity based on Pentecost. A year 5 boy confidently made links with scripture to describe how the Holy Spirit shapes the lives of Christians and skilfully showed understanding of this in his own life.

• 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	1

### 3. PROVISION

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#### How effective the provision is for Catholic education

Teaching is consistently effective in enthusing pupils and ensuring that they learn extremely well. Where teaching is outstanding there is evidence of excellent subject knowledge being used in conjunction with skilful questioning that continually move pupils' learning forward. Teachers use a variety of techniques to make lessons interesting and purposeful. For example in Year 4 the pupils used drama to recreate the story of Paul, while in Year 6 the teacher used probing questions to ensure the pupils made very good progress during the lessons.

The quality of marking and teacher response is consistent in all classes. Key Stage 2 children are able to articulate confidently how the teacher's marking guided their learning. The Religious Education programme, Come and See, is effectively embedded and its resources used efficiently to help pupils learn. In all classes observed teachers made very good use of technology to support pupils' learning. The Religious Education Curriculum meets the external requirement of the Bishops' Conference.

The enrichment of the curriculum is imaginative and well planned by the Subject Leader in which the children receive high quality experience, engaging with the meaning and purposeful learning.

Collective Worship is central to the life of Our Lady and St Peter's, where children participate with reverence and enthusiasm. Themes chosen for Collective Worship show a deep understanding of the liturgical year and give opportunities for children to experience prayer in a range of settings.

Parents, Carers and extended family are actively encouraged to join their children in acts of worship and they have commented positively on how welcome they are received. Everyone in this school community is passionate about ensuring pupils have high quality prayer experiences.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. The classrooms have bright and imaginative displays of a distinctive Catholic nature. Each classroom has a sacred space which is maintained by the pupils and is in parallel with the Liturgical Year. The Mission Statement "Children at the Centre – Jesus at the Heart" is prominently displayed in the school hall and surrounded by other inter linking religious displays.

• 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's Leadership is deeply committed to the Church's Mission in the school. Pupils' spiritual and moral well-being is at the heart of all their decisions. All aspects of the school life are underpinned by the schools Mission Statement.

The Governors have confidence in the excellent Co-Headship. Governors make a significant contribution to the leadership of the Catholic Life of the school. They are involved in challenging and supporting the senior leadership team and making informed decisions which determine the direction of the Catholic Life of the school.

They play an active part in the school's Religious Education self-evaluation process. An excellent example of this is the termly Religious Education standards report, with suggested challenge question prompts, prepared by the Religious Education Subject Leader. Governors are always invited to events and participate enthusiastically as full members of the leadership team.

Leaders have excellent knowledge of how to plan and deliver high quality Collective Worship and model outstanding practice to help develop the skills of their colleagues. They continually support staff in their spiritual and liturgical understanding. Due to the strong culture of receptivity that leaders have created, the response to this support is wholehearted and enthusiastic leading to continuous improvement over time. The monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship is a priority in the regular review of school performance.

The school uses staff, governor, pupil and parental feedback to maximise the impact of Collective Worship on the life of the school. This feedback is used to target staff development and to continually improve and enrich pupils' Collective Worship experiences.

The commitment, leadership and example of the Religious Education Subject Leaders have a significant impact on the raising of standards in Religious Education and are wholeheartedly supported by governors and the whole school and parish community. Clear steps for ongoing improvement are identified in the school improvement plan and are linked to teachers' targets for appraisal.

The Parish Priest is a pivotal part of the faith community and plays a central part in the life of the school. His all-encompassing approach ensures that all members of the school faith community are valued.

Our Lady and St Peter's School together with the Parish Priest are the heart of the Catholic community in Bridlington. The co-Headteachers are relentless about the schools success and together with a highly skilled Governing Body are determined to ensure that all children receive the best Catholic Education.

The school's capacity for improvement is judged to be outstanding.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well leaders, managers and governors monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan for improvement to outcomes for pupils</li> </ul>	1