

DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

SECTION 48 FINAL REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Myers Lane
Bradford
BD2 4ES

School URN	107332
School DfE Number	380/3351
E-mail address	office@stfrancis.bradford.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Father Patrick Wall
Headteacher	Mr Daniel Copley
RE Subject Leader	Daniel Copley/Anne Rowan
Date of Inspection	14 th & 15 th February 2013
Section 48 Inspector	Mrs Christine Rothwell

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

2

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

1

Summary of key findings:

This is an outstanding school.

- The Mission Statement 'Together we are exploring our special gifts: together we are growing towards God' drives the school, ensuring a strong Catholic atmosphere that provides the opportunity for pupils to achieve their potential both spiritually and academically.
- The partnership between home, school and parish is a major strength. Some parents have not taken paid employment because they enjoy their voluntary work in the school whilst others are not looking forward to their children leaving the secure family environment.
- The Parish Priest is a regular visitor to the school, taking a keen interest in all aspects of school life and is well-known to all the pupils. The pupils are also familiar with St Francis Church where they regularly attend Mass and social functions.
- Collective Worship is also a major strength of the school. These are prepared by all members of the school community and are reflective, meaningful, spiritual and delivered in various forms.
- Attainment is improving year on year due to a rigorous tracking system with no teaching being less than good and some regularly outstanding. Pupils are attentive and eager to learn in the enjoyable and stimulating surroundings.
- The many cross-curricular links ensure RE permeates the curriculum, securing the catholicity of the school in the knowledge that they are all growing closer to God. The pupils are confident that the greatest gift they possess is God's love.
- The head teacher has a clear vision for the future, which is shared throughout the school and parish communities. All involved work together to achieve success.
- The Governors are actively involved in school life, taking responsibilities for specific subjects, individual classes and the monitoring of progress. They are well-known faces around the school.

What the school needs to do to improve further.

- Increase the proportion of lessons in which RE teaching is regularly outstanding by
 - ❖ sharing outstanding work and practice
 - ❖ challenging the more able through questioning and giving opportunities for more independent learning
- Providing guidance for all pupils by using the 'next steps' to learning
- Continue to monitor and evaluate the levels of attainment ensuring continuous pupil progress

Information about this inspection

The Inspection of St Francis Catholic Primary School 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).

During the inspection the inspector observed six lessons – one in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), two in Key Stage 1 (KS1) and three in Key Stage 2 (KS2); five Collective Worship (CW) – two Lenten workshops prior to the start of the day, two class workshops and one whole school worship; one circle time and had six discussion meetings with the Head and Deputy, Governors, Parish Priest, pupils from each year group, parents and pupils and parents from other cultures. In addition to these the inspector also assessed the thorough documentation provided by the school which included a scrutiny of pupils' work.

The inspector reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- Preparation and presentation of Collective Worship
- Teaching and learning
- Assessment and moderation
- Attainment
- Leadership and management

Information about this school

- St Francis Catholic Primary School is single form entry and serves the parishes of Our Lady Immaculate and St Francis plus Catholic pupils from further afield.
- There are currently 249 pupils on role, which includes part time provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage - a typical one form entry school.
- 81% are baptised Catholic with 5.6% of other Christian denomination and 2.8% of other faith background – this is well below the national average.
- The majority of pupils transfer to St Joseph's Catholic College or St Bede's Catholic Grammar School at the end of Key Stage 2.

- The number of pupils eligible for pupil premium is below the national average but rising.
- The proportion of girls has risen significantly over the last three years and is above the national average.
- The proportion of pupils supported through School Action Plus or who have a Statement of Special Educational Need is below the national average.
- The school deprivation indicator rose in 2011, and this is currently just below the national average.
- A programme of refurbishment completed recently has made significant improvements to the learning environment.
- There are 9 full time and 4 part time teachers plus 10 support assistants.
- Thirteen staff teach RE with five of these having the Catholic Certificate for Religious Studies.
- The school is popular in the area and places are in high demand.
- The school is an active member of the Bradford and Keighley Catholic School Partnership and regularly hosts meetings and training groups.
- The budget allocated to Religious Education (RE) is £8000 which reflects the importance that the school places on providing and caring for the children.

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.	2
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship.	1

- Pupils are proud of their school and parish community and understand what makes them who they are. They confidently state their Mission Statement and explain what it means to them.
- Pupils take great pride in the school environment, contributing to the many stimulating and eye catching displays around the school. The outdoor classroom/outdoor worship plus the improvements to the play areas, further enhances the learning environment.
- Pupils' opinions are regularly sought and matters discussed at school council meetings.
- There are strong links between home, school and the parish.
- Pupils are very proud of their Peace garden and designed the stain glass windows overlooking the garden.
- The Parish Priest is a frequent visitor to the school and knows all the pupils, visiting each classroom every week.
- Pupils are quick to recognise and praise the talents and achievements of others knowing that these are gifts from God. They respect the individuality of each person knowing that they are all special to God.
- Many charities benefit from the fund raising efforts of the pupils e.g. The Good Shepherd, CAFOD, schools abroad and many community needs.
- On entry to the school, pupils are not aware of terminology linked with their faith such as 'Bible', 'crucifix' or 'prayers'. The outstanding EYFS addresses this and children quickly develop their knowledge and understanding of their Catholic life, actively sharing their opinions and able to use religious terminology correctly.

- Attainment is improving each year with predictions for this school year being 100% Level 4 with 33% of these able to achieve Level 5 – an increase from 20% Level 3, 80% Level 4 with 22% of these being Level 5 in 2010.
- The deployment of staff in teaching those pupils who require extra support is very good with all adults being fully aware of the learning intention and the methods used to ensure achievement. The more able, however, need to have more challenging questioning and tasks to improve their knowledge, understanding and skills.
- Though the starting points for pupils is below average, the EYFS provides outstanding teaching and learning ensuring that pupils reach the national average at the end of KS1.
- The school has an efficient tracking system, which is updated each half term giving a clear indication of pupil progress, highlighting any pupil not making adequate progress.
- Pupils enjoyed and eagerly contributed to their lessons. The majority of behaviour was excellent with pupils working well together.
- Education in personal relationships is a gradual programme in place through the school that parents and pupils enjoy. This is supported in Year 6 by the school nurse.
- Pupils, relevant to their age, take an active part in the preparation and sharing of Collective Worship. They demonstrate reverence and respect and confidently say their prayers using a variety of prayer styles.
- When the younger children were preparing for their worship they were familiar with the practice of bringing various items to the focal area and saying what each item symbolises.
- The older pupils explored a variety of themes for their Lenten worship, confidently finding readings, appropriate prayers, hymns and worship material. They will share these with the whole school during Lent.
- There was a large response to the voluntary acts of worship prior to the start of the school day where pupils played a major role.

The provision for Catholic Education is good

The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education.	2
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum promotes pupils' learning.	2
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.	1

- Teaching is at least good with some being outstanding. To improve this there needs to be more regular outstanding teaching, sharing good practice and encouraging more independent learning for the pupils.
- Short term planning is linked to prior learning and ongoing assessment, consolidating, building and extending learning for the pupils.
- All members of staff have a good subject knowledge, which inspires pupils and builds their understanding. Staff are excellent role models for the pupils, clearly demonstrating gospel values and encouraging pupils to share their beliefs. Lenten promises were appropriate to their age.
- The range of teaching styles sustain pupils' concentration but timing of RE lessons to be earlier in the day would also benefit motivation and application as pupils are not as receptive towards the end of the day.
- The use of technology is a strength of the school giving pupils many opportunities to maximize learning especially when challenging questioning is also used.
- When 'next steps' was used learning was more effective and children responded well to the teachers' comments. This needs to be used regularly with all age groups for

learning outcomes to improve further thus enabling pupils to know how well they are doing and what they need to work towards next.

- The curriculum meets the Diocesan requirements with full coverage of the RE programme. The school works closely with the Bradford and Keighley Catholic Schools Partnership to the benefit of pupils and staff. Moderation of levels is shared with all schools ensuring consistency. There are also many activities between the partnership including staff training and pupils' sporting activities.
- The school is well resourced with adults and attractive, interesting support material. All adults are familiar with the learning outcomes and the means to achieve success. Pupils confidently discuss why specific resources are used at different times in the liturgical year. Resources needed for the teaching and learning of other faiths are loaned from the Inter Faith Centre in Bradford.
- Friday worship celebrates pupils' achievements both in and out of school and is attended by a large number of parents and friends of the school.
- Religious Education is modified to meet the needs of individuals who generally work with an assistant in small groups. These pupils are then encouraged and able to make contributions in the classroom.
- The school has adopted the scheme 'The Way the Truth and the Life' with all the support materials plus other support materials that enhances the scheme further. This provides full coverage of the RE programme.
- Links are in place with other schools in the Bradford and Keighley Catholic Schools partnership where work is moderated, resources shared and liturgical celebrations enjoyed.
- The school is actively working to improve attainment through more teaching and learning regularly being outstanding as identified in the recent SEF.
- Collective Worship is a strength of the school providing opportunities for all pupils to develop spiritually. Pupils of other faith backgrounds are encouraged to share their beliefs and traditions that are celebrated in school with their peers.
- Many forms of worship, prayer styles and methods of delivery enable all pupils and staff the opportunities to enrich their spiritual faith journey.
- Parents, parishioners, governors and other faith communities are welcome visitors to times of worship.

The Leadership and Management are outstanding

How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.	1
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- Leaders, governors and managers work actively together to promote the Catholic ethos of the school. They ensure that -
 - Religious worship is in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.
 - Religious Education is in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline, general and particular norms of the Catholic Church.
- The Governing Body meet regularly and is keen to be fully involved with the managing of the school. Governors are linked to individual classes and also have a subject responsibility which they monitor and evaluate effectively. The Chair of Governors meets weekly with the Head to discuss matters arising during the week. The

Governors are very proud of their school using phrases such as 'to be here is to be happy' and 'there's lots of heart here'.

- Leaders have a rigorous system for monitoring, analysing and evaluating the impact of Catholic Life, including Collective Worship, on pupils and staff. There is an effective and detailed system for tracking progress in place resulting in gaps being addressed through intervention whether it is a cohort, group or individual pupil.
- Self evaluation accurately identifies strengths and weaknesses and areas for development are prioritised in the school improvement plan. This is reviewed at regular intervals. All leaders, governors, managers and staff share ownership and work together to make progress.
- RE Inset training days shared with other schools are held regularly and RE is a standard item at staff meetings.
- Resources have been updated and stimulating focal areas have been created throughout the school. Displays along corridors and in the teaching areas reflect the liturgical year and the aspect of the RE curriculum currently being taught.
- The school hosts induction for newly qualified teachers in the Bradford and Keighley Catholic Schools Partnership plus other Inset training for members of staff.
- The employment of a Catholic Care worker ensures the support, pastoral care and guidance has a positive impact on pupil outcomes.
- Pupils are very happy at school and compete for the best attendance record which is celebrated by the whole school. There is 'no real bullying', 'we don't leave anybody out' and 'we live with God in our head' are examples of comments made by the pupils.
- Parents are equally happy with the welcoming atmosphere in the school. Staff are approachable and 'go that extra mile' to ensure that pupils are educated in a warm and safe environment. They are kept informed through weekly newsletters, Wednesday Word, RE newsletters and text messages that remind parents of coming events.
- The school is active in supporting other organisations. It has links with schools abroad and local charities plus supporting events in the local community. There is also an active group of young St Vincent de Paul members.
- The Governing Body is actively involved in school life and though relatively new in this role, members are aware of their responsibilities and hold senior and subject leaders to account for all aspects of performance in RE.
- The school is conducted as a Catholic School in accordance with Latin Rite Canon Law and the teachings of the Catholic Church and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Leeds.
- At all times the school serves as a witness to the Catholic Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ. In the last two years two members of staff have been received into the Catholic Faith.