



DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

**Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School,
Barrow-in-Furness**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

**THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

School:

Sacred Heart Primary School Barrow

Address:

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Cumbria
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School URN:

112363

Headteacher:

Mrs Simone Beach

Chair of Governors:

Mr Leo Clarke

Lead Inspector:

Mrs Adrienne Delaney

Team Inspector:

Mrs Helen Moreton

Date of Inspection:

24th November 2021

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is a Catholic Primary Academy in the Diocese of Lancaster. It is situated in the town of Barrow-in-Furness. It is a slightly below average sized primary school with currently 164 pupils on roll of which approximately 31% are baptised Roman Catholics. Other pupils come from no faith or other Christian backgrounds with no pupils coming from other world faiths. A small minority of pupils are from other cultural backgrounds. Approximately 25% of pupils are on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) register, with approximately 6.5% having an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The school building is over 100 years old but has been modernised and is well equipped to serve the pupils.

The school works closely with the Catholic schools within the cluster and is now a part of the Mater Christi Multi Academy Trust (MCMAT).

PUPILS	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	22	30	33	19	17	24	19	164
Catholics on roll	5	7	10	8	5	10	6	51
Other Christian denomination	2	3	6	2	1	5	6	25
Other faith background	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No religious affiliation	15	23	17	9	12	14	7	97
No of learners from other ethnic groups	1	3	3	1	2	0	2	11
Total on SEND Register	3	6	5	9	6	6	7	42
Total with EHCP	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	11

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	6
Index of multiple deprivation	0.40			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Sacred heart	41
St Mary's	11
St Pius	3
Holy Family	5
(All Our Lady of Furness Parish)	

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	17.5
% of teaching time	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

TEACHING TIME FOR ENGLISH	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	35
% of teaching time	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

TEACHING TIME FOR MATHS	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
% of teaching time	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	8
Part-time teachers	3
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	7
Classroom Support assistants	17
Number of Catholic teachers FTE	50%
Number of teachers teaching RE	7
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	3+1 HLTA
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	3
Chaplaincy staffing	0

ORGANISATION	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	9
Average class size KS1	29
Average class size KS2	20

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2020-21	Current financial year 2021-22	Next financial year 2022-23
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	£5500	£6000	£6500
RE Curriculum allowance from above	£600	£1000	£1200
English Curriculum allowance from above	£1000	£1200	£1400
Total CPD budget	£8500	£9000	£9500
RE allocation for CPD	£1500	£2000	£1500

How the school has developed since the last inspection
<p>All aspects for improvement since the last inspection have been addressed and have had a positive impact on maintaining high standards. A baseline assessment and detailed tracking system across school are in place and governors are informed and well able to monitor attainment and progress in curriculum Religious Education (RE).</p> <p>Despite the challenges that Covid has brought the school has an outstanding capacity to maintain high standards. The dedication of the governors together with the commitment of the leadership team and all staff, demonstrate the capacity to facilitate continuous improvement.</p>

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

CATHOLIC LIFE

1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

Sacred Heart is an outstanding Catholic school. It is an inclusive school and a very welcoming learning environment: pupils enjoy attending and they have confident and positive attitudes to learning. One pupil described the school as a place where 'we learn to treat each other as we would like to be treated'. Pupils deepen knowledge of their faith throughout their time at Sacred Heart and gain a firm understanding of Catholic practice. The school lives out its mission statement that forms the basis of their school life 'Love one another as I have loved you.' The overarching themes of Pope Francis' messages of 'call to change' and 'builders of hope' are articulated readily by pupils. Governors play an important part in supporting the direction of the school in the community in which it serves. The carefully planned leadership succession has enabled recommendations since the last inspection to be addressed successfully. The recently appointed headteacher together with the joint RE leader have been tireless in their efforts to ensure the Catholic life of the school and curriculum RE are outstanding. The work of the governors, Parish Priest, laity, headteacher and all staff are a great strength of the school.

The Catholic life of the school is outstanding and the commitment from the headteacher, the governors, staff, parish clergy and laity to support pupils in their prayer life and faith development has remained a priority especially during the pandemic. Staff set good examples, are proud of their school and work very well together. The sense of community within parish and school is palpable and the collective mission to serve and promote Christ's message is admirable. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is excellent and has an impact on everyday life at Sacred Heart. This can be seen through pupils' responses to each other and their understanding of the notion of the common good. The pupils actively and willingly become involved in a variety of activities supporting their own and the wider community. This contributes to their social, emotional and moral development. Gospel values permeate school life and pupils are helped to grow in faith, make the most of their gifts and talents and become the best they can be.

Opportunities for prayer and liturgy are outstanding; pupils act with reverence and join in prayers with confidence. They make full use of resources available to them and appreciate the opportunities offered e.g. Masses and liturgies on line, in church and in the prayer room.

The quality of curriculum RE is very good and pupils are provided with an excellent range of learning opportunities to deepen their faith, to understand Catholic traditions and practices, and to make progress in their learning. Pupils enjoy RE lessons and many aspects of the curriculum are outstanding. Clear and detailed action plans are in place to continue to raise attainment and progress from low starting points.

Teachers' subject knowledge is very good and has a positive impact on the delivery of curriculum RE. They are very well supported in terms of professional development. The curriculum meets the needs of all learners in line with diocesan and national recommendations.

Governors and leaders take full account of the '*Fit for Mission? Schools*' guidance and the HRSE curriculum is being addressed and embedded.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

To improve further the school needs to:

- Improve outcomes for all pupils by:
 - Developing the children's confidence as independent learners by enabling them to access and research relevant resources
 - Ensuring that all lessons include opportunities for pupils to discuss and postulate personal opinions
- Celebrate successes by:
 - Building on the practice of providing tasks for Key Stage 2 pupils to enable deeper learning in RE through working with the MAT High School.
 - Continuing to provide catch up activities, particularly in written tasks to ensure that learning gaps posed by pandemic disruptions are addressed
 - Continuing to work with parish to provide opportunities for prayer and liturgy
 - Continuing practice of encouraging staff to aspire to leadership

PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

1

- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school
- The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school

1

1

1

All staff members at Sacred Heart are wholly committed to supporting the Catholic ethos of the school and its mission and this culture is apparent in the life of the school family.

The pupil's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic life of school is greatly enhanced by their participation in and contribution to all aspects of school life. On the day of the inspection pupils from the Sacred Heart Charity Committee spoke of how they strive to make a fairer world by supporting charities such as *Aid to the Church in Need*, *CAFOD*, *Mary's Meals* and local charities. One pupil said this 'helps me to care for people'. Pupils know that they belong to Sacred Heart Catholic parish family and are proud to be part of the school and parish. Pupils' leadership of Prayer and Liturgy is outstanding. From the Foundation Stage onwards pupils develop their ability to share their own faith through whole class Prayer and Liturgy. This skill is developed throughout Key Stage 2. Pupils plan and share their own Prayer and Liturgy and are skilled in using bible readings, artefacts and can question their peers.

Pupils understand that their Catholic faith is different from other faiths and share this distinctiveness with other Catholic schools. Activities that have enabled this understanding are the celebration of Mass with their cluster and parish. The school works closely with the Parish Priest, deacon and the laity and they have used creative means to share their prayers and liturgy together during times of school closure. Many of the staff attend the church and lead liturgies and sacramental programmes.

Pupils at Sacred Heart articulate their belief in Jesus as 'the light of the world' whenever the candle is lit for prayer. This practice encourages best behaviour and focused learning at all times. Catholic principles and the adoption of Pope Francis' vision for the world underpin behaviour and relationship policies resulting in a strong, shared vision for the Catholic life of the school.

The Parish Priest, lay helpers in school, governors, school leaders, teachers and support staff are fully committed to fulfilling their role in ensuring outstanding provision for the Catholic Life of the school. They have high expectations and are actively working together to implement the Catholic philosophy of education and gospel values that permeate all aspects of school life.

An example of this is the prayer room where children can place prayers and intentions, demonstrating their understanding of their faith practice. The headteacher, together with her co RE leader and senior staff have a strong vision for the school which is articulated through their actions.

The governors, leaders and managers are fully committed to partnerships with the diocesan family of parishes and schools. The school has excellent links with the primary and high school in the local Catholic cluster; they work as a wider family of schools within the Multi Academy Trust to provide opportunities to celebrate their faith collectively. These practices have taken place virtually during the pandemic.

The quality of provision for the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. Sacred Heart is a welcoming, inclusive and outwardly religious community with a strong family ethos where everyone is valued and pupils and staff are nurtured. Governors, managers and staff have high expectations and a shared vision with regard to the Catholic mission and ethos. There is a visible secure sense of family and community in all aspects of school life that is evident in the quality of relationships that exist between all stakeholders.

Sacred Heart is a prayerful community that provides a devout and stimulating learning environment to reflect the school's mission and Catholic character. Staff and governors work hard to develop and enhance the school for the benefit of everyone at the school. Older pupils take part in, lead and prepare prayer and liturgies with enthusiasm and confidence and on the day of inspection all pupils from Reception upwards were observed signing to the call to prayer 'Everyday God'. The headteacher has been instrumental in the development of all teachers' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith through her support and guidance.

PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education
- How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education
- The quality of provision in Religious Education

1

1

1

The majority of pupils enjoy RE, are religiously literate and engaged in their learning. Through active participation in prayer and liturgies, together with excellent curriculum coverage, pupils show thorough knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, despite the issues that the pandemic has presented. They understand that Christ is at the centre of all school life and are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. The vast majority of pupils make rapid and sustained progress in RE from a very low baseline when they join Sacred Heart in Foundation Stage. This progress has been curtailed somewhat due to periods of lockdown. However recent assessment is enabling pupils to access catch up programmes in RE. These are being administered along with those of other core subjects. Pupils develop and apply a range of skills throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 including independence and imagination. This is built upon in Key Stage 2 where pupils reflect upon their own gifts and talents that enable them to forgive, love and respect. However more opportunities to comment and reflect on their learning during RE lessons should now be given as school returns to normality.

The RE curriculum meets all the requirements of the Bishops' Conference and is informed by the Curriculum Directory and the Diocesan document 'Fit for Mission? Schools'. RE is at the centre of the school's curriculum and is given priority in the improvement planning where targets are clearly identified and set to continue to retain and maintain the outstanding attainment. A robust culture has been created where a common vision and commitment to high standards have been established. This is largely due to the excellent practice of the headteacher and her recently appointed co-leader who ensure that pupils continue to make progress in their religious literacy. Professional discussions during whole staff meetings explore how the curriculum can be enhanced and improved so that it motivates pupils and deepens their understanding of the subject.

Since the last inspection, a system has been developed to improve standards, including monitoring lesson plans, book scrutiny, lesson drop ins, conversations with pupils, alongside pastoral and behaviour support. All aspects of RE and Catholic life at Sacred Heart are carefully stored digitally so that all teaching staff can access RE paperwork and add to the portfolio of Catholic life and RE in the school. Inspectors were able to access all this information on the day of inspection, including video and photographic evidence. This has added greatly to teachers monitoring and evaluation and is a source to present both challenge and celebration for all. However, the pandemic has resulted in disruption to teaching

and learning and some loss of expected progress particularly in written tasks. The practice of providing tasks that demonstrate children's greater depth of understanding also needs to continue as the curriculum delivery is refined and honed.

Teachers' planning is based on the diocesan curriculum wheel and teachers confidently enrich the curriculum using other valuable resources e.g. *The Way, the Truth and the Life, Come and See* and CAFOD's *Universal Church* topics. Staff subject knowledge is very good due to their own drive for excellence in RE and to the professional development opportunities offered to them. Governors are informed of the curriculum through reports at meetings and through regular visits to school.

Every class has an area for pupils to celebrate Prayer and Liturgy along with full access to the designated prayer room. All classes celebrate Mass at the parish church. This practice has continued on line during the pandemic.

Pupils' progress in RE in each of the attainment targets, (knowledge and understanding of religion and an ability to reflect on meaning), is reported to parents in termly reports alongside other core curriculum subjects. Communication with parents is a strength of Sacred Heart School: it has a very informative website that openly promotes the school's Catholic values. Digital platforms and communication apps further engage parents.

Pupil progress in RE is outstanding and is in line with standards in English and Maths. Since the last inspection, the subject leader has led training for all staff and modelled excellent practice to ensure that standards in teaching have continued to improve. Analysis of the progress of all groups of learners enables success to be celebrated.

The school serves a predominately Catholic and Christian community where pupils have the utmost respect for each other. Good quality teaching and effective learning are present in RE lessons. Pupils enjoy RE because teachers make their lessons engaging, interesting and relevant. On the day of inspection pupils discussed the contents of their books that showed outstanding coverage. A Year 2 child was able to distinguish between books of the bible: 'I like Old Testament stories'.

The quality of provision for RE is outstanding. Since the last inspection the parish priest, governors, headteacher, leaders, teachers, and support staff have continued to seek opportunities to reflect on the teaching of RE and the Catholic life of the school. Due to Covid restrictions these opportunities have been disrupted but creative methods have been found to continue good practice. This contributes to excellent subject knowledge and confidence in teaching RE: teachers inspire pupils and make sure that they make exceptional progress as learners. The quality of resources is high and displays, both around the school and in class are of a very high standard, reflecting the high value that school places in its Catholicity. Resources are used effectively and together with the support provided by a very dedicated staff, pupils are well motivated and enjoy their learning in RE.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Overall Effectiveness	1
Capacity for sustained improvement	1
Catholic Life	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders and managers promote and ensure provision for the Catholic Life of the school through monitoring and evaluation. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school. 	1
Religious Education	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision in Religious Education. 	1

	Pupil Outcomes	Leadership & Management	Provision	Overall
Catholic Life	1	1	1	1
Religious Education	1	1	1	1