



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Croftdale Road, Blaydon, Tyne and Wear, NE21 4BG

School Unique Reference Number: **108395**

Inspection dates:	26 – 27 September 2019
Lead inspector:	Mrs Jane Weatherall

Overall effectiveness	Previous inspection:	Good	2
	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
Catholic Life:		Outstanding	1
Religious Education:		Good	2
Collective Worship:		Outstanding	1

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FOR PARENTS AND PUPILS

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is an outstanding Catholic school because:

- St Joseph's is a welcoming and inclusive school which is very family-orientated. It is highly valued by those pupils, parents and parishioners it serves. It is an oasis of calm where children are able to develop their faith and understand that, 'Jesus loves them very much'.
- Religious Education is good. Pupils enjoy their lessons and can explain why they are so valuable to them. They make good, steady progress over time.
- The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. Governors and staff have high expectations and a shared vision with regard to the Catholic mission and ethos of the school and work effectively together to achieve this.
- Collective Worship is outstanding. It is at the heart of the school and is enjoyed by all as a joyful celebration of their faith.

FULL REPORT

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

- The school is an average sized primary school
- An overwhelming majority of the pupils are of white British heritage
- The proportion of disadvantaged pupils in receipt of pupil premium is below average
- The proportion of pupils with Special Educational Needs and or disabilities is close to the national average
- 88% pupils are baptised Catholics, 11% are from other Christian denominations
- The school serves the parishes of St Joseph's, Blaydon and St Anne's, Winlaton

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL NEED TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER?

- Improve teaching in Religious Education :
 - by extending the successful staff coaching model, ensuring the best examples of effective practice and feedback are shared with all staff.
- Further improve Religious Education by:
 - embedding the Age Related Standards and using them to ensure good progress in Religious Education over time.

CATHOLIC LIFE

THE QUALITY OF THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

1

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

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The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.

- Pupils make an outstanding contribution to the Catholic Life of the school and benefit greatly from it.
- Pupils at St Joseph's deeply value and respect the Catholic tradition of their school. They say that scripture helps them to make good choices in their everyday life and, 'helps them to follow in the footsteps of Jesus to be a better person'.
- Groups, such as Mini Vinnies and Worry Warriors, recognise the importance of serving their school community and working for those both near and far who are in need. The Rights Respecting School work pupils have been doing has given pupils opportunities to understand the rights of all children throughout the world.
- Pupils have participated in a parish friendship group set up to support vulnerable adults; supported CAFOD through World Gifts; sent shoeboxes to those in need and raised money for Missio. When they hear of a need they recognise it is part of their Catholic mission to explore in what way they can be of help.
- Pupils demonstrate the ability to both forgive others and to be forgiven. They are quick to celebrate each other's achievements and recognise that this care for each other is a key feature of their school.
- Pupils enjoy their links with the parish communities and with the Diocese. Their sense of being part of a parish and diocesan community is strengthened by their regular involvement in celebrations such as the Good Shepherd Mass and activities with the Youth Ministry team.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.

- The school mission statement is visible throughout school and is lived out every day by pupils and staff. The pupils often recite the mission statement in class to reinforce the core purpose of the school.
- The provision for the Catholic Life of the school is given a high priority which is reflected in the mission statement and in the way the mission of the school is 'lived out' by all in this family community. There is a tangible sense of family and community in all aspects of school life which is evident in the quality of relationships that exist between all

stakeholders.

- It is clear that the highest standards of behaviour are expected from pupils and that pupils live up to these. They act responsibly and enjoy responsibilities entrusted to them. Year 6 pupils enthusiastically support reception pupils in their role as special friends.
- The school is equally attentive to the pastoral needs of staff and works hard to promote a positive work life balance.
- Personal social and health education and relationships and sex education are taught well according to diocesan guidelines.

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.

- The mission statement is central to school life and was born through the collaboration of the whole school community: pupils, parents, staff, governors and parishioners. Staff begin their meetings by saying the statement so that all of their further work is rooted in that mission.
- The headteacher shares a clear and inspirational vision for this school. Through well-targeted and planned improvements, he has enabled the school, and the staff and pupils in it, to grow and to flourish.
- Governors are ambitious for the Catholic Life of the school and see this as a core part of their role. They make a significant contribution to all aspects of school life and are regular visitors for Collective Worship, Mass and Religious Education lessons.
- Leaders, staff and governors have all contributed to the self-evaluation process and are accurate in their judgements about the school. They have clear direction about where the school will further develop.
- Many successful strategies have been used for engaging parents. Parents say they feel fully involved in the Catholic Life of the school and comment on the impact sharing in the Catholic Life of the school has had on their own personal faith.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2

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

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How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education is good.

- Pupils enjoy their Religious Education lessons and can explain why they are so valuable to them. They make good, steady progress over time.
- Effective internal tracking data shows this steady progress and by the end of each phase most pupils are in line with their age related expectation. Over recent years the school attainment has been in line with, or in some cases above, diocesan averages.
- Behaviour for learning in Religious Education lessons throughout school is excellent. Pupils are motivated and eager to contribute to discussions.
- Pupils have an understanding of how well they have done and how to improve. Some of the older pupils are aware of what age related standard they are working towards.
- Most pupils make good progress across a range of skills and are developing well in their knowledge and understanding. They demonstrate good prior knowledge and show they are able to use this well in their new learning.

The quality of teaching and assessment in Religious Education is good.

- Teachers demonstrate high expectations of behaviour and engagement in Religious Education lessons and, as a result, pupils concentrate well.
- Teaching of Religious Education is good with some outstanding practice seen. Where teaching is best, teachers plan creatively, use a range of resources to inspire and motivate pupils and use their strong subject knowledge to skilfully question and challenge pupils to deepen their understanding.
- Religious Education is given high importance and the St Joseph's 'Big 12' are used to ensure quality teaching is happening across the school in all subjects including Religious Education. There is a staff desire to continually improve and coaching systems set up within school mean that the best methods and initiatives are openly discussed and shared. To further improve the teaching in Religious Education all staff need to use this coaching model to share the best practice with colleagues.
- Marking and feedback are good. In the best examples pupils are given developmental feedback for improvement and are given time to action these points to deepen their learning.

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education is good.

- Leaders use a range of monitoring activities to regularly check on the quality of teaching and, as a result, have a very accurate picture of the strengths and areas for development in Religious Education. Clear steps for improvement are detailed in the school development plan.
- Leaders and governors ensure that Religious Education is given high importance and that it meets the requirements of the Bishops' Conference. The school has begun using the Age Related Standards in Religious Education. Staff are working collaboratively, in phases, to embed these as a way of ensuring good progress.
- All governors are regular visitors to the school and are routinely involved in a range of monitoring and evaluation activities. They are supportive but also provide challenge. They discharge their statutory and canonical duties well. The Religious Education link governor visits school regularly to monitor and support in this area and staff and parents appreciate the time he sets aside to contribute to Religious Education and to help mould the pupils of this school.
- Regular opportunities for Continued Professional Development(CPD) ensure staff are well supported in their teaching of Religious Education. The curriculum leader shares her high level of expertise and clear vision for this subject with all.
- In partnership with catechists in the parish and the parish priest, pupils in year 4 receive a high quality Sacramental Preparation programme leaving pupils feeling that they are now, 'a full part of God's family'.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

THE QUALITY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

1

- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship.
- The quality of provision for Collective Worship.
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship.

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How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship is outstanding.

- Pupils and staff have a palpable sense of belonging to this vibrant worshipping Catholic community. They flourish in an atmosphere where everyone is valued.
- Acts of Collective Worship engage all pupils' interest and inspire them in their daily lives. They listen reverently, respond genuinely and prayerfully and they sing with joy.
- The experience of being a member of this prayerful and faithful community has a clearly visible effect on the spiritual and moral development of pupils.
- Pupils have an excellent understanding of the Church's liturgical year, its seasons and feasts. They have respect for both their own and other faiths and this is reflected in the manner in which they participate in worship.
- Pupils enjoy the opportunities for them to take part in and lead worship for their class or school community. They see it as one of the aspects which makes their school special.

The quality of provision for Collective Worship is outstanding.

- Collective Worship is central to the life of the school. It has a clear message and direction. A variety of different forms of worship are enthusiastically embraced by the whole school community.
- Leaders and teaching staff are skilled in helping pupils to plan worship and they model it well. As a consequence, worship opportunities for pupils and staff are reverent, meaningful and deliver a clear message.
- From the beginning of their school journey in reception, pupils are encouraged to have a special relationship with God through prayer.
- Opportunities are planned to include parents and parishioners in the prayer life of the school. In this way the sense that St Joseph's is a vibrant worshipping community of all ages continues.
- Much time has been devoted to creating Collective Worship resources for the school to use. A comprehensive collection of music, scripture and the school prayers has been collated for staff and pupils to access at the click of a button, enhancing the provision greatly.

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship is outstanding.

- Statements to live by make the Catholic values of the school explicit to all. They are shared with pupils and parents to enable the statement to be lived out throughout the whole week.
- Parents speak warmly of their experiences when they join pupils for liturgies and Mass. Parishioners look forward to pupils going to church and worshipping with them.
- Leaders ensure that staff training is a priority in liturgical formation and spiritual development and ensure that teachers new to the school are well supported. Networks with other Catholic schools locally mean that staff are able to share good practice.
- The monitoring of Collective Worship is informed by feedback from pupils, staff, governors, parents and parishioners and is regularly reviewed.
- Leaders have a deeply rooted understanding of the Church's liturgical year and the seasons, rites and symbols of our faith. A range of artefacts are used and displayed to deepen pupils' understanding and to support their formation.
- The school benefits from focused and inspiring leadership. Leaders, especially the headteacher and parish priest, have worked tirelessly to transform the Collective Worship for pupils and their families.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

HOW EFFECTIVE THE SCHOOL IS IN PROVIDING CATHOLIC EDUCATION:**1****CATHOLIC LIFE:****1**

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.

1

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school.

1

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school.

1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**2**

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.

2

The quality of teaching and assessment in Religious Education.

2

How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education.

2

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP:**1**

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

1

The quality of provision for Collective Worship.

1

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship.

1

SCHOOL DETAILS

School name	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Unique reference number	108395
Local authority	Gateshead
This Inspection Report is produced for the Rt Reverend Robert Byrne the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle under canon 806 of Canon Law. For voluntary aided schools it also fulfils the responsibility the governing body has to inspect the school under s48 of the Education Act 2005.	
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Headteacher	Mr A Ramanandi
Date of previous school inspection	June 2015
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