

# DIOCESE OF LEEDS



DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

## SECTION 48 FINAL REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL  
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Dewsbury Road, Wakefield.

School URN

108256

School DfE Number

384/3311

E-mail address

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Chair of Governors

James Rawlinson

Headteacher

Catherine Flood

RE Subject Leader

Patricia Ainge

Date of Inspection

17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Section 48 Inspector

Mark Brennan

# 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**

1

**LEADERS AND MANAGERS**

1

**Summary of key findings:**

**This is an outstanding school.**

- As soon as you come into this school it is very clear that the prime purpose is Catholic education, helping children to develop their faith and to understand that God loves them.
- The overwhelming majority of children enter the Nursery and Reception classes with little or no understanding of the Catholic Faith. By the time they leave the school they have made impressive progress in their Religious Education with most attaining above the national average and some achieving better.
- Teaching is mainly good and some is outstanding. There is no inadequate teaching.
- As they move through the school pupils develop a keen sense of responsibility, care for others and spiritual and liturgical literacy. They enthusiastically take full advantage of the wide variety of Faith Life opportunities the school provides.
- Children are proud of their Faith and have a strong sense of their personal worth, which clearly impacts positively on the way they treat others and seek to help those in need.
- Most pupils concentrate very well and remain on task for extended periods of time appropriate for their age. They are aware of their learning and know what they need to do to improve.
- During acts of worship pupils demonstrate authentic responses which are reflected in their behaviour and attitude to wider school life.

- The school is very well resourced and shows dedicated and focused commitment to enhancing provision further.
- The school's support staff are extremely capable, dedicated and professional contributors to the learning process.
- The school has developed a very effective system of collaboration with other schools and partner agencies so that it can further enhance the already innovative and creative Faith opportunities it gives pupils.
- Prayer and Collective Worship are at the centre of the day-to-day life of the school. Indeed, it is the prime distinctive feature of the school.
- The school leadership is deeply committed to the Church's mission in education. They have a good understanding of where the school needs to go to improve further.

### **What the school needs to do to improve further.**

- Continue to increase the involvement of younger pupils in the planning, delivery and evaluation of RE and Collective Worship.
- Continue to improve RE teaching across the school so that it is consistently good or outstanding by:
  - developing further the abilities of children to collaborate and to articulate and express their ideas, feelings, opinions and learning through a wider variety of activities including Art, ICT and new technologies.
- Develop the excellent systems already in place to monitor, analyse and exploit attainment data so that it can be used even more effectively to support teachers in their planning.
- Complete the already planned introduction of a Sex and Relationships Education scheme complying with guidance issued by the Diocese of Leeds.

### **Information about this inspection**

The Inspection of English Martyrs 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).

The inspector reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- The extent to which children contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school.

- How well children achieve and enjoy Religious Education (RE) and participate in the liturgical life of the school.
- The quality of the teaching and the responses the children make to that teaching.
- The accuracy of the school's self-evaluation systems.
- The quality of the leadership, including that demonstrated by governors, especially in the way they promote, monitor and evaluate the provision of Catholic Education.
- The partnerships and contributions the school makes to the wider community.

The inspector visited almost all class groups to observe RE lessons, Collective Worship or both. The inspector attended Mass with the Y5 class and joined a whole school assembly led by the Headteacher. Meetings were held with the Headteacher, RE Subject Leader, Staff, Parish Priest, Catholic Care Worker, a group of pupils and some parents. The inspector examined a wide variety of school documentation including the RE Subject Leader's files, children's exercise books, planning and assessment files, monitoring and evaluation records, meeting minutes, parents questionnaires, school improvement plans, newsletters and photograph albums. The inspection included spending time with children on the playground, in the dinner hall and on corridors. An assessment of the physical learning environment and the school's teaching resources was also undertaken.

The school has invested regular and substantial amounts of money into RE provision over the years. The current budget allocated to RE is £1000 for the period 2012-13. This figure is on a par with other core areas of the curriculum.

### **Information about this school**

- English Martyrs Catholic Primary School is a one form entry voluntary aided school in Wakefield, serving the Catholic parish of St Martin de Porres within English Martyrs Church boundaries. It is part of the Catholic Diocese of Leeds within Wakefield Local Authority.
- The school is considering membership of a Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, 'The Bishop Konstant Academy' formed in Autumn 2012.
- The school has a maintained 52 place Nursery. Most children transfer to one of the two Catholic High Schools in Wakefield.
- The proportion of Baptised Catholic children is 67%; this is slightly below the National average of 70%. The remaining pupils are from broadly Christian backgrounds. The number of pupils from other faiths is very small at around 4%.
- There are 7 Catholic teachers on the staff. Three of these hold the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies.
- School serves an area of above average deprivation. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals is above average. The number of pupils for whom English is an additional language is average. Most of this sub-group are black African children, many of whom are from refugee or asylum seeker families. About 17% of pupils are from ethnic minority groups.

- The proportion of SEN and disabled pupils identified as having learning difficulties and/or disabilities is broadly average. Baseline evidence shows the children enter significantly below age related expectations with particular underdevelopment in language and social skills.
- The current headteacher was appointed in May 2011. Together with the governors and the extremely capable acting deputy headteacher (who is also the RE Leader), she has had a significant impact on Catholic life of the school and improvements generally in teaching quality and pupil achievement. Since her appointment there have been a number of significant staffing changes including retirements, promotions to other schools, re-structuring and new appointments.

## Full report - Inspection Judgements

### Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils are Outstanding (1).

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

- A particularly impressive feature of this school is the involvement of pupils in the religious life of the school. Older pupils in particular take responsibility for reading, controlling the music player, establishing the focal displays, controlling the projector and lighting candles. In Year 6 the pupils have reached the stage where they can plan collective worship and deliver assemblies to younger children. The Liturgical Dance team and Choir play a major role in whole school worship. The 'Young CAFOD' group has been asked to present something of their work to children in another Diocesan school.
- Whether it is in the Nursery and Reception classes, where they happily and confidently skip into school in the morning and settle quickly into a prayerful circle time, or it is in a Year 5 Class Mass or Y6 Collective Worship, children always demonstrate peaceful, respectful empathy and care for others. In a Y4 Collective Worship one boy offered the following idea as a mission for the day, "Dear Jesus, help me to do something special for someone today."
- Children are proud of their school and especially value the faith life and RE opportunities it offers them. Several children reported that RE was their favourite lesson. In a whole school assembly the inspector was very impressed with the enthusiastic participation levels of the children in the singing and dancing. Even Y6 boys were not afraid to join in with the clapping, gesturing and singing of 'You are never too young to be a witness'.
- Children at English Martyrs, along with their teachers and parents frequently make generous donations to a variety of charitable causes. The Harvest Festival, Poppy Appeal, Operation Christmas, Good Shepherd Appeal, MacMillan Nursing, Martin House, Africa Mission and CAFOD regularly feature in school and community activities. A total of over £1000 was raised in the last year.

- Children are achieving very good progress in their RE understanding as they move through the school. They easily reach above average levels by the end of Y6. They know how to listen, concentrate and apply themselves to degrees appropriate to their age. They can express their opinions with confidence and they are alert to the needs of others.
- Children’s behaviour is extremely good, even at times when they are not directly supervised. They are polite and courteous to adults and will willingly and enthusiastically talk about their learning and their enjoyment of school life. One boy told the inspector that, “I don’t want to grow up, because I will have to leave English Martyrs.”
- In classes where children enjoy and achieve best, the learning activities are quickly started and collaborative, practical, problem solving experiences take precedence. Children are reminded of previous learning, know what level of attainment they have achieved and can talk about what they need to do to improve.
- As children move through the school they gain an impressive knowledge of the parables and of religious terminology. A boy in Y6 used the term, “I am the servant king” when the teacher was talking about the washing of the disciples feet by Jesus. In Y1 a boy remembered that the special oil used in Baptism is the Oil of Chrism. In a Y3 class the children were challenged to use the word ‘reconciliation’ in their writing, and in a Y4 class a boy told the teacher that it was, “Obvious the parables came from the New Testament because Jesus wasn’t alive in the Old Testament!”

### **The provision for Catholic Education is Outstanding (1).**

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

- Nearly all teaching is good and some is outstanding. There is no inadequate teaching. In the more successful lessons teachers pace the learning effectively and match the activities to the pupils’ capabilities. They give children inspirational, creative moments and encourage discussion, debate and collaboration.
- The school could improve provision generally and even in the more successful lessons by exploring a more inventive use of ICT to engage, enhance and support learning. This might include the use of new technologies such as social media, pod casting and the extension of the school’s website content.
- The school uses a Diocesan recommended RE scheme, ‘The Way the Truth and the Life’ but also adapts it and adds to it where appropriate so as to better match it to the needs and capabilities of pupils. The school’s RE Leader has written several published books for use with children and is regularly involved in the development of strategies and policies for the delivery of RE with the Wakefield Partnership and has worked closely with the Diocese and CAFOD. She is extremely effective and is greatly appreciated by the rest of the staff.

- The curriculum is further enhanced by the very successful associations developed with a wide variety of community agencies and local schools. Staff training and the sharing of good practice with other schools, largely through the Wakefield Partnership has been a particularly successful initiative over the years, resulting in a highly knowledgeable and expert staff.
- A significant reason for the high quality of teaching and learning across the school is the quality and professionalism of the support staff, the majority of whom are practising Catholics. Their quiet, calm and skilled contributions to lessons and the patient, focussed encouragement they provide for children who need it is exemplary. It is a key reason why children do so well.
- Resource provision at English Martyrs has been a priority for the school over a number of years. Spending is comparable to that undertaken in Maths and English. Displays on corridors and in classrooms are of a high quality and in abundance. The Year of Faith is clearly celebrated as an on-going event.
- The marking and feedback evident in children's RE books is consistently of a high standard. In the best examples, teachers' comments and suggestions for improvement are supplemented with comments from children acknowledging the advice. As children move through KS2, they become acutely aware of the levels of attainment they are demonstrating and the improvements they need to make.
- Increasingly accurate tracking and evaluation of attainment data is enabling more detailed and more flexible interrogation of children's progress. The school should continue to embed the use of a data management program which will enable teachers to identify individuals and groups that are not achieving their potential more easily.
- Assemblies are sometimes attended by parents and include the awarding of certificates for a wide variety of achievements, from politeness and listening skills to good effort and care for others.
- There is an annual 3 day Retreat Experience at Myddelton Grange Pastoral Centre in Ilkley for children in Y6. This is in addition to the residential trip to an outdoor adventure centre in Y4.
- There are a number of extra-curricular activities available to children. These take place both during and after the school day.
- Collective Worship plays a central part in the daily life of the school. Children learn how to plan, deliver, participate and enjoy worship, whether in the form of Mass, assemblies or simple prayer time opportunities. During the inspection, children in Reception developed a spiritual literacy by exploring what they might find in the special silver 'Wonder Box' they opened in Circle Time. Children in Y4 passed round a 'Holding Cross' and shared their personal prayers for the day ahead. In Y5 they wrote their own Bidding Prayers for the Class Mass and in Y6 two girls volunteered to plan and lead the worship for that morning.
- Children know how to acknowledge the Word of God, make the Sign of the Cross and say prayers reverently and thoughtfully.

## The Leadership and Management are Outstanding (1)

<b>How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.</b>	<b>1</b>
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- English Martyrs Catholic Primary School completely lives up to its very ambitious mission: 'Walking with Jesus – God's love in action'.
- Leaders and managers, supported and encouraged by the headteacher are deeply committed to the Catholic ethos of the school and the responsibilities and joys that brings.
- Staff members regularly pray together and efforts are made to ensure their spiritual and faith life is full. Training days dedicated to RE and Faith Life well-being are organised every year in cooperation with the Wakefield Partnership.
- The creation of a Year of Faith Prayer Book, the Celebration Evenings, the Easter Carousel, the planting of bulbs to remember dead community members, the work of the Young CAFOD group, the beautiful artwork on the corridors and in the hall, the welcoming and secure main entrance, the distribution of Walking Cribs and Lent Prayer Bags, the 'Grand Day out' and the frequent saying of Mass in school and in the Church are only a small proportion of the extensive evidence highlighted during the inspection which supports the RE Leader's assertion that, "The Catholic Life of this school is the life of the school."
- The pastoral and emotional support given to pupils and their parents by the Catholic Care Worker is very highly valued by them. This provision, funded by the school for 2 days a week (two half days and one full day) is seen as vital by the headteacher in the work of enabling children to come to lessons ready to learn and to grow as confident children of God.
- The school is blessed with a very supportive Parish Priest who proactively works with the school leadership to plan and deliver good quality worship and celebration. He meets regularly with senior staff. He is much loved and respected by the parents and children, who say they value his contribution to the life of the school. During the inspection he said Mass for Y5 in their classroom. This was enhanced by the way in which the Parish Priest explained the parts of the Mass, helped children understand 'difficult' words and told them about the vestments he was wearing.
- Links with the Parish of St Martin de Porres are very good. This is helped enormously by the physical closeness of the Church to the school.
- The governors and headteacher, supported by the caretaker and cleaners have ensured that the physical environment of the school is extremely comfortable, clean and safe.
- The parents who spoke to the inspector were very positive about the school. They are especially appreciative of the headteacher and the work she has done since taking on the role. They report that the school is welcoming, calm, quiet and positive. They believe their children are safe and above all, cared for as individuals. One parent said



she would score the school, “1000 out of 10!” Parents also reported that any problems were sorted out amicably, correctly and quickly thanks largely to the approachability of the headteacher and her staff.

- The governors of the school have well established systems in place to identify strengths and areas for improvement. They know the school well and have built a solid foundation on which to continue to drive the school forward. All canonical and statutory responsibilities are fulfilled.