



Vicariate for Education

Diocese of Leeds

Diocesan Board for Inspection
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Canonical Review Visit to St Francis Catholic Primary School, Bradford. Wednesday 29th June, 2016

The visit was undertaken by Mrs. Diane Todd (Section 48 Inspector) as part of the Canonical Review process within the Diocese of Leeds. At the last Section 48 Inspection (14th/15th February 2013) the school was judged "Outstanding". The Review focused on the areas for improvement identified during the last Section 48 Inspection and on a number of priorities from the school's Canonical Return and SEF. The areas for improvement identified during the last Section 48 Inspection:

1. 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
2. Providing guidance for all pupils by using the 'next steps' to learning
3. Continue to monitor and evaluate the levels of attainment ensuring continuous pupil progress

Evidence

In carrying out the Review, the following evidence was considered:

- The previous Section 48 Inspection Report (February 2013).
- The school's most recent Section 48 SEF (November 2015)
- The School Development plan (2015-2016)
- Catholic Life and RE Action Plan (2015-2016)
- The school's Annual Canonical Return (October 2015)
- RE subject leader's Monitoring and Evaluation File(s)
- Foundation Key Stage RE baseline data
- The school's RE Pupil Tracking System
- Interviews with the Executive Headteacher, Head of School, RE subject leader, Parish Priest, foundation governor who is also RE governor, pupils, and staff.
- All classrooms and teaching areas were visited.
- Observations of RE lessons, including scrutiny of teachers' RE planning, in Early Years, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5.
- Observation of two Collective Worships (CW), in Early Years and Key Stage 1.
- The school's Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy and Programme of Study.
- Catholic Ethos of the school RE displays, both inside and outside the classrooms, Mission Statement, classroom RE focal areas, RE resources and pupil behaviour.
- Headteacher reports to the governing body.
- School Newsletters.



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- The school website.

Main Findings

St Francis Catholic Primary School Bradford benefits from the very effective leadership and spiritual commitment of the Executive Headteacher, Head of School, governors, RE subject leader and staff who confidently put Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre of all that they seek to achieve for pupils at the school. The good relationships evidenced between staff and pupils exemplify the school mission: "Together we are exploring our special gifts; Together we are growing towards God.". The extremely enthusiastic and committed parish priest summed the school up by saying it is a 'family of faith, a true partnership of parish, school and home'.

Since the last Section 48 inspection leaders and governors have successfully managed a period of transition at the school during which a new RE subject leader and several classroom teachers (including NQTs and RQTs) have been appointed. The substantive Headteacher has also taken on the role of Executive Headteacher over another Catholic school as well as St Francis. Both these schools work alongside a third in a 'triad' of schools that support and challenge one another.

Teaching and learning in RE is a strength of the school which meets the needs of all pupils, there is a well embedded programme for the monitoring and evaluation of pupils' learning and progress in RE led by the senior leaders. Regular coaching and mentoring opportunities for staff who are new to delivering *The Way, the Truth & the Life* RE programme is evident. The school strives to be outstanding in everything they do and RE plays a significant role in this.

The school's assessment system in RE is well embedded and data is regularly recorded and tracked. Pupils respond regularly to the embedded marking policy; this now needs to extend learning with even greater impact.

Pupils show high levels of respect and care for one another and behaviour in lessons and around the school is excellent. The RE council/mini-Vinnie's are able to eloquently say how they have benefited from their time at St Francis' and talk about RE and Worship with enthusiasm.

St Francis Catholic Primary school continues to benefit from its membership of the 'Catholic Schools Partnership of Bradford and Keighley'. Staff and pupils come together to share a rich variety of religious activities with their partner schools across each school year. The School Development Plan (SDP) gives priority to providing a clear vision for the RE, Worship and Catholic Life of the school.



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Based on the evidence collated and the evidence of progress provided, I judge the school is on track and making sufficient progress in the Catholic education of its pupils.

Recommendations

1. Build upon the improvements made in feedback and marking to ensure teachers' comments elicit a detailed response from pupils. This will then have greater impact on pupils' learning and next steps and improve opportunity for further assessment.

This Canonical Review Letter will now form part of the evidence for the school's next Section 48 Inspection.

To provide feedback on the Review visit and its process please email comments to chris.devanny@dioceseofleeds.org.uk copying to angela.cox@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

We would welcome your feedback in order to further improve the process.

I am copying this letter to Mrs Hazel Murgatroyd, Chair of Governors; The Reverend Timothy Swinglehurst, Chair of the Diocesan Board for Inspection; Mrs. Angela Cox, Diocesan Director for Education and Mr. Christopher Devanny, the Diocesan RE Co-ordinator.

On behalf of the Bishop, I wish to express my gratitude for the service you continue to give to Catholic education and wish everyone involved in the school community of St Francis Catholic Primary School Bradford, continued success in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Diane Todd

Mrs. Diane Todd

Diocesan Section 48 Inspector