

DRAFT

INSPECTION REPORT ON THE PROVISION OF DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION

School name: Holy Family Catholic Primary School
 Address: 59 Whitby Ave, Ingol, Preston, Lancs PR2 3YP
 Name of Headteacher: Mr Ray Sudlow
 Date of Inspection: 8th November 2007
 Name of Inspector: Mrs Frances Wygladala

Type of school: Catholic Primary
 Age range of pupils: 4 - 11
 Number on roll: 142
 Appropriate authority: The Governing Body
 Chair of Governors: Mr P Sweeney
 Religious Education Co-ordinator: Mr Ray Sudlow
 Date of previous inspection: November 2003

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the grades 1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3 = Satisfactory 4 = Inadequate
Overall effectiveness of the school	2	
Leadership and management of the Catholic life of the school	2	
The quality of Collective Worship	2	
Religious Education - Achievement and standards	3	
Religious Education - Quality of provision	2	
Religious Education - Pupils' needs and interest	2	
Religious Education – Curriculum leadership and management	2	
<i>The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements</i>		

Information about the school:

Holy Family is a Catholic primary school with 142 pupils currently on role of whom approximately 76% are Roman Catholic. The school mainly serves the parish of Holy Family in Ingol, near Preston. There is a high incidence of social and economic problems in the locality. Most pupils transfer at the end of year six to Our Lady's Catholic High School, Preston.

Overall Effectiveness of the school

The overall effectiveness of the school is **good**.

The school's Mission Statement reflects the Church's mission to educate. It is owned by the staff and understood by the pupils. The school is a very welcoming community. Pupils relate well to each other, respect staff and are keen to participate in the spiritual and community life of the school. Inclusion of all pupils has a high priority and support for them and for their families is excellent. Teaching is effective and the religious education (RE) curriculum meets the needs and interests of individual pupils well. Pupils make good progress and are currently reaching satisfactory standards. The leadership has strong commitment to raising standards and to promoting the school's catholicity effectively. The quality of care and guidance for pupils is outstanding due to the collaborative work with parish clergy, staff and parents.

Improvement since the last inspection

The school has made **good** progress since the last inspection.

It has built a stronger partnership of support with the parish and the pastoral support for the pupils and their families from the staff and parish clergy has become a real strength.

Monitoring and evaluation of pupils' levels of attainment has been successfully achieved through lesson observations and regular in-house assessments of sampled work.

Capacity to improve

The school demonstrates a **good** capacity to improve further through the introduction of a new RE scheme, good leadership and the clear focus on raising standards through the commitment of all staff and governors.

What the school should do to improve further:

- Continue to assess and level work for every pupil and track individual progress.
- Continue to develop child led liturgies throughout key stage two and introduce into key stage one.
- Provide appropriate staff training during the implementation of the new RE scheme and evaluate its impact on standards.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Inspection confirms the leadership and management of the Catholic life of the school is **good**.

The school seeks to live out its mission through commitment to the needs of its families and to the wider community. The headteacher is committed to meeting the needs of the children and their families in his care with a strong focus on raising standards in RE and on promoting the personal development of pupils. Consistent and effective systems are in place to support the development of the Catholic life of the school by leaders at all levels. The governing body has a significant and positive influence on the school's Catholicity. Visits to the school by governors and their involvement in parish life and community also contribute to governors' awareness. Good links exist with parents, parish and the wider community to support the work of the school.

THE QUALITY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The quality of collective worship is confirmed to be **good**.

The contribution of collective worship to pupils' spiritual and moral development is significant. Pupils act with reverence and are eager to participate in a range of prayer activities and collective acts of worship. The school's provision is regularly reviewed and staff seek to improve it and ensure that it is appropriate to the age and faith experiences of pupils. Most acts of worship throughout the school are prepared and led by staff, and plans are in place to continue to develop child led liturgies throughout key stage two and to introduce into key stage one.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS

The inspection confirms the school's judgement that standards in RE are **satisfactory**.

Most pupils make good progress in RE from a low starting point and achieve a satisfactory standard, in line with other core subjects. Pupils make good progress and gain knowledge and understanding of RE with some ability to reflect on meaning. A new scheme to deliver the RE curriculum has been introduced recently and together with staff training will impact on standards and on staff confidence in delivering RE.

Informal evaluation to date shows standards have been raised with better quality work in pupils' books, improved recall of the Bible stories throughout the school and a detailed explanation of the Holy Trinity by a Year 2 pupil was further evidence on the day of the inspection. Pupils show an ability to forgive and to be forgiven and are quick to congratulate others. Pupils show interest in the religious life of others, respond to opportunities to take responsibility around the school and co-operate to address the needs of others through fund raising. A recent example of fund raising is of the pupil council organising a talent show for Children In Need.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - QUALITY OF PROVISION

Inspection confirms the school's judgment of the quality of provision for RE as **good**.

Teaching is focused on raising standards and on promoting the personal development of pupils. There is a common sense of purpose among staff. Consistent and effective practices are in place for assessing work with the new scheme. Assessments are used to focus on how well all pupils are achieving and to plan for the next steps in learning. The profile of RE has been raised throughout the school with teachers and children enjoying the new scheme. Staff plan effectively for mixed age teaching and ensure equality of opportunity when a year group is split. Individual needs are well catered for and teaching assistants make a significant contribution. In the foundation stage, child-initiated experiences and direct teaching are balanced well. Teachers timetable RE within the guidelines of the Bishops' Conference. Care and guidance for pupils and families with support from staff and parish clergy is unbelievable, with particular recognition given to a parish sister who supports the school. Her concern and dedication for the children, their families and for the local community is outstanding.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - PUPILS' NEEDS AND INTEREST

The school's judgement of how it meets the needs and interests of the pupils is confirmed by the inspection to be **good**.

Pupils enjoy RE and this is demonstrated by their positive attitudes. They take pride in their work, involve themselves well in lessons and are eager to participate in the school's activities. Some effective written comments from teachers challenge pupils to deepen their understanding of a topic. Pupils report they enjoy using computers in RE to present work for example year 6 produced and displayed invitations and year 5 pupils carried out some research into the saints. Pupils are given opportunities to debate and to question in RE and they particularly enjoy the use of role play to 'bring lessons to life'.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – CURRICULUM LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Leadership and management of curriculum RE are confirmed to be **good**.

The subject leader has a clear sense of direction and understands how to bring about improvement, as outlined in the RE action plan. The subject is organised effectively and managed efficiently with lesson observations and evaluations supporting self evaluation. All staff are clear about the purpose of RE and have access to guidance and support, with more than half of the teaching staff holding the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies qualification (CCRS) accredited by the Diocese. Pupils achieve well and there has been an improvement in standards since the recent introduction of a new RE scheme. The subject leader informs governors of developments in RE through reports to the curriculum sub group. Parents are kept informed about the content of RE on a termly basis through 'Curriculum Contact' newsletters where suggestions for home activities are given. Recognition is given to the importance of RE by ensuring that it is the first subject reported on in the yearly report to parents in the summer term.