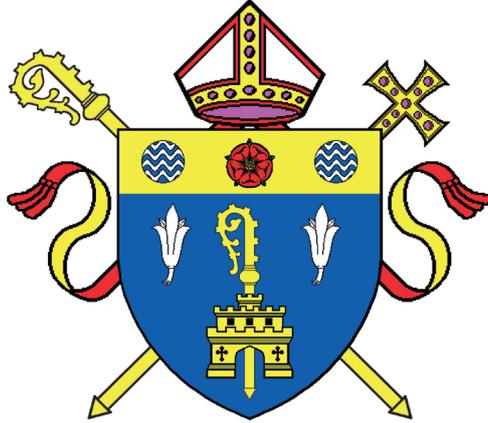


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DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

**St. Kentigern's Catholic Primary School
Blackpool**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

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

School:

St. Kentigern's Catholic Primary School

Address:

Newton Drive
Blackpool
FY3 8BT

Telephone Number:

01253 393302

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School URN:

119599

Head teacher:

Mrs Frances Wygladala

Chair of Governors:

Mrs Maura Leyland

Lead Inspector:

Mrs Adrienne Delaney

Team Inspector:

Mrs Rachel Ballard

Date of Inspection:

2nd November 2021

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St. Kentigern's Catholic school is smaller than the average Catholic Primary School situated in the parish of St. Kentigern within the Diocese of Lancaster, in the heart of Blackpool town.

Its Edwardian building has been creatively adapted and extended to house the pupils and staff. It is the most diverse school in the area, attracting pupils from many cultural backgrounds. It is an area of very high deprivation and the uptake of free school meals is higher than the national average. 16% of pupils are on the SEN register.

PUPILS	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	30	30	30	29	31	30	30	210
Catholics on roll	16	20	15	24	28	23	25	151
Other Christian denomination	5	6	5	3	5	1	1	23
Other faith background	0	1	0	0	1			1
No religious affiliation	9	13	11	9	17	15	14	88
No of learners from ethnic groups	9	13	11	9	17	15	14	88
Total on SEN Register	9	2	5	9	3	3	2	33
Total with EHCPs	0	2	0	1	1	2	1	7

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	4
Index of multiple deprivation	39 (IMD) 2019			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St. Kentigern	151

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2 hours	2 hours	2.5 hours	16				
% 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	25%	25%	25%	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	35
% of teaching time	25%	25%	25%	20%	20%	20%	20%	

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	9
Part-time teachers	3
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	10.8
Classroom Support assistants	13
Number of Catholic teachers FTE	6
Number of teachers teaching RE	8
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	6
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	3
Chaplaincy staffing	0
Teachers with CTC	0

ORGANISATION	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS	30
Average class size KS	30

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2020/21	Current financial year 2021/22	Next financial year 2022/23
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	£60,870	£65,000	TBC
RE Curriculum allowance from above	£5,600	£2,000	TBC
English Curriculum allowance from above	£5,500	£5,000	TBC
Total CPD budget	£3,500	£5,000	TBC
RE allocation for CPD	£2,177	£2,651	TBC

How the school has developed since the last inspection
<p>The majority of aspects for improvement since the last inspection have been addressed and have had a sustained and positive impact on raising standards. A well-embedded baseline assessment and detailed tracking system across the school are in place. Governors are informed and monitor attainment and progress in curriculum RE. Improvements are consistently identified and acted upon through regular monitoring and assessment. These actions have been sustained well during the lockdowns due to the pandemic.</p> <p>The school has an outstanding capacity to sustain this continuous improvement. The dedication of the governors, together with the commitment of the leadership team and all staff, demonstrate the capacity to facilitate this. Inspection has shown that self-evaluation is accurate, and issues arising from in-house and cluster moderation meetings have identified new areas for development in curriculum RE and its assessment.</p>

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

CATHOLIC LIFE

1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

KEY FINDINGS

St Kentigern's is an outstanding Catholic school which places Christ at the centre of all that it does. It is a very welcoming environment where inclusion is its central goal and shared vision. The school's motto 'Treat others as you would like to be treated' is lived out daily. Pupils enjoy attending their school and articulate positive attitudes to learning. One pupil interviewed described St. Kentigern's as a place that helps pupils 'to be our best selves---because God is always with us'. Pupils deepen their knowledge of their faith throughout their time in school and are gaining a firm understanding of Catholic practice. Governors play a significant part in leading the strategic direction of the school in the community that it serves. They are zealous in seeing that there are strong parish links and that a broad and balanced RE curriculum is being accessed by pupils. The headteacher, senior leadership team and RE subject leader have ensured that recommendations since the last inspection have been addressed. All leaders and staff place great emphasis on raising standards and putting the Catholic life of the school in the forefront of their plans for St Kentigern's. This dedication is a strength of the school.

The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding and the commitment from the head, the governors, staff, priests and parish laity to support pupils in their prayer life which helps them to grow in faith, has remained a priority during the pandemic. Staff give good example, support each other, are proud of their school and work very well together. The parish clergy are regular and welcome visitors to the school, actively fulfilling their role, both pastorally and canonically. The priests and parish laity have worked closely with the school leaders to ensure that the children can participate in the Mass and liturgies during times of lockdown. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is very strong and has an impact on everyday life at St Kentigern's. This is evident through pupils' responses to each other and in their understanding of the notion of the common good. The pupils voluntarily become involved in various activities, supporting their own and the wider community. They have raised funds for local homeless people, CAFOD and Aid to the Church in Need. The active school council responds to children's requests to support other local charities. This contributes to pupils' social, emotional and moral development. Parents appreciate the school and they welcome opportunities to participate in

school life. Gospel values extend throughout school life and pupils are helped to grow in their spirituality, make the most of their abilities and nurture and value their faith.

Many opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy are provided and there are plans to extend practices. Pupils act with reverence and join in prayers confidently. Prayer and Liturgies observed in Key Stage 2 demonstrate that children prepare and plan these with thought and care. They make full use of resources available to them and appreciate the opportunities offered.

The quality of curriculum RE is excellent and pupils are provided with a range of learning opportunities in order to deepen their faith, to understand Catholic traditions and practices, and to make progress in their learning. Pupils enjoy RE lessons and the curriculum provided is very good. There are clear action plans in place in order to continue to raise attainment and progress. The monitoring and assessment of the strands in curriculum delivery has an impact on evaluation of the provision of curriculum RE. The subject leader and headteacher have a clear vision for RE and, together with staff, have devised a scheme of work that draws on good subject knowledge and quality resources.

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

HRSE recommendations are being acted upon and policies are in place. Elements of the HRSE are incorporated into the curriculum and good quality resources are aiding delivery.

The school's capacity to maintain standards is outstanding.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

To improve further the school needs to

Improve outcomes for pupils by:

- Ensuring that the reflection and contemplation area of attainment in RE is fully developed and accessed across the key stages.
- Building in time for pupils to record their reflections in learning in order that they can evidence their understanding of RE.
- Developing more greater depth tasks in teaching and learning in RE.

Celebrate successes by:

- The gradual re-introduction of practices that extend learning and enjoyment of RE and the Catholic Life of the school.
- Continuing to improve the quality of written work in RE that has been lost during the suspension of normal school life during the pandemic.

PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- 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
1

Inspection confirms the judgement made by the school that pupils make an outstanding contribution to the Catholic life of the school and benefit from it.

Governors, leaders, teachers and support staff at St Kentigern's are committed to supporting the Catholic ethos of the school and its mission, and this practice is well embedded in the life of the school.

The pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Life of the school is enhanced by sharing and contributing to many aspects of school life. Pupils know that they belong to St Kentigern's parish family and are proud to be part of the school and parish. For example, a pupil interviewed said 'Everyone of us are God's children. At St Kentigern's we learn to be like Jesus' On the day of inspection Year 2 children were observed leading prayer and liturgy. They were prayerful, showed reverence and demonstrated understanding and maturity when talking about the readings. From the Foundation Stage onwards pupils are beginning to exhibit their ability to share their own faith through whole class Prayer and Liturgy. This was observed when children prayed quietly and sang a song of praise spontaneously. As they progress through the key stages they are able to talk about such concepts as forgiveness. A Year1 child was prompted to say that we should 'always forgive' after a scriptural reading, during a period of prayer.

Pupils understand that their Catholic Faith is different from other faiths and that they share this distinctiveness with other Catholics. Pupils in Year 6 expressed this depth of understanding during a lesson observed on the day of inspection. They share activities and Masses regularly with schools in the Catholic cluster online and will continue the practice in person together once the present pandemic become under control. Activities that have enabled their understanding of the needs of the wider community and the common good are the celebration of Mass with the parish, fundraising with the parish and collecting money for the homeless, CAFOD and other charities. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils spoken to on the day of inspection could readily and enthusiastically discuss the reasons for fundraising. One Year 6 pupil said "God gave us everything. We should donate to people who have nothing' This articulation of belief encourages best behaviour and focused learning. Catholic principles and values are at the core of behaviour and relationship policies resulting in a strong and shared vision for

the Catholic Life in St Kentigern's.

The parish priests, parishioners, governors, school leaders, teachers and support staff, are fully committed to fulfilling their role in ensuring that provision remains outstanding for the Catholic Life of the school. They have high expectations and are working together to implement the Catholic outlook of education. The head teacher provides clarity of direction for the Catholic Life of the school and the spiritual and moral development of pupils.

The governors, leaders and managers are fully committed to partnerships with the diocesan family of parishes and schools. The school has good links with the primary and secondary schools in the local Catholic cluster. They endeavour to reach out to parents and carers in a variety of ways, keeping in close touch with them. The streaming of Masses and liturgies on line have enabled the Catholic Life of the school to have high priority.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. St Kentigern's is a warm and inclusive community with a very strong Catholic ethos, where everyone is respected and appreciated and pupils and staff flourish.

Staff and governors work hard to develop and enhance the school for the benefit of everyone at St. Kentigern's.

PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- 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
1

Inspection confirms the school's judgement that the extent to which pupils enjoy and achieve in Religious Education is outstanding.

The majority of pupils at St Kentigern's enjoy RE, are religiously literate and fully engaged in their learning. They are able to remain on task when entering into discussions and when working independently. Through active participation in prayer and liturgies, together with access to an excellent curriculum, pupils show a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith. Senior Leadership Team now need to develop further opportunities for pupils to demonstrate their working at greater depth. Children understand that Christ is at the centre of all school life and are aware of the demands of religious commitment.

Pupils make rapid progress in RE from a very low baseline when they join St Kentigern's in Foundation Stage. They develop and apply a range of skills throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 including self-determination and imagination. These are built upon in Key Stage 2 where pupils reflect upon their own scriptural knowledge of, for example, the importance of caring for our world. During the inspection a child said 'God gave us a good world. He gave us the job to keep the world as he made it'. This knowledge enables them to forgive, love and respect and to reflect on the notion of justice and the common good.

Tracking demonstrates that pupils' attainment is very good. Written tasks have lost some of their momentum during lockdowns but steps have been taken to ensure that standards continue to improve since full return to school. The headteacher and RE leader use a very comprehensive form of tracking that identifies targets for future improvement. This analysis shows that all groups make good progress.

Pupil attainment and progress is good and in line with standards in other core subjects. Pupils have a great respect for one another and can discuss their faith and that of others. An excellent quality of teaching and learning was observed on the day of inspection. Pupils enjoy their learning because teachers make their lessons relevant and interesting. Support staff are deployed effectively to assist learning in RE.

Pupils' progress in RE in most of the attainment targets is excellent and analysis of

results has identified the need for more opportunities to understand the journeying in reflection and contemplation strand. Parents are happy with the school and children's progress is shared with parents in regular reports, alongside other core subjects. The use of home learning and the Dojo app has increased parental interest and participation in RE, for example, virtual Masses, liturgies and learning platforms. Newsletters and the Wednesday Word are sent home on line and the website is regularly updated to inform parents of curriculum RE and Catholic Life.

Inspection found that leadership and management in RE is outstanding and that the pandemic has not diminished the vision nor the teaching in RE. The staff have been united in ensuring that teaching and learning in RE is a priority. Their determination to work with the priest and parish to facilitate Catholic life and curriculum RE is commendable. This fellowship leads to the very best outcomes for pupils at St Kentigern's. The headteacher and RE leader have an accurate view of the quality of teaching and learning through careful monitoring and evaluation in school. They are aware of improvements needed and, supported by governors, SLT and staff, are systematically moving ahead with the re-introduction of aspects of curriculum enrichment that had been suspended during the lockdowns.

Curriculum RE is at the forefront of teaching. Teachers' subject knowledge is outstanding and it is enhanced with INSET days and opportunities for CPD in RE. Marking in RE books needs to be consistent in giving opportunities for pupils to reply and reflect on their learning in RE. Greater depth tasks should now be further developed in order to enable the pupils to demonstrate higher level understanding.

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' and HRSE directives. The headteacher and RE leader together with staff have developed a programme of work unique to their school that incorporates relevant and varied teaching materials, for example, *Come and See*, *The Way the Truth and the Life* CAFOD materials and other schemes. This helps to ensure progression of tasks and good outcomes for pupils.

Teaching in RE is excellent and inspection found provision to be of a high standard.

The quality of displays around the school very good and reflects the pupils' learning. Prayer stations and areas for prayer cannot be accessed for the foreseeable future but prayer areas in class are of a good standard. Resources are well used and pupils were observed using them. On the day of inspection pupils were seen playing with a wooden church. Some could name the cross and the altar One put a figure in front of the closed door and shouted 'Let us in, Fr. Stephen!'

The headteacher, her deputy, who is the RE leader, governors, teachers and support staff have sought opportunities to reflect on the teaching of RE and the Catholic Life of the school.

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