



DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

**St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary
School**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

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

School:	St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Victoria Road Carlisle CA1 2UE
Telephone Number:	01228 818201
Email Address:	secretary@st-cuthberts-carlisle.cumbria.uk
School URN:	112370
Headteacher:	Mr Chris Wilkins
Chair of Governors:	Mrs Joan Hadley
Lead Inspector:	Mrs Rachel Ballard
Team Inspector:	Mrs Frances Wygladala
Date of Inspection:	17th June 2019

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School serves the Parish of Our Lady of Eden in the Diocese of Lancaster. The school became part of the St Ninian Catholic Federation in 2016. It is a smaller than the average-sized primary school with 101 pupils currently on roll: of whom approximately 39% are baptised Roman Catholic. Pupils are taught in single age and mixed age classes from Reception to Year 6. Pupil's attainment in RE on entry to Reception is significantly below the national average. St Cuthbert's is currently below its admission number of 30 but steadily increasing. It is in an area of high deprivation, a higher than average number of pupils with English as an additional language and almost half of the school in receipt of pupil premium.

PUPILS	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	14	10	16	22	17	11	11	101
Catholics on roll	8	4	7	5	6	5	4	39
Other Christian denomination	4	3	3	10	6	4	6	36
Other faith background	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
No religious affiliation	1	2	5	7	5	2	1	23
No of learners from ethnic groups	7	4	7	7	5	5	4	39
Total on SEN Register	6	4	10	8	3	2	3	35
Total with Statements of SEN	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	4

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation				

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Our Lady of Eden	92
St Augustine's	2
Sacred Heart	2
St Bede's	5

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	REC	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	17.5
% 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)	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	43.75
% of teaching time	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24

TEACHING TIME FOR MATHS	REC	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	35
% of teaching time	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	4
Part-time teachers	4
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	6.6
Classroom Support assistants	6
Percentage of Catholic teachers FTE	38%
Number of teachers teaching RE	5
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	2
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	1
Chaplaincy staffing	0

ORGANISATION	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	5
Average class size KS	20
Average class size KS	20

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2017/18	Current financial year 2018/19	Next financial year 2019/20
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	5000	6750	8250
RE Curriculum allowance from above	1500	1850	2200
English Curriculum allowance from above	650	800	1000
Total CPD budget	2000	1600	2250
RE allocation for CPD	700	900	800

How the school has developed since the last inspection
<p>Since the last inspection, the school has successfully addressed all priorities for improvement by ensuring that staff members, including teaching assistants are better equipped to deliver quality Religious Education lessons through continuous professional development. This has impacted on the quality of Religious Education teaching and consequently has raised standards of attainment across the school.</p> <p>The school's feedback policy ensures that pupils are able to reflect upon and extend their learning further.</p>

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

2

CATHOLIC LIFE

1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2

KEY FINDINGS

The dedication of the Executive Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher to ensure that the Catholic Life and the Religious Education of St Cuthbert's is at the heart of their work is commendable, despite the demands of raising standards in all other aspects of school life. They have worked hard to ensure that staff have the confidence and knowledge to ensure that pupils develop in their faith life as well as the ability to demonstrate their learning and progress within Religious Education. Staff have responded well to this further development and this has had a direct impact on the pupils and standards have risen in the Catholic Life of St Cuthbert's and the attainment of its pupils in Religious Education.

From the moment visitors enter the school, they are aware of its Catholic identity through displays where scripture, prayers and religious artwork for the Year of the Eucharist are displayed. Work displayed around the school is a celebration of the learning experiences and achievements of the pupils, as well as providing evidence of their learning in and enjoyment of curriculum RE. For example, there is much evidence on display of pilgrimages to Carfin Grotto and a recent residential trip to Holy Island.

Pupil behaviour and attitudes to learning are good. Pupils enjoy coming to school and are very proud to be part of this Catholic school. The staff have worked hard to engage parents' support with this and during inspection a number of parents were available to speak with inspectors. They were extremely positive about how well their children were learning in RE and able to share experiences of faith development with them at home. One parent said that it had strengthened them as a family.

The Executive Head teacher ensures that there is a clear, shared vision for this fully inclusive school, which is understood by all. Staff, governors and pupils speak of a strong sense of belonging to this Catholic community. One member of staff stated, "The Senior Leadership Team notices your hard work and they are open, warm and welcoming." The Parish Priest stated that the Senior staff present themselves as faith filled in all they do for the school and its community.

Outcomes for pupils are good and improving in curriculum RE, with girls slightly outperforming boys. From low starting points all pupils make good progress throughout KS1 and attainment is improving from Year 3 to Year 6. Pupils speak confidently about their RE lessons and can reflect on their learning.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

To improve further the school needs to:

- Develop opportunities for pupils to respond to the needs of others by:
 - Introducing prayer groups and or prayer leaders
 - Greater amount of pupil led fundraising and charitable activities
- Improve learning about world faiths by:
 - Bringing the curriculum for world faiths in line with diocesan guidelines.
- Building capacity for developing future RE leaders by:
 - Continuing the links with Cumbria University and the St Ninian Federation.
 - Identifying potential for leading RE in the future in Newly Qualified Catholic Teachers and preparing them for this role.
- Continue the work on developing the RE curriculum so that it is bespoke to the needs of the school and reflects the improved teacher subject knowledge.

CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENT

2

All priorities for improvement since the last inspection have been successfully addressed. The Executive Head teacher, senior staff and governors demonstrate total commitment to the ethos and mission of Catholic education where continuous improvement in every aspect of school life is a priority. The school's capacity for sustained improvement in all areas is good because leaders and managers share the same vision for the school to continue building on the success of recent school improvement. The challenge for leaders and governors is to ensure that this continues with the changes in senior leadership.

PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

1

- 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

Inspection confirms the school's judgement that pupils make an outstanding contribution to the Catholic Life of the school.

Pupils regularly lead and take responsibility for shaping activities with a religious character. Pupils show a good understanding of the liturgical year and understand the importance of key celebrations throughout the liturgical year. For example; the pupils spoke enthusiastically about the recent Pentecost party where they all dressed in red in celebration of the Church's birthday.

During inspection, pupils in Foundation Stage and Key Stage One planned and led a collective act of worship in class. This was structured in a way that is supportive to the youngest pupils and gave an opportunity for the Year 2 pupil to lead everyone in prayer. The youngest pupils seeing this as a model of how to lead prayer and liturgy. They chose scripture, a prayer and led a reflection, which enabled their peers to demonstrate their ability to spend time, whilst remaining still, thinking about the words from scripture. In all three key stages during inspection, pupils showed great reverence and respect during times of prayer and reflection.

Display work around school offers visitors the opportunity to see pupils' thoughts and feelings about love and forgiveness. One pupil wrote on their washing line 'I love you Jesus and I want to be like you.' Another wrote 'I didn't listen to my mum, please forgive me.' On a prayer and liturgy area a pupil had written in prayer hands 'I pray to God to care for everyone.'

The leadership and management of St Cuthbert's Catholic Life are outstanding, and inspection confirms this.

A growing and strengthened relationship between the school and the parish is having a positive impact on the Catholic Life of the school and the staff, pupils and governors enthuse about joint activities and Masses. The Polish community regularly use the school for their cultural development. The Parish Priest is welcome, and a regular visitor to the school, sharing the concept of vocation and his role in the local community. The children told inspectors they have had a recent opportunity to look at a Monstrance as part of their learning about the Eucharist with the chaplain. The children were able to describe it and explain what it was used for.

Governors and leaders ensure the Catholic mission of the school is at the heart of

all school life. The high expectations and the comprehensive support programme of continuous professional development has ensured that teaching staff are confident in leading prayer and liturgy as well as supporting pupils in leading their own prayer and liturgy. During inspection a Key Stage Two staff led liturgy was observed on the feast of Corpus Christi, the pupils showed great respect and knowledge, answering questions with enthusiasm following the proclamation of the gospel and singing with great voices. The liturgical seasons and feasts are focal points in the school's life and pupils were preparing for forthcoming Mass and Eucharistic procession, joining with pupils from other local schools in the deanery. School prayers have been reviewed and all classes have learned new prayers, a mix of traditional and bespoke. Pupils in Key Stage Two pray the Angelus daily at noon. All classes have prayer tables with artefacts and prayer books, pupils talked about their understanding of prayer intentions and requests and the power of prayer.

Gospel values underpin all the work of leaders and the governing body in evaluating the work of the school and in ensuring the best possible outcomes for pupils. For example, they offer support to staff preparing liturgies both in school and in collaboration with the other Catholic schools in the local area. Information seen during the inspection demonstrates that they are committed to ensuring pupils' experience a range of religious activities such as Benediction, pilgrimages to Holy island, Carfin Grotto as well as a trip to Brinkburn Priory and Ampleforth Abbey.

The Executive Headteacher and Deputy Head teacher lead by example and inspire the staff and pupils, by making their beliefs and values known to all in school, through every personal interaction. Working with the governors, they ensure an authentic, vibrant experience of belonging to a faith community for pupils and staff.

Inspection confirms the school's judgement that the quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.

Staff are extremely supportive of the Catholic faith and this is recognised by pupils, who use their example to learn about and reflect upon their own faith with enthusiasm and confidence. For example, one member of staff spoke passionately about how music and art have had a positive impact on the pupils' ability to sing hymns with joy and reflect on the meaning of the words during hymn practises. They have studied the work of artist Elizabeth Wang and this has helped to develop their religious literacy.

The pupils told inspectors that they had been involved with fundraising activities such as cake sales and 5p challenge to raise money for school. However, they were uncertain about what types of fundraising they have done for those in need and why this was important. The school council is certain to be a starting point for charitable activities if they are guided to respond to those in need.

Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school and feel that Catholic Christian values influence every part of school life, as evidenced in discussions with

parents and the parental questionnaires.

PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2

- 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

2

2

2

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

Pupils enjoy RE and have positive attitudes towards their learning. During inspection the behaviour and attitudes to learning shown by the pupils in their RE lessons was very good. Pupils are enthusiastic and are able to remain on task when working independently. During inspection pupils spoke of their enjoyment of learning about the Catholic faith and the opportunities they have had to learn about Religious Education in a variety of different activities. The chaplain stated that 'RE at St Cuthbert's is seen as a way of life, not a topic'.

During inspection, pupils in the Early Years were able to retell the creation story and showed their awareness for other stories in the Bible. The lesson observed was fully interactive and pupils with a range of abilities and language were well supported by staff. Staff have been developing 'Bible phonics' to integrate phonics into RE and pupils are responding very well. They stated that they enjoyed RE and liked 'learning about God and Jesus'. Pupils in Reception Class make excellent progress in RE throughout the year from very low starting points on entry to school.

In lower key stage two, pupils were learning about the feast of Corpus Christi. They could talk with confidence about the last supper and the significance of the priest using the words of Jesus in Mass at the consecration. The concept of transubstantiation was explained in great detail and pupils showed a good knowledge of religious terms, symbols and artefacts.

Pupils in upper key stage two were able to demonstrate their growing vocabulary relating to the Eucharist. They started with an Elizabeth Wang picture and discussed the words the picture evoked. Pupils responded maturely with words relating to the Eucharist such as 'offering' and 'sacrifice.' The teacher was skilled at drawing out the pupils' knowledge and ensuring that they knew the meaning of the religious vocabulary. The pace of the lesson was good, and the work produced demonstrated the pupils' good progress in the lesson.

Inspection confirms the school's judgement that leaders' and managers' monitoring and evaluating the provision for Religious Education is good.

The school's baseline data shows that most children enter school with little or no knowledge of the Catholic faith. Good teaching in the early years means that, by the end of the reception year, a good proportion of pupils are working within the expected level of attainment. The majority of pupils make good progress from key stage one to key stage two, with increasing numbers of pupils at the expected age related standard by the end of each year group. As a result, standards of attainment at the end of key stage two are improving.

Across the whole school all pupils, with some slight variation between girls and boys, Catholics and those other than Catholic and pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), make good progress through all three key stages.

Monitoring and evaluation procedures of RE are good and based on giving staff regular feedback. Leaders have successfully ensured that effective monitoring, assessment and tracking systems are in place and are having a positive impact on pupils' learning, progress and standards. They accurately inform areas of both strength and development. Leaders and managers, including governors, use the school's tracking system to monitor the progress of individuals as well as of different groups of pupils, and effectively challenge any underperformance.

The Deputy Head teacher, who is also the RE subject leader, provides strong support for staff in the delivery, resourcing and assessment of curriculum RE. Staff value the support they are given and say it gives them confidence in their teaching of RE. The RE subject leader maintains a portfolio of assessed pieces of work which have been moderated across the St Ninian Federation and agreed by Diocesan colleagues. Circumstances at present prevent leaders and managers building capacity for future RE leadership and it is their intention to address this over the next few years.

Inspection confirms the school's judgement that the quality of provision in Religious Education is good.

Teachers' planning for RE is based on the 'Come and See' RE Scheme of work as well as the Religious Education Curriculum Directory. Teachers are ensuring that there is coverage of HRSE (Human Relationships and Sex Education) and have adapted plans to build in activities for the Year of the Eucharist and the Bishop's 'call to be holy'. Evidence of learning about world faiths was seen during the inspection, however, this needs bringing in line with diocesan guidelines. Growing confidence in teaching RE has ensured that they are now ready to build on this and work together to adapt the curriculum more so that it is bespoke to the needs of the school and reflects the confidence the staff now have in curriculum RE teaching.

The school deploys support staff very effectively to assist pupils with additional needs and they make a significant contribution to the learning and progress of these pupils. This assistance includes individual and group support largely within

classes.

Feedback in RE across the whole school is effective and ensures that pupils know how well they have done as well as what they need to do to improve further. Pupils are given a 'green pen question' from the teacher and they are given time to respond to this to demonstrate their understanding and deeper knowledge. Evidence from books demonstrates that this is consistent across all year groups.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Overall Effectiveness	2
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	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision in Religious Education. 	2

	Pupil Outcomes	Leadership & Management	Provision	Overall
Catholic Life	1	1	1	1
Religious Education	2	2	2	2