



DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

**St Margaret Mary
Catholic Primary School, Carlisle**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

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

School:

St Margaret Mary Catholic Primary School

Address:

**Kirklands Road,
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA2 4JD**

Telephone Number:

01228 401800

Email Address:

admin@stmmary.cumbria.sch.uk

School URN:

112371

Headteacher:

Mr Chris Wilkins

Chair of Governors:

Mrs Joan Hadley

Lead Inspector:

Mrs Frances Wygladala

Team Inspector:

Mrs Rachel Ballard

Date of Inspection:

26th June 2019

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St Margaret Mary is a Catholic Voluntary Aided primary school in the Diocese of Lancaster, it is part of the St Ninian Catholic Federation together with neighbouring St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School. The school serves the parish of The Sacred Heart in Carlisle. It is a smaller than average sized primary school with 210 pupils currently on role of whom approximately 50% are baptised Roman Catholic and a further 32 pupils in Nursery. Pupils' attainment on entry to school is below the national average. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds and 14% are from minority ethnic groups. The proportion of pupils supported for SEN is above the national average and the school has a much higher proportion of vulnerable and disadvantaged families to support. Most pupils transfer at the end of year six to Newman Catholic School in Carlisle.

PUPILS	YN	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	32	30	30	29	31	30	28	32	242
Catholics on roll	15	9	13	15	18	18	14	19	121
Other Christian denomination	5	9	3	4	2	6	8	7	44
Other faith background	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
No religious affiliation	13	12	12	10	7	6	6	6	72
No of learners from ethnic groups	3	3	5	9	4	3	3	2	32
Total on SEN Register	1	6	4	2	3	5	2	5	29
Total with Statements of SEN (EHCP)	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	5

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	0.29			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
The Sacred Heart, Carlisle	223

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	YR	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	YR	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	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	35
% of teaching time	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	6
Part-time teachers	6
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	9.6
Classroom Support assistants	16
Percentage of Catholic teachers FTE	67%
Number of teachers teaching RE	10
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	6
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	1
Chaplaincy staffing	0

ORGANISATION	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	30
Average class size KS2	30

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2015-16	Current financial year 2016-17	Next financial year 2017-18
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	859,687	926,346	971,800
RE Curriculum allowance from above	4,000	4,000	4,000
English Curriculum allowance from above	1,600	1,750	1,950
Total CPD budget	10,000	10,000	10,000
RE allocation for CPD	2,500	3,000	3,000

How the school has developed since the last inspection
<p>All issues for improvement since the last inspection have been successfully addressed.</p> <p>Staff have improved their skills in assessing pupils' work, they have been supported with planning for curriculum RE and now work on moderation exercises with St Cuthbert's, the partner school in St Ninian Catholic Federation.</p> <p>The sharing of best practice in RE has been a priority since the last inspection. It is now a strength of the school and has had an impact across the St Ninian Catholic Federation.</p>

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

CATHOLIC LIFE

1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

St Margaret Mary is an outstanding Catholic school, where rigorous and accurate self-evaluation leads to continuous improvement. Excellent leadership at all levels ensures a shared, ambitious vision which fosters the highest of expectations for all members of the school community. The school is very welcoming and inclusive; pupils enjoy coming to school and they have positive attitudes to learning.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. The commitment from Parish clergy, governors and staff to support pupils and families in their prayer life and growth in faith is a priority. Staff and governors set good examples, are very proud of their school and work well together. The school has met the changing needs of the wider community it serves and developed St Ninian's Catholic Federation with clear vision, mission and purpose. Staff are very proud of their school and federation and work well together. Improved relationships and communication between school and the parish are a strength and this needs to continue to develop with parents. The majority of teaching staff have gained the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

The prayer and liturgy opportunities offered are outstanding. Christ is at the centre of the school community and Gospel values permeate everything the school seeks to achieve. Pupils act with reverence and join in prayers confidently, they plan and lead prayer and worship from an early age. Relationships between pupils, teachers and support staff are excellent and effective; they contribute to pupils' obvious eagerness to learn. The learning environments are well resourced with religious artefacts. Displays around school are excellent and used well to enhance learning, for example every pupil contributed to the prayer tree in the hall.

The quality of Religious Education (RE) is outstanding; teaching is consistently good or better and systems for tracking, monitoring and evaluating the curriculum are robust and in line with other core curriculum subjects. The curriculum effectively provides pupils with a deep insight into the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the relationship between faith and life. Staff are well supported by senior leaders and the wealth of professional development opportunities is a great strength of the school and shared with others.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

To improve further the school needs to:

- Continue to develop learning about world religions by bringing the curriculum in line with diocesan guidelines.
- Develop communication with parents by: updating the website with up to date details of the Catholic Life of the School and Curriculum RE; sharing further opportunities to attend masses, liturgies and assemblies.
- Develop an outdoor prayer space that is readily accessible to pupils of all ages.

CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENT

All priorities since the last inspection have been successfully addressed. The outstanding leadership and commitment of staff and governors illustrates a capacity to improve further. The school's capacity for sustained improvement in all areas is outstanding because of accurate self-evaluation leading to clear, challenging targets and appropriate priorities.

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

The quality of the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. St Margaret Mary's is a welcoming, friendly and inclusive community with a strong family ethos where everyone is valued and where pupils and staff flourish. Governors, managers and staff have high expectations and a shared vision of the Catholic mission and ethos. There is a wholehearted expression of the relationship between faith and action. The Prayer and Liturgy of the Catholic Church are central to the life of the school, are of high quality and form a key part of every school celebration. The school and parish partnership has been developed since the last inspection and is a strength, especially with the outreach work, including the dementia café, coffee mornings, St Vincent DePaul Society and the Mission team. The recent Corpus Christi celebrations were a testament to this, involving the two schools in St Ninian's Federation and Newman High School. A Year 5 pupil stated on reflection 'When I saw the body of Christ, it made me feel thankful for the gift of the Eucharist and I also felt the presence of God.'

All staff members at St Margaret Mary are committed to supporting the Catholic ethos and this culture is intrinsically embedded through the life of the school. The school is a calm and prayerful community that provides a stimulating learning environment to reflect the school's mission and its Catholic character. Staff and governors work hard to develop and enhance the school for the benefit of everyone and respond effectively to the changing needs of the wider community. Pupils respond well to the many opportunities to pray. For example, during the month of May, many pupils attended the lunchtime rosary group. They take part in, lead and prepare prayer and liturgies with enthusiasm and confidence from an early age, well supported by the very capable chaplaincy team. This could be further enhanced by the development of an outdoor prayer space to be readily accessed by all pupils, adding to their use of the school chapel. Singing is a strength and some pupils recently represented their school on BBC's 'Songs of Praise'. The pupil's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Life of school is greatly enhanced by their participation in and contribution to all aspects of school life.

Pupils at St Margaret Mary are nurtured within a strong Catholic ethos; pupils can express their views and beliefs with confidence and are able to refer to the teaching of Jesus, as witnessed in pupil interviews. Catholic principles and values underpin behaviour and relationships, resulting in a strong shared vision for the Catholic Life of the school: this encourages best behaviour and focused learning at all times where pupils feel valued and are capable of forgiveness. Pupils are aware of the needs of others and seek justice and show support for all within and beyond the school community. The school is a very 'giving' community, supporting many different charities, for example Race for life (whole school), Water Aid, CAFOD and Aid to the Church in Need (Red Wednesday).

All governors and school leaders are fully committed to fulfilling their role in ensuring outstanding provision for the Catholic Life of the school. They have high expectations and are actively working together to implement the Catholic philosophy of education and the Gospel values which underpin all aspects of the school. Knowledge, Aspiration, Prayer and Service have been a focus in school this year. Prayer and liturgy is a strength with some excellent practice led by pupils seen in Year 3. The executive headteacher, deputy headteacher and subject leader provide a clear direction for the Catholic Life of the school which is given the highest priority, along with the spiritual and moral development of pupils. Leaders and managers ensure that parents have an understanding of the school's mission, as shown through social media. The website could be even more effectively used to enhance the already good level of communication. The Wednesday Word and recently introduced daily prayer, 'Growing in Grace', enable pupils to show through daily word and action that they are true followers of Christ serving society.

The governors, leaders and managers are committed to partnerships with local schools, especially within the federation. This has led to recent shared prayer and liturgy experiences for Key Stage 2 pupils on retreats and pilgrimages to Lancaster, Lanercost, Carfin Grotto, Holy Island and Ampleforth. Pupils shared their experiences during inspection and particularly enjoyed learning about the lives of Northern Saints whilst in the places they lived and spread the faith. A pupil on the chaplaincy team said 'I think about what I have learned and I'll go out and spread the good news!' Pupils take service in the local community very seriously and recently have been out cleaning graves and shrines, as well as singing at Christmas for local care homes and hospices, walking the four mile 'walk of witness' on Good Friday and participating in the Rosary on the Coast. The Blessed Christopher Robinson award has been developed in school with the Knights of St Columba to reward pupils who go 'above and beyond their Christian duty'. Pastoral support for all pupils is excellent with the school working closely with the parish through the SVP and mission team to support families as much as possible. Parishioners are made to feel welcome in school and appreciate pupils' involvement in Mass, they comment about their excellent behaviour and commitment to 'get involved in the parish'.

The school has focused on the Year of the Eucharist and answered the Bishop's 'call to be Holy' through many activities involving staff, governors and pupils. Staff are well supported by senior leaders and the wealth of professional development opportunities is a great strength of the school and shared with others, often through the Ninian pathway for training teachers in partnership with the University of Cumbria and St Mary's University, Belfast. Staff and pupils benefit greatly from visitors to the school to enhance the prayer life, including the Catholic catechist and author David Wells, the Castlerigg outreach team and parish priest – who was questioned on the day of inspection about his vocation. Foundation governors access annual training from the Diocese to increase their understanding and effectiveness, working on behalf of the Bishop.

PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

- 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

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

The pupils are extremely enthusiastic about their learning in RE and view learning as valuable, relevant and important for them. Pupils' behaviour and attitudes are exemplary and this can be seen in lessons and around school. Pupils enjoy learning about and learning from key celebrations such as Pentecost and Corpus Christi where they are well supported to know about why these are important to the Catholic faith. The recent Corpus Christi procession in school demonstrates the dedication of staff and clergy to ensure quality and authentic learning experiences.

During inspection pupils talked about being challenged to think deeply and debate questions that are difficult to answer such as, 'Can it be difficult to love one another like Jesus taught us?' They have pride in their work and during inspection were eager to talk about aspects of their learning that they have enjoyed such as learning bible stories through drama and learning about modern day saints such as St Teresa of Calcutta.

In the early years the children are eager to learn about stories from the bible and respond appropriately to questioning by the teacher. During inspection the pupils heard the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand and could recognise Jesus' disciples as friends and supporters of him. The teacher told this story in an engaging way and the pupils listened attentively. She then related Jesus sharing the bread with the crowd to Mass and the Eucharist.

In Year 2, pupils were learning about reconciliation through the story of 'The Prodigal Son.' The lesson was well planned to extract pupils' questions about the story. The pupils wrote on a variety of pictures depicting the lost son 'I wonder' questions. Pupils' responses demonstrated maturity and thoughtfulness, for example; 'I wonder why the Father forgave the son' and 'I wonder why the son was lost.' The teacher used this 'I wonder' question to discuss the meaning of 'lost' in the sense of not being reconciled.

In Year 6 pupils recapped their understanding of Pentecost and how this relates to confirmation. The teacher was skilled at questioning so that pupils could demonstrate their understanding of how the Holy Spirit helps us as people of faith. One pupil said 'to go out and do work for Jesus.' Pupils' behaviour and attitudes during this lesson were excellent as they researched the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The pupils then recorded how these gifts can help them today to serve their community and possibly beyond this. The work produced was excellent and demonstrated high standards of attainment and progress.

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

There is a common vision and commitment to high standards, and this is at the forefront of school life. This is due to the excellent practice and commitment of the Executive head teacher, Deputy headteacher, RE leader and governors who ensure that pupils continue to make progress in their religious literacy.

In lessons observed, teachers showed excellent subject knowledge, built on prior learning. They stated that the comprehensive programme of continuous professional development has led to continued confidence and quality in their teaching. The staff are committed to sharing best practise and supporting each other. There is a real sense of dedication to developing the faith of the pupils in this school community.

Pupils make excellent progress from low starting points in the early years. They then make excellent progress throughout Key Stage One with outcomes being well above average. They continue to make excellent progress in Key Stage Two with a high percentage of pupils making expected or better progress. All groups of pupils, including those with special needs, English as an additional language, Pupil Premium and those pupils who are not Catholic also make excellent progress.

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

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'. A culture has been created in which staff share a vision and commitment to high standards and work very closely with a partner school in the federation. The curriculum is rich in creative learning experiences and the work in the RE books is of a high quality. Plans are in place to develop learning about world religions by bringing the curriculum in line with diocesan guidelines.

Lesson planning demonstrates that Human Relationships and Sex Education (HRSE) is being carefully thought through in the learning experiences. Opportunities for continuous professional development (CPD), Staff meetings, the sharing of good practice and INSET have all helped staff to reflect on the teaching of RE and the Catholic Life of the school. Teachers inspire pupils and make sure that they make exceptional progress as independent and collaborative learners. Resources are used effectively, together with the support provided by adults, to optimise learning; consequently, pupils are highly motivated and enjoy their work. High quality feedback to pupils enables them to respond with greater depth of knowledge and understanding.

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