

DIOCESE OF HALLAM SCHOOLS'
DEPARTMENT



SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL
STAINFORTH, DONCASTER

School URN	371/3317
Name of Chairman of Governors	Mr Peter O'Neill
Name of Headteacher	Mr Paul McLaughlin
Date of Inspection	18 th December 2007
Section 48 Inspector	Mr Stephen Owen

"... an enthusiasm for the things of God."

The inspection of Holy Family Catholic Primary School has been carried out under the requirements of the Education Act of 2005 and in accordance with the Diocese of Hallam Framework and Schedule for Section 48 Inspections, as approved by the Bishop of Hallam.

The process of inspection in the Diocese of Hallam has been developed as an activity of the Church, to support schools in further deepening the quality of Catholic education provided.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL

Holy Family Catholic Primary School was founded in 1963 to serve the parishes of St. Joseph and St. Nicholas, Moorends and Our Lady of the Assumption in Stainforth. The school is situated in the former mining village of Stainforth but draws children from a wide catchment area which includes Dunsville, Duncroft, Thorne, Moorends, Barnby Dun, Hatfield and Fishlake. The wide catchment area covers a diversity of social and economic backgrounds.

The school buildings are of good quality and are very well maintained. The Foundation Stage unit which was built in 2003 has recently been enhanced by the addition of an outside play area. This has assisted the staff in addressing recent government initiatives such as Excellence and Enjoyment and Every Child Matters.

The school has eight full time teachers including the Headteacher, and one part time teacher. There are ten educational support staff and a full time learning mentor.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Type of school	Primary voluntary Aided
Age Profile of the students	3 – 11
Number on roll	203
Number of students on Special Educational Needs Roll	51
Number of students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs	5
Number of Catholics on roll	102
Number of other Christian denominations	100
Number of other faiths	1
School address	Kirton Lane, Stainforth, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN7 5BL.
Telephone Number	01302 841283
Fax Number	01302 350855

E Mail	admin@holyfamily.doncaster.sch.uk
Website	www.holyfamily.doncaster.sch.uk

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL

How effective and efficient is the provision of Catholic education in meeting the needs of learners?

The effectiveness and efficiency of the provision of Catholic education in meeting the needs of learners is good with some outstanding features. The Headteacher, supported by the Religious Education Co-ordinator, is focussed on raising standards for all, in all aspects of Catholic education. Relationships are excellent throughout the school community, with a very strong emphasis on inclusion, ensuring that pupils are respected and well cared for. Pupils' religious knowledge is good and they acquire the skills and attitudes to develop spiritually and morally as they journey in faith throughout the school.

The school's self-evaluation process, as recorded in the School Evaluation Form (SEF), is a detailed realistic and accurate assessment of the school's provision. The Religious Education Development Plan, clearly identifies areas that need addressing, enabling all to share in the ongoing developmental process.

The effectiveness of any steps taken to promote improvement since the last inspection.

The last Religious Education Inspection took place in the Autumn Term of 2003.

The following areas for development were identified:

- Ensure that all parents regularly receive information about what their children are being taught in religious education
- Ensure that ten per cent of teaching time is allocated to religious education as required by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.
- Develop the role of the Religious Education Co-ordinator to include the monitoring of planning, teaching and learning, and the sampling of pupil's work.
- Ensure that all teachers plan for and implement differentiated activities that match the needs and abilities of all pupils and contain levels of challenge to allow all pupils to reach their maximum potential.

- Implement the planned actions identified in the Self Evaluation Document including reviews of The Mission Statement and the Collective Worship Policy, the development of policies for Spiritual and Moral Development and strengthening and developing links with the parishes.
- Consider further training for governors to identify specific roles and responsibilities to allow them to contribute more fully to the strategic development of the school.

Each area for development has been effectively actioned which has improved the quality of provision of Religious Education throughout the school.

The capacity to further deepen the quality of Catholic education.

The capacity to further deepen the quality of Catholic education is good. The Governing Body, parish priest, headteacher and all members of staff are actively involved in the school's mission. They are hard working and committed to providing the best possible Catholic education for the children. Parents are supported by the school in developing their children's Religious Education through information leaflets and regular informative newsletters. The School Self Evaluation Form (SEF) gives a clear and realistic analysis of the school's strengths and areas for development.

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL: LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

How effective are leadership and management in the development of the Catholic life of the school?

The effect of leadership and management in the development of the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. The headteacher has a clear vision of the distinctive nature of a Catholic school and the school's collegiate management style and structure affords equal and creative opportunities for all. Governors are well informed and committed to the Catholic mission of the school. The parish priest is very involved in the life of the school and has a positive impact on many aspects of school life. The leadership of the school is strongly focused on the school's Catholic mission and has been successful in creating a sense of shared mission amongst the staff. The Leadership Team and the parish priest are constantly striving to raise standards and promote the personal development of the children. Pupils feel respected and in turn they show respect for others; they are well cared for and nurtured in a happy, caring, forgiving environment where Gospel values prevail. The school's belief that all are created in the image of God underpins the practice of inclusion. Pupils of all needs and abilities are welcome and well catered for. Very good links exist with both parish communities and the school feels itself to be an integral part of parish life.

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

How good is the quality of Collective Worship?

The quality of Collective Worship meets statutory requirements and is good. There is clear policy for Collective Worship which is regularly reviewed by governors. Collective Worship is central to the life of the school and the whole school community. Collective Worship is always planned within a liturgical framework and follows the Church's liturgical year. The children develop a sense of their own important place in the Church and of being part of a worshipping, Eucharistic community. Parishioners and parents attend Masses in school and the children contribute to Masses in Church through reading and leading prayers of intercession.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS

How well do learners achieve in Religious Education?

The achievement of learners in Religious Education is good and the standard commensurate with other subjects, including English. The school uses the "Here I Am" Religious Education programme and lessons observed were thoroughly planned and clearly differentiated. Teachers' expectations are high and children from an early age are encouraged to work independently. Teaching Assistants support the children very well indeed. Creative variations on a particular theme or topic are carefully planned, empowering all to give of their best. During Religious Education lessons there is an explicit sense of enjoyment, from staff and pupils alike, and the children develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to their development stage. All the children were very well behaved, polite and articulate.

QUALITY OF PROVISION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

How effective are teaching and learning in Religious Education?

All lessons seen during the inspection were good. Teachers have good subject knowledge and there is a corporate sense of commitment to encourage children in doing the best they can. Children from other religious denominations have their faith nurtured and supported. In all classes the rhythm and pace of the lessons were entirely appropriate to the age of the children and the chosen topic being undertaken. The good use of question/answer sessions, made the children think creatively and deeply, enthusing them to record what had been discussed. There were clear links with other subjects, especially English, which gave the learning outcomes a clear focus for achievement. The quality of written work is good throughout the school, with supportive comments from the marker. Parents and carers are kept well informed of what their children are being taught in Religious Education and are actively encouraged to support them in this work.

How well does the Religious Education curriculum meet the needs and interests of the learners?

The school's clear and explicit endeavour to meet the needs and interests of its learners is good. The Religious Education curriculum fulfils the requirements of the Catholic Curriculum Directory and has a significant impact on the needs and interests of learners and on their spiritual and moral development. The school makes effective use of the "Here I Am" programme and the children are given frequent opportunities for discussion and reflection, expressing themselves competently and confidently. The school is socially inclusive and relationships within the school community are excellent, promoting a strong, caring Christian ethos.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners in Religious Education?

Leadership and Management are good in raising achievement and supporting all learners in Religious Education. The Leadership Team and governors are totally committed to the school's Mission Statement, its ideals and aims, and in raising achievement. Religious Education is given a very high profile in the school and the subject area is effectively managed with clear priorities for development identified in the SEF. Good, appropriate resources support teaching and learning. Teaching accommodation is good and very high quality displays of Religious Education in classroom and public areas provide an improving and stimulating environment for the school community and its many welcome visitors.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Overall Effectiveness	Good
The Catholic Life of the School	
How effective are leadership and management in developing the Catholic life of the school?	Outstanding
How good is the quality of collective worship?	Good
Religious Education	
How well do learners achieve in Religious Education	Good
How effective are teaching and learning in Religious Education?	Good
How well does the RE curriculum meet the needs and interests of learners?	Good
How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners in Religious Education?	Good

Further copies of this report are obtainable from Holy Family Catholic Primary School, or from the Diocese of Hallam Schools' Department, The Hallam Pastoral Centre, St. Charles Street, Sheffield, S9 3WU. Tel: 0114 2566440.