

DIOCESE OF HALLAM SCHOOLS'  
DEPARTMENT



**SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT**

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL  
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC  
PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
SHEFFIELD

School URN	3735203
Name of Chairman of Governors	Mr. Mick Egan
Name of Headteacher	Mrs. Sheila Armitage
Date of Inspection	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2009
Section 48 Inspector	Mr. Philip Patterson

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

## **Introduction**

The Inspection of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School has been carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 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**

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School opened in 1875 and serves the parish of St. Joseph's Handsworth. The school's last Religious Education Inspection was in December 2005 and its last OFSTED Inspection in September 2008. The children attending the school are from Handsworth, Darnall, Manor and Treeton. Of the 241 children on roll, 103 (43%) are baptised Catholics. There are 6 full-time teachers, including the headteacher and 5 part-time, 5 of whom are Catholic with 1 holding the CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies).

The school offers a range of extra-curricular activities throughout the year managed by staff, coaches and students from Handsworth Grange School. There is an active and supportive group of parents known as The St. Joseph's Friends.

## **Information about the school**

<b>Type of School</b>	<b>Primary, Voluntary Aided</b>
<b>Age profile of Students</b>	<b>4 – 11</b>
<b>Number on roll</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>Number of Students on Special Educational Needs Register</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Number of Students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Number of Catholics on roll</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Number of Other Christian Denominations</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Number of other Faiths</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>School address</b>	<b>St. Joseph's Road Handsworth Sheffield South Yorkshire S13 9AT</b>
<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>0114 2692773</b>

<b>Fax Number</b>	<b>0114 2548802</b>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:enquiries@st-josephs.sheffield.sch.uk">enquiries@st-josephs.sheffield.sch.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL**

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

The overall effectiveness and efficiency of the school is good. The Governing Body, Headteacher, Religious Education Co-ordinator and staff are deeply committed to the Catholic life of the school. All staff support each other and provide good role models. Excellent relationships within the school community promote and strengthen the Catholic ethos of the school. The school has a very calm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The pupils are well cared for and feel valued and respected. High quality Collective Worship is an integral part of school life. The children fully participate with enthusiasm and reverence in well led liturgy helping them to develop spiritually and morally. The Gospel values enshrined in the Mission Statement are evident in the daily life of the school.

The Religious Education curriculum based on the “Here I Am” programme together with teachers’ additional material is well delivered. This allows the children to acquire appropriate religious knowledge, skills, concepts and attitudes. Governors are becoming more effective in monitoring policy and practice and offer support and appropriate challenge to the Headteacher. School values the partnership with parents and provides opportunities to support their children’s learning and well being.

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

The last inspection of Religious Education was in December 2005 and the areas for development were:

- To develop the monitoring role of the Religious Education Co-ordinator in the teaching and learning of Religious Education.
- To include in the School Improvement Plan a section for the development of Religious Education.
- To review long-term plans for improving accommodation and resources and seek to improve the quality of the hall as the central gathering place for the community.

The above key issues have been addressed and have contributed to the improvements made since the last inspection. The Religious Education Co-

ordinator has implemented a programme for monitoring the teaching and learning of Religious Education through a structured programme of work, planning scrutiny and lesson observation. Plans have been considered to include a section in the School Improvement Plan to monitor the Catholic life of the school. The hall as a central gathering place has been significantly improved through decoration and improved areas for storage.

### **The capacity to further deepen the quality of Catholic education**

The capacity to deepen the quality of the Catholic life of the school is good. The Governing Body through the setting up of an Ethos Committee, the Headteacher and all members of staff are actively involved in the school's mission. Governors are well informed and are beginning to monitor practice and provide support. The school has secure procedures for supporting members of staff new to the school or who are not Catholic. This support was clearly evident in the subject knowledge shown by a teacher delivering a lesson based on the Stations of the Cross. Parents are well supported by the school in developing their children's Religious Education through the distribution of leaflets and invitations to attend liturgies. The SEF gives a comprehensive and realistic analysis of the school's strengths and areas for development. Currently there is no established section in the School Improvement Plan for the development of the Catholic life of the school. A more established section would enable the priorities identified in the Section 48 SEF to be brought together with timeframes and success criteria to ensure implementation. The following areas for development have been identified during this inspection:

- Include a section in the School Improvement Plan for celebrating, deepening and developing the Catholic life of the school.
- To further develop the role of the Governing Body in monitoring practice and standards in Religious Education.

## **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?**

Leadership and management in the development of the Catholic life of the school is good. The Headteacher and Religious Education Co-ordinator have identified strengths of the school and areas for development. They are working with staff and governors to further deepen the Catholic life of the school and raise standards. The development of a specific section in the School Improvement Plan would enable the governors to monitor and evaluate initiatives more rigorously. High quality leadership is provided by the Headteacher and senior staff in promoting the school's ethos. The quality of relationships throughout the school community is excellent and contributes to the strong sense of shared mission. All adults in school work closely together for the good of the children.

The Religious Education Co-ordinator has developed effective strategies for supporting newly appointed colleagues and those members of staff who are not Catholic. The school is very strong in providing care and guidance to all its pupils. Members of staff are to receive Rainbows training to support children suffering bereavement or loss.

The Parish Priest is a member of the Ethos Committee and visits school regularly. He welcomes both children and parents to visit the Church through an open door policy. The school celebrates and affirms its Catholic ethos through good quality displays in Religious Education.

## **THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **How good is the quality of Collective Worship?**

The quality of Collective Worship at St. Joseph's is outstanding. Collective Worship is an integral part of school life. An excellent Collective Worship policy gives clear and practical guidelines. The Parish Priest is a popular and respected member of the school community who frequently celebrates Masses both in school and Church. A wide variety of Collective Worship opportunities are planned based on the "Here I Am" programme and the Church's liturgical cycle. It is enriched through pupil participation, reading and drama. Children's response to Collective Worship is excellent; they behave reverently and with interest. Each classroom has a dedicated Collective Worship focus for daily prayer. Many liturgies and celebrations are shared with parents and parishioners, thus helping the children to appreciate their important role as part of a worshipping, liturgical community. Sacramental preparation is carried out by parish catechists supported by the school. The quality of Collective Worship is monitored and evaluated by the Religious Education Co-ordinator. Collective Worship impacts positively on the children's spiritual and moral development.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS**

### **How well do learners achieve in Religious Education?**

The achievement of learners in Religious Education is good and is at least as good as achievement in literacy. The quantity, quality and presentation of recorded work is consistently good. The development of more focused monitoring and evaluation of pupils work by the Religious Education Co-ordinator has contributed to improved standards since the last inspection. The marking policy is used effectively to affirm pupil's work and give targets for improvement. Children's oral work throughout the school is good. From the Foundation Years children are nurtured and encouraged to express views and listen to and respect the views of others. This was particularly evident in discussion with the School Council Members during the inspection. Pupil's behaviour is good and those pupils with challenging behaviour are very well catered for and integrated into class activities. Pupils are given opportunities to become independent learners.

They work well cooperatively in partner and group situations. This was shown through the use of cameras in the outside environment to create a still frame story of the crucifixion of Jesus. Pupils acquire knowledge and understanding of the teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church and other Christian Churches and World Faiths. The Religious Education curriculum makes a significant impact on the childrens' spiritual and moral development.

## **QUALITY OF PROVISION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **How effective are teaching and learning in Religious Education?**

Teaching and learning throughout the school is good. Teachers have good subject knowledge and are confident and enthusiastic in teaching Religious Education. Planning is thorough and differentiated and offers appropriate levels of challenge. Pupils with additional needs are well supported by teachers and highly skilled teaching assistants. Assessment procedures are now established through an "RE Continuity Book" which assesses one piece of work each term against the Here I Am objectives.

Teachers use a variety of teaching styles to engage all pupils in learning. All teachers show good questioning skills allowing children time to consider and reflect before answering. Cross curricular planning and the use of ICT is beginning to enrich the Religious Education curriculum. Literacy planning skills were evident in work books and used during lessons to help children become more engaged in their work. Good use of interactive whiteboards and ICT also enhanced learning. Lessons also contain elements of prayer and reflection which has a positive impact on the spiritual and moral development of the children.

Parents are well informed of what their children are studying and are frequently invited to share liturgies and celebrations together with parishioners.

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

The efforts of the school in meeting the needs and interests of all learners is good. The Religious Education curriculum fulfils the requirements of Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and meets the requirements of the Bishops' Conference by devoting ten percent of teaching time to Religious Education. The Religious Education curriculum is well delivered and ensures that children acquire a sound knowledge of the Catholic faith and develop an understanding and respect for other faiths and cultures. Literacy and ICT are developed through Religious Education and enrich the curriculum. The school regularly celebrates cultures and religions through 'Here I Am' and visitors to school.

The established School Council have an impact on the running of the school. School Councillors speak confidently about how they have been given the opportunity to implement some of their ideas into practice and improve provision for the pupils. The school is fully inclusive offering equal access of opportunity for

all pupils to develop towards their full potential. Children take part in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities.

The children are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities to support charities through baking buns and organising various activities.

Parents are welcome visitors to the school and there are very positive relationships within the whole school community. A well embedded PSCHE policy ensures good personal relationships teaching which includes age appropriate sex education. This is to be developed further through the use of 'Statements of Belief' materials.

## **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 in raising achievement and supporting all learners in Religious Education is good. The Headteacher alongside the Religious Education Co-ordinator communicate a strong vision for delivering high quality Religious Education to enable all learners to fulfil their potential. Religious Education is given a high profile and is treated with the same rigour as other core subjects. Religious Education in all areas affirms the children's work and reflects the distinctive nature of the school.

The Religious Education Co-ordinator gives strong leadership and is effective in giving guidance and support to all colleagues. Regular scrutiny of planning and pupils' work by the Co-ordinator ensure that any issues are addressed. When appropriate, Religious Education is included in individual teachers' performance management targets. Curriculum and Professional Development needs are identified and met.

The Parish Priest and Governors are supportive in developing the Catholic Life of the School. The school has very good links with other Catholic schools in Sheffield sharing INSET each year recently focussing on the season of Lent.

<b>Summary of Inspection Judgements:</b>	
<b>Overall Effectiveness</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>The Catholic Life of the School</b>	
How effective are leadership and management in developing the Catholic life of the school?	<b>Good</b>
How good is the quality of Collective Worship?	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	
How well do learners achieve in Religious Education?	<b>Good</b>
How effective are teaching and learning in Religious Education?	<b>Good</b>
How well does the RE curriculum meet the needs and interests of learners?	<b>Good</b>
How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners in Religious Education?	<b>Good</b>

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