



EAST ANGLIA DIOCESAN SCHOOLS' SERVICE

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Interim Monitoring Visit

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Peterborough

12th March 2018

The school currently has 210 pupils, of which 95% are Catholic. The percentage of Catholic staff is 48%. The school celebrates its high percentage of pupils from minority ethnic groups and has 45% of pupils with English as an additional language. The progress of pupils in Religious Education (RE) is good and the majority achieve the expected attainment with a few pupils achieving higher. The budget for Religious Education during the last two years has been significantly higher than that allocated to other core subjects.

The interim monitoring visit included a Collective Worship Assembly; meetings with the headteacher, who is the RE subject lead, and deputy to discuss improvements since the last Diocesan Inspection in October 2013, the Catholic Life of the school, teaching of RE and Collective Worship; two learning walks throughout the school in which part of an RE lesson was observed for each year group and observation of Lenten Reflections in three classes; a pupil feedback meeting with eleven Year 2 to Year 6 pupils; scrutiny of pupils' RE workbooks; and a short feedback meeting with the Senior Leadership team. The visit lasted six and a half hours.

The school is using the new diocesan format for their self-evaluation and gives a detailed and comprehensive analysis of the Catholic life of the school and religious education.

The school has maintained its strong Catholic identity which permeates its daily life. The committed and enthusiastic leadership of the senior staff ensures that pupils are aware of the Catholic faith and have an understanding of how to live this out in their lives. Pupils' personal and spiritual development is reflected in their very good behaviour and positive attitudes to learning. Pupils take an active part in school developments and plan initiatives to raise money for their Lenten charity. Pupils are proud of their school and one said "Everyone is here to help each other". The school's many RE displays evidence the importance of Scripture in the RE curriculum. Prayer, worship, sacramental celebration and Religious Education all continue to have a high profile in the school's life.

(The areas to improve from the last inspection are in italics).

To ensure that the RE curriculum is meeting the needs of all individuals by challenging less able pupils. This development is **fully implemented**, evidenced by scrutinising the pupils' outcomes in books and by observation in the RE lessons visited. Teachers' planning includes differentiated tasks appropriate and challenging for the variety of pupils' abilities. Support is also given by teaching assistants to those pupils who would benefit from further explanation and encouragement.

To make the leadership of RE a priority for the school by appointing a single dedicated RE subject Leader. This development has also been **fully implemented**. Since the last inspection a substantive RE leader has been responsible for this subject and at present the headteacher is undertaking this role. He supports and guides the staff well. This has ensured that the school has not remained complaisant and further developments in the areas of RE, Collective worship and Catholic life have been implemented.

Since the last inspection the RE curriculum has been further embedded with a clear cycle of topics using "Big Questions" at the beginning and again at the end of the topic so pupils themselves can assess their learning progress. Pupils are more actively involved in their learning, and hence know what they should do to improve. The school has achieved Level 1 Rights Respecting School award. Links with the parish and with parents have been increased and the weekly "Friday Messenger" gives additional information

of each class's RE work, parish events and suggests activities families could undertake. A monthly "Value" is promoted during collective worship and is impacting pupils' behaviour and actions. Masses now take place on a weekly basis with parishioners invited. The RE governor is involved more actively in monitoring and in challenging the senior staff.

The fully revised assessment system that moves from Levels to Phase Statements is still in a fairly early stage. ***The diocesan inspector agrees with the school's priority to continue to embed this new system fully.***

The diocesan inspector recommends that the school continues with its planned aspiration to maintain or improve end of Key Stage attainment in RE to ensure it remains in line with English and Maths.

Some opportunities have already been undertaken by pupils within collective worship. ***The diocesan inspector recommends widening the involvement of pupils in planning and presenting class acts of worship.***

I would like to thank everyone at Sacred Heart for such a warm welcome during the visit. Feedback regarding the interim monitoring visit was that it had been supportive and confirmed for the senior staff the achievements of the recent past and the future direction already planned.

Marion Betts, Diocesan S48 Inspector