

Diocese of Hallam Schools' Department



## **SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT**

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### **HOLY ROOD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL BARNSELY**

School URN	107152
Name of Chairman of Governors	Mr Derek Skitt
Name of Headteacher	Mr John Gregson
Date of Inspection	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2010
Section 48 Inspector	Mrs Barbara Jarrett

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

## **Introduction**

The Inspection of Holy Rood 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**

Holy Rood is an average sized primary school in the Diocese of Hallam. It serves the parishes of Holy Rood and Our Lady and St James' Worsborough. The school draws from a catchment area with a wide socio-economic mix.

The majority of pupils are white British but the school has seen a marked increase in the number of pupils for whom English is an additional language. Most pupils are from Catholic families with only a small number of part-time pupils from other faith backgrounds. The current percentage of pupils with EAL is one of the highest in Barnsley; most of these are from the local Polish community. More pupils than usual join the school midway through their education, many with little or no spoken English. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is below average. The number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is below average.

The school has a long serving Headteacher and the majority of staff are Catholic, many of whom are from the parish of Holy Rood.

## **Information about the school**

<b>Type of School</b>	<b>Primary</b>
<b>Age profile of the students</b>	<b>3-11</b>
<b>Number on roll</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Number of students on Special Needs and Disabilities Register</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Number of students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Number of Catholics on roll</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Number of Other Christian Denominations</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Number of Other Faiths</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>School Address</b>	<b>Shaw Street Barnsley S70 6JL</b>
<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>01226 281219</b>
<b>Fax Number</b>	<b>01226 770351</b>
<b>Email</b>	<b><a href="mailto:holy.rood1@barnsley.org.uk">holy.rood1@barnsley.org.uk</a></b>

## OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL:

How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education
---

1
---

The effectiveness of the school in providing Catholic Education is **outstanding**. It is a warm and welcoming community where the Catholic values expressed in the Mission Statement are lived out by all the staff on a daily basis. The school has seen a significant increase in the number of children arriving as asylum seekers in addition to those from a number of other countries. These children and their families have very quickly been integrated into the school community. There are exceptionally strong links between the school and parish and this is a strength of the school. These links give the children a clear sense of belonging to a worshipping community. Parents value the school and are vocal in their respect for the quality of care offered by the school to their children.

By the time they leave the school outcomes for pupils are outstanding. Standards of work are generally high and they are given a wide range of opportunities both oral and written to show the knowledge and understanding they have acquired. The school's inclusive practice ensures that pupils of all abilities reach their full potential; this includes a growing number of children with English as an additional language who move into the different year groups in the school outside the normal round of admission. Children thrive in the caring environment the school offers and are independent learners with well developed sense of achievement and aspiration to do well.

The School's capacity for sustained improvement
---

1
---

The capacity for sustained improvement is **outstanding**. The very good relationships between staff, governors and parents ensure that there is a shared vision which is sharply focused on continuous improvement. This enables the school to develop the opportunities offered to all children. The school's self-evaluation is accurate and the current school improvement plan includes a section which specifically focuses on Religious Education and the Catholic life of the school; it identifies key areas for improvement and appropriate strategies to address these. Achievement at the last inspection was judged to be outstanding and this standard has been maintained.

### What the school needs to do to improve further

- To ensure work in Religious Education includes opportunities for extended pieces of writing in all Key Stage 2 classes.

- To ensure the best examples of marking seen, are applied consistently across the school.

## PUPILS:

How good are outcomes for pupils taking particular account of variations between different groups	1
---	---

The quality of pupils' learning is **outstanding**. Pupils at all Key Stages make good progress and by the end of Key Stage 2 the quality of work produced in Religious Education is excellent. There is a range of written work in their books and it is evident they apply the knowledge and skills learned during English lessons to this work. There are no significant differences or variations between groups of pupils. During lessons pupils concentrate well; their thoughtful oral responses are excellent and show very good knowledge and understanding of the Religious Education curriculum. Children are on task when working collaboratively or independently and behaviour is excellent.

Pupils make an outstanding contribution to the Catholic life of the school and participate enthusiastically in all the opportunities the school offers them. There is an active school council which allows children to have a voice in decision making and the children feel their views are respected. Although the school does not have Rainbows established at the present time it has strong systems to ensure that children's pastoral needs are met. All children spoke highly of the care shown by staff and they themselves show respect and care for each other. They also show their care for those in the wider community through fundraising activities which are often initiated by the children themselves

Pupils response to and participation in Collective Worship is outstanding. Carefully planned, lively acts of worship enable all children to participate fully from their earliest years at the school. They are given many opportunities to prepare and lead liturgies and celebrations both within school and in the local parish church.

## PROVISION

How effective the school is in promoting Catholic Education	1
---	---

The effectiveness of the school in promoting Catholic Education is **outstanding**. Teaching overall is good with some outstanding lessons observed. The good subject knowledge of the teachers, ensures children are engaged in well planned and prepared lessons with enable them to express their ideas confidently and engage in a range of challenging learning activities. Learning objectives are shared with the children and they understand what they have to do in order to achieve

these. Children are on task during their lessons and produce good quality work. Children are confident in using ICT when appropriate to support their learning. Most teachers use marking effectively to ensure children understand what they have done well and how they can improve their work. The school follows the Diocesan assessment procedures and ensure they have good procedures in place for tracking pupil progress and addressing any areas of underachievement.

The Religious Education curriculum is outstanding. The school fulfils the requirements of the Bishops' Conference to devote 10% of the teaching timetable to Religious Education. Teachers use cross curricular opportunities to add a religious dimension to other areas of the curriculum and this makes learning enjoyable and interesting for the children. Learning is further enhanced by children taking part in a number of after school activities.

The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school is outstanding. Collective Worship is central to the life of the school. It is always well planned and appropriate to the age and understanding of the children. There is a range of experiences both formal and informal offered for prayer, including assemblies, class liturgies, private prayer and Masses to mark significant events in the life of the school or liturgical year of the Church. The high standard of music groups and singing by children is a particular feature of Collective Worship and these make a significant contribution to the quality of the schools' celebrations.

## LEADERS AND MANAGERS

How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school	1
--	---

Leaders and managers are **outstanding** at developing the Catholic life of the school. The Headteacher and leadership team demonstrate a deep commitment to the Church's mission in education through their hard work and the example they set. Self-evaluation is accurate and informs planning for improvement. The school improvement plan includes a detailed section on developing the Catholic Life of the School and resources are allocated appropriately to enable improvements to be made. There is strong partnership between leaders in the school and the governors. This helps the governors in fulfilling their role very effectively. The very experienced governing body has robust systems in place for evaluating the work of the school in all areas including the spiritual and moral development of every pupil. They offer the school both challenge and support.

The senior management team and religious education co-ordinator are involved in monitoring standards in Religious Education and have a systematic approach to this work. The Religious Education Co-ordinator is a very good role model and sets high

standards which are an example to others. She is very effective in supporting less experienced colleagues who readily turn to her for advice.

Leaders and managers are effective in developing partnerships with other providers and organisations which result in positive outcomes for the pupils. Links with St Michael's High School support curriculum development and there is a strong partnership with four other Catholic primary schools in Barnsley. Shared Inset with these schools has included work on spiritual and moral development, and pastoral care for children. The school also uses partnerships to support sports and other extended school activities.

The school knows its community well and parents are effusive in their praise. They say they feel welcome and appreciate the way in which the school support their children's Religious Education and spiritual and moral development. They feel their views are listened to and valued. They are invited to many liturgical celebrations and appreciate these opportunities. Children recognise and value their own religious identity and through their study of the Here I Am Programme of work, they are given the opportunities to study other faiths. They show they understand and respect the beliefs of others. Children are generous in giving their time and effort to a wide range of fundraising activities for a number of charities.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1 Outstanding; Grade 2 Good; Grade 3 Satisfactory; Grade 4 Inadequate

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The school's capacity for sustained improvement</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>How good outcomes are for pupils, taking particular account of variations between different groups</b>	
• how well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education	<b>1</b>
• the quality of pupil's learning and their progress	<b>1</b>
• the quality of learning for pupils with special needs and/or disabilities and their progress	<b>1</b>
• pupils' attainment in Religious Education	<b>1</b>
• the extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school	<b>1</b>
• how well pupils respond to and participate in the school's collective worship	<b>1</b>
<b>How effective the provision is in promoting Catholic Education</b>	<b>1</b>
• the quality of teaching and purposeful learning in Religious Education	<b>1</b>
• the effectiveness assessment and academic guidance in Religious Education	<b>1</b>
• the extent to which the Religious Education curriculum meets pupils' needs	<b>1</b>
• the quality of collective worship provided by the school	<b>1</b>
<b>How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school</b>	<b>1</b>
• how well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school and plan improvement to outcomes for children	<b>1</b>
• how well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan for improvement to outcomes for pupils	<b>1</b>
• the extent to which the governing body provides effective challenge and support for the Catholic dimension of the school so that weaknesses are tackled decisively and statutory and canonical responsibilities are met	<b>1</b>
• how well leaders and managers develop partnerships with other providers, organisations and services in order to promote Catholic learning and wellbeing	<b>1</b>
• how effectively leaders and managers promote community cohesion	<b>2</b>

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