

DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH VALIDATION REPORT



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

Gladys Avenue, North End Portsmouth PO2 9AX

URN: 148528
Date of previous validation: 23rd and 29th February 2016
Date of this validation: 18th May 2022

Overall effectiveness	Previous validation:	Good
	This validation:	Good

The school community:	Outstanding	Attainment and progress in RE:	Good
The wider community:	Good	Quality of teaching in RE:	Good
Spiritual development:	Good	Leadership and management of RE:	Good
Moral development:	Outstanding	Leadership and management:	Good

This is a good school

- Corpus Christi is a good example of a Catholic school community, where the mission statement and Christian ethos, have a very positive impact. This is evident in the good relationships between adults and pupils leading to a loving and trusting environment, where all are encouraged to live out their mission statement of “We live our lives like Jesus.”
- The school community values and celebrates all as God’s children.
- The strong leadership of the headteacher and her RE leader enhances the school’s Christian vision and strong ethos.
- The regular support of the parish priest is promising to become a great benefit to the school.
- Corpus Christi is a school where strengths are recognised and celebrated by all stakeholders and any areas for development that are identified are quickly addressed.
- Governors are very supportive, take an active interest in the Catholic life of the school and play a key role in acting as critical friends.
- The Catholic ethos is evidenced and staff make good use of the physical environment and the displays celebrate the school’s Catholic identity.
- The quality of teaching is good as are the standards in RE.
- Good relationships are evident between staff and children in and beyond the classroom and enhance the learning.
- Staff and children act as witnesses to their faith through their support of one another and their support for local, national and international charities.
- Parents are supportive of the school. A large majority of parents were very positive about all aspects of school life especially the school’s sense of welcome and the strength of the relationships.
- Moral development is outstanding. Pupils are very good ambassadors for the school and speak about their school with pride. Their good behaviour and attitudes are underpinned by their knowledge and living out of the school’s mission statement: children said, ‘*We try and do what Jesus does, He loves and forgives us*’ and “*The teachers try to get the younger children fascinated by RE*”

What does the school need to do to improve further?

In order to continue to move forward, the school should consider the following:

- Ensure there is consistent challenge for all pupils ensuring greater scaffolding for the less able and provide for the more able children to have opportunities to deepen and vocalise their learning.
- Provide opportunities for children to be more independent thinkers and less passive in their learning.
- Allow greater opportunities for pupils to plan and lead meaningful good quality worship.

Full Report

The school as a Catholic community

The school community:	Outstanding
The wider community:	Good

- The mission statement is firmly embedded into all aspects of school life, enabling children and staff to be able to show, 'We live our lives like Jesus.' Pupils spoken to talked confidently and gave examples of how they do their best to put the words into action.
- The school has a calm and welcoming atmosphere. Relationships within the school community are very strong and children respond openly and with confidence.
- The well-structured induction of new members of staff to the school reflects the community's commitment to be inclusive, caring and supportive.
- The Catholic ethos is strongly evident within the school environment. The displays contribute to an attractive and purposeful community of learning.
- Parents hold the school in good regard. They recognise it as a caring Catholic community, where they are made to feel welcome and their children are happy.
- Pupils speak positively about their school. The school council bring the children together so that they have a highly vocal pupil voice in the school.
- Children are given opportunities to be role models including, school councillors and prefects.
- The school has a visible presence within the parish church. Classes regularly attend Mass in the parish.
- The parish priest is keen to become a more regular visitor to the school, but already offers support.
- All members of the school community demonstrate their full commitment to the principles of discipleship, for example, through their strong support for Mary's Meals.
- The school is looking forward to once again, extending its engagement with other local and Catholic schools.

Curriculum religious education

Attainment and progress:	Good
Quality of teaching:	Good
Leadership and management of RE:	Good

- The evidence in the pupils' books, the quality of teaching and discussions with pupils all combine to show that attainment and progress in RE are good, with some elements of very secure practice observed on the day of the validation.
- In the lessons observed as part of the validation, evidence was seen of pupils reflecting on the Sacraments. In the best lessons, learning was enhanced by teachers' subject knowledge, links to liturgy, good questioning, use of talk partners, personal experience and links to prior learning. Pupils reflected on how they could be Jesus' modern day disciples and the youngest children, through high expectations, were able to talk confidently about the Easter Story and the Resurrection.
- Pupils demonstrated a positive attitude to learning and behaviour was very good.
- In order to improve standards further, pupils need to be challenged in their thinking and allowed opportunities to voice their opinions more.
- Pupils need to have the opportunity be more active within lessons to allow them to be more fully engaged and motivated.
- RE displays are used widely as interactive working walls that highlight and focus key questions, vocabulary and pupil responses.
- The RE leader, is passionate and provides effective support for RE and as a result the subject has a high status within the school

- The leadership team including the RE leader monitor pupil progress through lesson observations, book scrutinies and assessment data and as a result standards are good.

Spiritual and moral development

Spiritual development:

Good

Moral development:

Outstanding

- Corpus Christi is a good example of a Catholic school community, where a wide range of experiences contribute to the spiritual development of pupils including Adoration and opportunities for quiet reflection.
- Prayer and worship are integral to the daily life of Corpus Christi. The range of worship offered is extensive through Masses, assemblies, class liturgies and Reconciliation Services.
- Children's attitudes to worship and spirituality are good, which is evident during acts of worship. Key Stage 1 children were able to think about the importance of sharing good fortune with others and being thankful for what they had. Reception children were very respectful and clearly knew that they were in a "Sacred Space".
- Children, particularly in upper key stage 2, need to have more opportunities to plan and lead meaningful worship and to reflect on its impact.
- The growing support from the parish priest and the work from the lay chaplain greatly enhances the spiritual life of the school.
- All members of the community are invited to join the school for liturgies and masses.
- The mission statement underpins the moral development of all pupils, with staff providing excellent role models for the children. As a result, pupil behaviour at Corpus Christi is good.
- Children are justifiably proud of their roles as, school councillors and prefects,
- The celebration of achievement promotes pupil self-esteem and confidence. The children are rewarded for good behaviour and successes are celebrated in a variety of ways such as the celebration assembly and are not limited to academic achievement.
- Pupils are thoughtful and reflective, demonstrating the school's good provision for their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. They describe their school as a place where, *"Teachers don't just tell us about what Jesus did but how we can get that into our lives too."*

Leadership and management: Good

- The personal witness to the faith provided by the headteacher provides a strong vision and direction for the work of the school.
- The effective approach to monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of the life of the school, enables the school to challenge itself. There is an insistence on high standards in all aspects of learning.
- A dedicated governing body take a passionate interest in the mission, development and progress of the school.
- The staff are committed to the mission, development and success of the school, which is made possible by the unfailing support of senior management and all leaders.
- Staff are committed to supporting the school and work purposefully to further its success.
- The robust self-review process is reflective and shared with a range of stakeholders including governors who both challenge and support.
- Progress has been made on the issues identified for improvement in the last validation, but more needs to be done to offer greater challenge for greater depth

School details

Name of school	Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School
Age range of pupils:	4 – 11
Gender of pupils:	Mixed
Number of pupils on roll:	307
Chair of Governors:	Tom Blair
Headteacher:	Ursula Clark
Chair of Directors:	Marc Evans
Chief Education Officer:	Matt Quinn

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School joined the Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust (ESCAT) on 1st April 2021. Corpus Christi Catholic School is a larger than average size primary school. The school serves the parishes of Corpus Christi, North End and St Joseph's, Copnor, Portsmouth. The majority of its pupils are Catholic. The percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals is below average. The proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language, or who are from a minority ethnic group is higher than average. The percentage of pupils who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities is average.

Information about this validation

This report to the Bishop of the Diocese under Canon 806 of the Code of Canon Law is also the report to the governors of the school on religious education. For Catholic maintained schools, the report also fulfils the requirements of Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Validation Team

Nuala Oster	Lead Validator
Sarah Matthews	Assistant Validator

Activities Carried Out as Part of the Validation

- Ethos walk.
- Discussion on the school's self-evaluation sheets.
- Discussions with various members of the school community.
- Observations of whole school and class worship.
- Observations of teaching and learning in RE, including joint observations with the headteacher and RE leader of school.
- Pupil work scrutiny.
- Feedback of key findings to the senior management team, governors, Head of ESCAT and Director of Education for the Diocese.

Conclusion

The validators would like to thank the headteacher, RE leader, staff, governors, the parish priest, parents and pupils of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School for their preparatory work for the validation, which forms part of the school's regular self-review cycle. They would also like to express their appreciation for the warmth of welcome they received and the support given during the validation process.