

# DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH VALIDATION REPORT



## Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, Portsmouth

Gladys Avenue, Portsmouth PO2 9AX

URN 116384  
Date of previous validation June 2011  
Date of this validation 23 and 29 February 2016

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	Previous validation:	Good
	This validation:	Good

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

### This is a good school with outstanding features.

- Corpus Christi is an example of an outstanding Catholic community, where all the members strive to see every child through the eyes of Christ. Its mission to support children in their faith development and to enable all members to reach their full potential, is truly lived out and celebrated in all aspects of school life.
- Teachers work hard to ensure that RE (religious education) has a high profile in the school and are ably assisted by the support staff.
- The parish priest provides outstanding support to the school community.
- The school's Catholic ethos is enhanced by the physical environment and the many displays celebrating its Catholic and cultural identity.
- A large majority of parents are very positive about all aspects of school life.
- Spiritual and moral development are outstanding.
- Prayer is a natural part of the daily rhythm of the school day, through a wide range of worship opportunities.
- The children in the school exhibit exemplary behaviour and Christian attitudes. Their strong sense of living as members of a family of faith is witnessed throughout the school.
- Standards in RE are good. Pupils are very passionate about their learning.
- The school leader, assistant headteacher, RE leader, parish priest and governors share a common Catholic vision and mission that underpins their drive for improvement.

### What does the school need to do to improve further?

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

- Ensure all RE planning is driven by the level descriptors and is less prescriptive. This will enable teachers to deliver RE lessons that provide more challenge and encourage pupils to engage in higher level thinking and discussion.
- Provide more opportunities for children to engage with and respond to big questions within lessons.

## Full Report

### The school as a Catholic community

The school community:	Outstanding
The wider community:	Outstanding

- Throughout the school there is firm evidence of a community of faith. Particularly strong examples include:
  - The centrality of the mission statement in the life of the school and the community and the palpable way it is lived out.
  - The warmth of the welcome received by visitors.
  - The care, kindness and support in evidence among all staff, pupils, governors and parents.
  - The outstanding attitudes of the children in expressing their faith.
- There is a very strong partnership between the school and the parish. The parish priest provides outstanding support and is a key figure in the life of the school. The church shares the site with the school, which allows for many opportunities for the school and parish to celebrate together.
- The Catholic nature of the school is enhanced by the attractive, well maintained displays throughout, especially those linked to the mission statement, which celebrate positive behaviour, spirituality and achievement.
- The school leader, assistant headteacher, RE leader and governors inspire the community to share in a strong sense of vision and mission.
- The induction of new staff and families into the ethos of the school is highly effective and very supportive.
- The school effectively communicates with parents, ensuring that they are kept up to date with what is happening and are given every opportunity to visit and participate in the life of the school.
- Parents are very supportive of the school. A large majority were very positive about all aspects of school life.
- The school supports a number of local, national and international charities. Children have organised fund raising events in support of the flood disaster in the Philippines, CAFOD, McMillan and Poppy appeals.
- Multicultural curriculum events celebrate the diverse nature of the Corpus Christi community.

### Curriculum religious education

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

- The RE leader is fully committed to supporting staff and ensuring RE has a high profile in the school. Her passion for the subject is an inspiration to her colleagues
- The parish priest provides regular theological support.
- Good quality interactive RE displays support and celebrate learning in the subject.
- Teachers work very hard to ensure there are examples of children's work for every RE topic, including work on other faiths, and children take pride in their work. The early years learning journals and class RE books are of a particularly high standard.

- The RE subject leader and school leader monitor standards in RE, through observing teaching, pupil conferencing and work sampling.
- Pupils in the school value RE and recognise it can help them in their daily lives. In the lessons observed as part of the validation, evidence was seen of pupils using prior knowledge, exploring the miracles of Jesus and discussing ways to change during Lent.
- Planning and activities need to be driven by the level descriptors so that children can be challenged in their thinking and there is a need to allow pupils time to provide more in-depth responses during lessons. Pupils need more opportunities to engage with and respond to big questions. Pupils demonstrated a positive attitude to learning and behaviour was very good.
- The school needs to embed effective, consistent and sustained differentiation for all pupils.

## **Spiritual and moral development**

Spiritual development:

Outstanding

Moral development:

Outstanding

- Pupils are very proud of their school. They describe the school as a school ‘where teachers try to make our friendship stronger and push us to reach our full potential. They see us as the future of tomorrow.’
- The school provides a wide range of worship opportunities, which allows individual and collective members of the school community to express their relationship with God and with one another in a reflective and prayerful manner. The quality of prayer focus areas in classrooms, the staffroom and throughout the school is outstanding.
- Prayer bags are sent home weekly and encourage families to pray together and share written prayers. A group of year 6 children have been trained as liturgy assistants and regularly lead worship in other year groups.
- The school embraces every opportunity to nurture spirituality, including activities to celebrate the Year of Mercy, Corpus Christi Day and Happy Hearts Day.
- The awarding of Determined Daniel and Good Shepherd certificates and Corpus Christi credits, ensure that the messages of Scripture are central in promoting positive behaviour. The children collaboratively write their own class charter, which supports the behaviour policy.
- Children are fully aware of their responsibilities to one another, through the work of the school council.

## **Leadership and management:**

Outstanding

- The school monitors and evaluates all aspects of the Catholic life of the school. However, the process of self review needs to be an ongoing part of the school’s annual cycle of planning and evaluation.
- The governing body is a strong supporter of the school and also holds it to account. Governors are kept informed of developments in RE and the Catholic life of the school, through their regular learning walks, classroom visits and minutes of meetings.
- Good progress has been made on the areas for development identified in the previous validation, particularly in involving pupils in the planning of liturgies and the provision of more opportunities for spontaneous prayer.

## School details

<b>Name of school</b>	Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School
<b>URN:</b>	116384
<b>Age range of pupils:</b>	4 – 11
<b>Gender of pupils:</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on roll:</b>	315
<b>Chair of Governors:</b>	Neil Galbraith
<b>Headteacher:</b>	Leeanna Cain (School Leader)

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. 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

Helena Pickering	Lead validator
Patricia Opalko	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 school and class worship.
- Observations of teaching and learning in RE, including joint observations with the school leader and RE leader.
- Pupil work scrutiny.
- Feedback of key findings to the senior leadership team and representatives of the governing body.

## Conclusion

The validators would like to thank the school leader, assistant headteacher, RE leader, staff, governors, the parish priest, parents and pupils of Corpus Christi 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.