



**DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION  
REPORT (Section 48)**

**The Cathedral Catholic Primary  
School,  
Lancaster**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION  
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

**THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL  
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**School:**

**The Cathedral Catholic Primary School**

**Address:**

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Lancaster  
Lancashire  
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**Telephone Number:**

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**School URN:**

**119621**

**Headteacher:**

**Mrs Nicola Holt**

**Chair of Governors:**

**Mrs Clare Nolan-Barnes**

**Lead Inspector:**

**Mrs Frances Wygladala**

**Team Inspector:**

**Mrs Rachel Ballard**

**Date of Inspection:**

**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The Cathedral Catholic primary school is a Catholic Voluntary Aided school in the Diocese of Lancaster. The school mainly serves the parishes of the Cathedral and St Thomas More in Lancaster.

It is a below average sized primary school with 199 pupils on roll, of which approximately 25% are baptised Roman Catholic, 23% are from other Christian backgrounds and 39% have no religious affiliation. 60% of children identify with an ethnic heritage other than white British and 36% of children have English as an additional language, there are 22 languages other than English spoken by children in the school.

Approximately 9.5% of pupils are on the SEND register and 4 pupils have an Education Health Care Plan. The school has a high level of mobility with 36% of children joining the school late.

There are 34% of pupils who are eligible for pupil premium, this is above the national and local average and there are areas of high deprivation in the catchment area. The number of pupils transferring to Our Lady's Catholic high school has increased over the last few years.

PUPILS	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	25	29	30	27	30	28	30	199
Catholics on roll	9	4	4	12	6	10	5	50
Other Christian denomination	6	6	11	4	6	7	7	47
Other faith background	1	2	4	0	9	2	7	25
No religious affiliation	9	17	11	11	9	9	11	77
No of learners from ethnic groups	7	9	9	11	15	9	12	72
Total on SEN Register	1	4	2	5	3	2	2	19
Total with Statements of SEN		2			1	1		4

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	1
Index of multiple deprivation	0.19			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster	50

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2	2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	16
% of teaching time	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

TEACHING TIME FOR ENGLISH	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	6.5	6.5	7	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	50
% of teaching time	33%	33%	35%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%

TEACHING TIME FOR MATHS	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	35
% of teaching time	25%	25%	25%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

<b>STAFFING</b>	
Full-time teachers	6
Part-time teachers	4
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	8.6
Classroom Support assistants	15
Percentage of Catholic teachers FTE	52%
Number of teachers teaching RE	9
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	5
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	2
Chaplaincy staffing	0

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	
Published admission number	210
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	30
Average class size KS2	30
<b>GOVERNOR TRAINING</b>	
Number of governors who have attended Foundation Governor training	6

<b>EXPENDITURE (£)</b>	<b>Last financial year 2020/21</b>	<b>Current financial year 2021/22</b>	<b>Next financial year 2022/23</b>
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	£41,047	£57,246	£78,430
RE Curriculum allowance from above	£2000	£2000	£2500
English Curriculum allowance from above	£3000	£3000	£3000
Total CPD budget	£4074	£12,319	£10,820
RE allocation for CPD	£2000	£2000	£2000

<b>How the school has developed since the last inspection</b>
<p>All aspects for improvement since the last inspection have been addressed and have had a systematic and sustained positive impact on building the school community.</p> <p><b>Improve outcomes for all pupils embedding opportunities for the celebration of Mass and liturgical celebrations with the school community:</b>  The school has a calendar of liturgies for the year and pupils experience both sacramental and non-sacramental ones in a variety of settings e.g. class masses in school and whole school masses in church, May procession with parents and parishioners, praying the rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament etc. There are weekly updates from the school on the Parish newsletter.</p> <p><b>Further develop the curriculum in terms of links with the wider community to give pupils a greater understanding of local, national and global issues.</b>  The school have developed their curriculum and invited many speakers in to enrich it. Pupils and staff have chosen to support many local, national and global charities.</p> <p><b>Celebrate successes by continuing to involve parents, governors, staff and pupils in evaluating the impact of curricular opportunities on pupil progress.</b>  This has been achieved effective communication throughout the pandemic via IT (website &amp; blogspot) and when it was possible, governors were actively involved back in school e.g. RE governor with recent pupil questionnaires. Everyone was consulted in the recent renewal of the mission statement.</p>

## INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

### OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

### CATHOLIC LIFE

1

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

### OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

The Cathedral Catholic Primary School is an outstanding Catholic school. It is very welcoming and has inclusion for all as a central goal and a shared vision: pupils enjoy attending and they have positive attitudes to learning. The Cathedral Catholic Primary School was the first school in the Diocese to be awarded *School of Sanctuary* in acknowledgement given for everyone in school feeling valued, nurtured and encouraged to fulfil their God-given potential. Pupils deepen the knowledge of their faith throughout their time in school and gain a firm understanding of Catholic practice. The school lives out its motto; "Unlocking potential together in faith and love." Governors play a significant part in leading the strategic direction of the school in the strong, close knit community which it serves. The change of headteacher in 2018 has been instrumental in driving the recommendations since the last inspection. The RE leader has been tireless in her efforts to ensure the Catholic life of the school and curriculum RE are outstanding. The work of the governors, headteacher, RE leader, the teachers and the support staff in raising standards and putting the Catholic life of the school at the forefront of their plans is a strength of the school, despite the recent challenges with the pandemic and lock downs.

The Catholic life of the school is outstanding and the commitment from the headteacher, the governors, staff, and parishioners to support pupils in their prayer life and growth in faith has remained a priority. Staff set good examples, are proud of their school and work well together. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is excellent and has an impact on everyday life at Cathedral Catholic Primary School. This can be seen through pupils' responses to each other and to the notion of the common good. The pupils actively and willingly become involved in a variety of activities supporting their own and the wider community. This contributes to pupils' social, emotional and moral development.

Opportunities for prayer and liturgy are outstanding; pupils act with reverence and join in prayers confidently. They make full use of resources available to them and appreciate the opportunities offered e.g. Masses and liturgies.

The quality of curriculum RE is outstanding and pupils are provided with an excellent range of learning opportunities to deepen their faith, to understand Catholic traditions and practices, and to make progress in their learning. Pupils enjoy RE lessons, with one pupil stating that RE lessons are fun, and all aspects of the curriculum are outstanding. Clear action plans are in place to continue to raise attainment, especially to challenge the more able with questions at greater depth.

Teachers' subject knowledge is excellent and has a positive impact on the delivery of curriculum RE. They are well supported in terms of professional development by the subject leader and parish clergy. The curriculum meets the needs of all learners in line with diocesan and national recommendations.

Governors and leaders take full account of the diocesan guidance, including liturgical seasons and Health Relationships and Sex Education (HRSE) implementation. They challenge the senior leaders, and this is evidenced in governors' meeting minutes.

### **WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER**

To improve further the school needs to:

- To plan for curriculum changes in preparation for the new Curriculum Directory and challenge the more able.
- To improve the consistency with marking, giving pupils quality time to reflect on the feedback given by teachers.
- To use the prayer area in each classroom as a focus when children and staff are leading class liturgies.

## PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

### THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

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- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school
- The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school

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Pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school to an outstanding extent because all staff members at the Cathedral Catholic Primary School are wholly committed to supporting the Catholic ethos and the mission of the school and this culture is embedded in the life of the school family.

The pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic life of the school is greatly enhanced by their participation in and contribution to all aspects of school life. Pupils know that they belong to The Cathedral Catholic Parish family and are proud to be part of the school and parish.

Pupils regularly prepare and lead prayer and liturgy with confidence and reverence, appropriate to their age and ability, they sing exceptionally well with enthusiasm. Pupils in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 have grown in their ability to share their faith through whole class Prayer and Liturgy and respectful and prayerful worship was observed on the day of the inspection. In a Year 2 class the teacher led a Prayer and Liturgy about refugees and a pupil spontaneously led a prayer, '*Dear Jesus, please help people who are travelling from their homes*'. Pupils showed an ability to listen respectfully to the word of God and reflect spiritually and meaningfully. Pupils and staff would benefit by using the prayer area in each classroom as a focus when leading class liturgies.

Throughout Key Stage 2 pupils are gaining confidence in preparing liturgies independently and in upper Key Stage 2 pupils plan and share their worship with little or no direction from adults. This was observed in Year 6 when pupils reflected on how their actions can impact on the lives of others and asked their classmates to give examples of how you can love your neighbour as yourself.

Pupils at the school are nurtured within a strong Catholic ethos: pupils can express their views and beliefs with confidence and are able to refer to the teachings of Jesus, as witnessed in lessons observed and the Year 5 class prayer and liturgy. Catholic principles and values underpin weekly assemblies when pupils are rewarded for putting their faith into action by trying to live out the school's mission of the week. This helps build a strong, shared vision for the Catholic life of the school and encourages best behaviour and focused learning at all times. Pupils talk openly about hoping to gain 'The keys of St Peter' and look forward to earning rewards for their behaviour.

Pupils are alert to the needs of others and seek justice for all within and beyond the school community. The charity committee have worked hard together to provide information for every class on the charities chosen by the school to support. At the end of the Year 5 assembly they reminded pupils to bring to school one thing that was precious to them

that they would take with them if they had to leave their homes quickly, like the refugees. On the day of the inspection a representative from the Refugee Integration Team from Lancashire County Council was giving talks to the classes, sharing the impact that the money raised in school would have on local refugees. Inspectors saw evidence of various fundraising events which pupils have organised to raise money to send to Cafod, Aid to the Church in Need, Olive Branch, Morecambe food banks and other people in need, both locally, nationally and globally.

All governors and school leaders are fully committed to fulfilling their role in ensuring outstanding provision for the Catholic Life of the school. They have high expectations and are actively working together to implement the renewed mission statement. The headteacher, and deputy headteacher provide a clear direction for the Catholic life of the school which is given the highest priority, along with the spiritual and moral development of pupils. The experienced subject leader is passionate about RE and provides valuable support to all staff about all areas of the Catholic life of school, she is well supported by parish clergy.

The school walls display excellent examples of religious artwork which reinforces that Christ is very much at the centre of everything that happens in this school. Leaders and managers ensure that parents have a thorough understanding of the school's mission and enable and value their support, as shown in the very positive responses to parent questionnaires, comments of support and discussions with staff and governors.

Since her appointment, the headteacher has been inspirational in her drive to promote the Catholic life of the school and drive forward her vision, which promotes the Gospel values and virtues of the Catholic Church in its mission. The family support workers provide guidance and stability for all families who are vulnerable and in need and pastoral care throughout the school is excellent. The headteacher is an outstanding role model and her enthusiasm and passion for the school is a key factor in this successful school. She lives out her faith in her vocation and staff commented on how she and the senior leadership team have motivated and looked after everyone in school.

The quality of provision for the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. The Cathedral Catholic Primary school is a welcoming, friendly and inclusive community with a strong family ethos where everyone is valued and where pupils and staff flourish. Governors and staff have a shared vision with regard to the Catholic mission and ethos. There is a wholehearted expression of the relationship between faith and action. The liturgical seasons and feasts are focal points in the school's life with the patronal feast day very much looked forward to.

The links with the parish are strong and the Cathedral Dean and clergy are regular visitors into school. Class masses are well prepared and the impact is that the pupils have a good understanding of the purpose of holy Mass and are confident with responses during mass. This was confirmed by the Cathedral Dean.

## PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education
- How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education
- The quality of provision in Religious Education

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Religious Education (RE) at the Cathedral Catholic Primary School is outstanding. During the inspection, pupils were highly engaged and motivated. Pupils talked enthusiastically about their learning and were proud of the work that they have produced. One child said: 'RE teaches us about our mission and we learn to be like Jesus'. Imaginative teaching is consistently effective in enthusing pupils and ensuring that they learn well. Resources, including information technology, are used very effectively to optimise learning, as witnessed in the Y6 class who were making videos around school about how to be a good neighbour. Lessons observed during the inspection in Key Stage 1 demonstrated high expectations and differentiation for all groups of learners. There was a good mixture of discussion, sorting and writing activities, showing that people act differently because of their beliefs. Pupils could articulate what makes a good neighbour. The support given to all pupils at Cathedral Catholic Primary School is outstanding. Lessons observed in Key Stage 2 were well planned with great creativity and excellent use of quality resources; this practice ensures very good outcomes. The pace of the lesson was excellent, and the progress of the pupils was impressive. The RE books demonstrate this high level of creativity and lead to outstanding standards.

Children in the Foundation Stage talk confidently about their work in RE and are able to talk about liturgical seasons, and church celebrations. The RE curriculum provides good opportunities for spiritual and moral development. All pupils in school, during inspection, were engaging in Refugee Week. As a School of Sanctuary this was something the pupils of all ages were openly very passionate about and they enthused about their mission to be welcoming to all. RE lessons have been skilfully tailored to incorporate learning from scripture to how we live our lives today. Pupils in Year 4 are able to respond confidently to challenging questions and older pupils have become very skilled using Bibles. Pupils are able to explain how beliefs and values inspire and influence them and others. Through RE provision children are taught about other faiths and cultures – this is something the pupils value and appreciate.

Children enter the Foundation stage with attainment below age related expectations in RE. They make very good progress throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage and a significant number enter Key Stage 1 in line with expectations. Considering the disruption of the pandemic, the pupils are making very good progress in Key Stage 1. This progress continues throughout Key Stage 2 and by the end of Year 6, pupils' attainment is in line with expectations. RE books and tracking documents support this. The consistency in marking needs to be improved, giving pupils quality time to reflect on the feedback given by teachers.

The school is ensuring that pupils can catch up with their RE knowledge and understanding and is giving this action high priority. Because of this action, progress is good for all groups of pupils including, pupil premium children, children with English as an additional language and children with special educational needs. Leaders are aware they now need to focus on more pupils achieving greater depth in RE tasks.

Governors and school leaders place high importance on RE and much work has taken place monitoring and evaluating aspects of RE. The subject leader provides very detailed information about the quality of learning and standards in RE. Monitoring has been a priority and this has had impact on standards. The parish priest and RE governor, work alongside the RE subject leader and they contribute to learning. Clergy are regular visitors to school and pupils and staff appreciate this close relationship with the parish. Weekly updates from the school on the parish bulletin keep everyone informed of what is happening on a regular basis. Governors are especially proud of the school team and say they are excellent role models to the pupils. Leadership and management, on all levels, is outstanding. Cathedral Catholic Primary School is a shining example of school and parish working together to fulfil the mission of the Catholic Church.

Parents speak highly of the school. Parish links are a great strength of the school. There are also many links with other schools in the area. The importance of service is strong at Cathedral Catholic Primary School. A pupil charity committee, along with the rest of the school community have raised impressive amounts of money to support local, national and global charities, they have also contributed to the Ukraine Humanitarian appeal. Pupils speak with great sincerity about the importance of their responsibility to help others.

The RE curriculum meets all the requirements of the Bishops' Conference and is informed by the Curriculum Directory and the Diocesan document 'Fit for Mission? Schools' and Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RHSE) directives.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

<b>Overall Effectiveness</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Capacity for sustained improvement</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Catholic Life</b>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well leaders and managers promote and ensure provision for the Catholic Life of the school through monitoring and evaluation.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The quality of provision in Religious Education.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>

	<b>Pupil Outcomes</b>	<b>Leadership &amp; Management</b>	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Overall</b>
<b>Catholic Life</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>