



Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

INSPECTION REPORT

Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Ongar Hill, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 1BP

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DfES Number: 125210

Headteacher: Mr. S. Tindall

Chair of Governors: Ms B. Butler

Canonical Inspection under Canon 806 on behalf of the Bishop of Arundel & Brighton
and inspection of Denominational Education under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Date of inspection: 1 April 2014

Date of previous inspection: 6 March 2009

Lead Inspector: Ms A. Oddy

Associate Inspector: Ms A. Ireland

Description of School

Holy Family is a voluntary aided Catholic primary school. It is situated in the Weybridge deanery of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton and maintained by Surrey LA. It admits pupils from 4 to 11 years. There are 212 pupils on roll. The school's mission statement states that "Our Catholic school sets out to provide an education that is God centred. It is a community where everyone is valued, loved and respected." The school serves the parish of The Holy Family, Addlestone . 99% of the pupils are baptised Catholics. The majority of the pupils are of White British heritage. Approximately one quarter of the pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds. The number of pupils with special educational needs is below average, as is the number of pupils who are eligible for free school meals. The number of pupils who speak English as an additional language is below average. Attainment on entry to the school is broadly average. 70% of teachers are Catholic. Four teachers hold the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of this Catholic school

Holy Family school is an outstanding Catholic school. Its Catholic identity is immediately evident. The mission statement is at the heart of the school. This is encapsulated in the phrase "Living each day as a happy and Holy Family" which is in evidence in all areas of the school and is known by all members of the school community.

Leadership at all levels provides strategic direction for the school and care and support for all members of its community. Pupils are exceptionally well behaved and achieve extremely high standards. Relationships between all members of the school community are excellent, including parents and governors. Parents are very appreciative of the school and the Catholic education it offers, "Holy Family is a wonderful school, whose friendly, approachable staff epitomise the Catholic ethos". The Catholic life of the school is celebrated through a rich variety of opportunities for prayer and worship and is a feature of many beautiful and meaningful displays in the school. Provision for religious education is outstanding and results in high standards of attainment.

Grade 1

Improvement since the last inspection

All the recommendations from the school's last Section 48 inspection have been fully addressed. The range of prayer experiences offered has been significantly increased and now also includes opportunities for voluntary prayer. Systems of assessment and pupil tracking in religious education are comprehensive and well established.

Grade 1

What the school should do to improve further

- Further develop the Sex and Relationship Education policy to include details of programmes of study and resources used, in consultation with parents and in the context of diocesan guidelines.

The Catholic Life of the School

Leadership and Management

The headteacher demonstrates outstanding Catholic leadership and is an inspirational role model to his staff team. He has a clear vision of the mission of the school and its place within Catholic education and the local community. School self-evaluation is reflective and accurate and informs the strategic direction of the school. The senior leadership team is united in raising standards and celebrating the strong and dynamic Catholic life of the school. This is recognised by staff, parents and governors. Provision for the spiritual and moral development of pupils is outstanding. The school fosters excellent relationships with parents, who are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. Close links with the parish add to the school's success and sense of a Catholic community.

Governors are fully committed to the Catholic ethos of the school. They are frequent visitors and undertake monitoring visits on a regular basis. They are well informed, conversant with school data and familiar with development planning. They attend diocesan and local authority training and work in close partnership with the headteacher and senior leadership team.

Grade 1

The Prayer Life of the School

Prayer and worship are woven through every aspect of school life. The richness and variety of the school's prayer life is a feature of the school. Great care has been taken to provide environments conducive to prayer and reflection. These enhance the learning environment and are well used by pupils. Attractive prayer focus areas reflect class and individual prayers, the liturgical year and religious education topics studied. Religious artefacts and resources are of high quality and are effectively used as aids to prayer.

A carefully planned programme of masses, assemblies and other liturgical celebrations offers pupils excellent opportunities to develop their spiritual relationship with God and to celebrate this as a school community. The assembly observed was a prayerful and joyful occasion. Linked to the previous Sunday's gospel, it enabled pupils to participate in a variety of ways. Pupils responded thoughtfully and respectfully; they were able to use moments of silence for quiet reflection. The school also offers parents regular opportunities to pray with their children.

Grade 1

How effectively does the school /college promote community cohesion?

The provision for community cohesion is excellent. Leaders at all levels are fully committed to the school's mission in the community. Pupils are happy, friendly and feel safe at school. Staff form a united team; governors, parents and the parish work in partnership with the school. Pastoral care is outstanding and parents speak warmly of the caring and inclusive nature of the school. Several parents mentioned the care and support the school had offered them during difficult times. Pupils are encouraged to care for each other and take on responsibilities within school; younger and older pupils benefit from their many opportunities to work together. The school works closely with other Catholic and community schools, including a school for pupils with special educational needs. The school participates fully in its local community including taking part in interschool sports, visits to a local care home and hosting a multi-skills festival. Parent workshops, an active parents association and the involvement of parents in a variety of ways in the school enhance the strong sense of community. Pupils are encouraged to consider the needs of others and support a range of charities locally, nationally and globally, putting into practice the principles and values that they learn in religious education.

Grade 1

Religious Education

Achievement and Standards in Religious Education

Pupils achieve exceptionally high standards and make very good progress in religious education. Standards in religious education reflect the excellent standards in literacy and numeracy. Standards of religious literacy are high; this is fostered from pupils' earliest years in the school and was apparent in the lessons observed and the work in pupils' books. The school enables all learners to achieve their full potential, providing support and challenge as appropriate. All groups of pupils enjoy their learning and achieve well.

Pupil behaviour is excellent; they are interested and attentive and do their best. Pupils know that religious education lessons are 'a special time' and recognise the importance of religious education to their personal lives. Learning partners are used very effectively. Pupils are able to record their work in a variety of ways including using information technology. Work in books is of a very high standard, reflecting pupils' interest, care and pride in their work.

Grade 1

Teaching and learning in Religious Education

Excellent planning ensures that teaching meets pupils' needs. Good subject knowledge and accurate assessment for learning contribute to very high standards of teaching and learning in religious education. Pupils respond positively to their teachers' high expectations. Lessons observed were generally outstanding; a range of activities offered learners exciting opportunities to deepen their knowledge and develop their spirituality. Teachers were adept at creating an atmosphere immersing pupils in a powerful learning experience to which pupils responded thoughtfully and enthusiastically.

Robust systems of assessment include pupils' self-assessment, regular teacher assessment and moderation both within school and at deanery level. Effective target setting and pupil tracking

ensure the continued progress of all pupils, individuals, groups and cohorts and enable comparisons to be made over time.

Grade 1

Quality of the Curriculum

Curriculum provision successfully builds on pupils' prior knowledge and attainment. Time allocated to religious education is in accordance with the requirements of the Bishops' Conference. The newly adopted 'Come and See' programme of religious education is contributing to excellent standards. The curriculum includes provision for the teaching of other faiths on a regular and well planned basis. It is very well resourced and enhanced by visits to places of worship of other faith communities. The school follows the diocesan policy for Sex and Relationship Education. It should now further develop this to include details of programmes of study and resources used and include consultation with parents as part of this development.

Grade 1

Leadership and management of Religious Education

Leadership and management of religious education is excellent. The headteacher and religious education coordinator work in close partnership to ensure excellence of provision and high standards of attainment. Staff are well supported by regular inservice training and staff meeting discussions. Good use is made of diocesan and deanery support. Attainment is carefully tracked to maintain standards.

The religious education development plan is formulated and reviewed annually and linked to whole school development planning. The link governor who is also the parish priest, maintains regular contact with the Religious Education coordinator, fulfilling his monitoring role and providing support and guidance as appropriate. Religious education is very well resourced. Resources are of high quality and age appropriate. The inclusive nature of the school ensures access to the curriculum for all learners, who are enabled to fulfil their full potential and achieve well.

Grade 1