



Archdiocese of Birmingham

INSPECTION REPORT

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL COVENTRY

Inspection dates 29th February -1st March 2012
Reporting Inspector Sister Susan Collins

Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	3-11 years
Number on roll	247
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governors	Dr Gerard McAleese
School address	Langbank Avenue Ernesford Grange Coventry CV3 2QP
Telephone number	02476 454931
E-mail address	admin@corpuschristi.coventry.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	September 2009
DFE School number	331/3434
Unique Reference Number	103725

Headteacher Mrs Debra Newman

DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE



Evidence

The inspection was carried out by one Diocesan Inspector. The focus of the inspection was on the effectiveness and use of the school's self evaluation of religious education (RE) and Catholic life. To validate the effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation of teaching and learning, the inspector observed two full RE lessons with the headteacher. In addition, the inspector completed a work scrutiny and held a discussion with pupils to evaluate the impact of teaching on their learning over time. She held meetings with the chair and vice-chair of governors, staff and parish priest. She observed a whole school assembly and attended a whole school Mass and undertook a learning walk with the headteacher to look at aspects of learning and teaching in RE, the presentation of the Catholic life of the school and pupils' behaviour. She looked at a range of evidence related to the school's self evaluation such as RAISEonline, the development plan, teachers' planning and learning journals. Alongside the validation of school self evaluation, the inspector gathered evidence about collective worship, evidence which will be shared with other diocesan schools.

Information about the school

Corpus Christi is an average sized Catholic primary school serving the parish of Corpus Christi in Coventry and is in an area of social deprivation. The number of Catholic pupils is currently 83%. The proportion of ethnic minority pupils is 34%. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals is 33% which is above the national average. The proportion of pupils with special needs and/or disabilities is average. Attainment on entry is below the national average.

Main Finding

In its self evaluation, Corpus Christi judges itself to be a good Catholic school with some aspects better than good. Pupils benefit from and contribute to Catholic life, and they are secure and happy within a caring and supportive school community that has a strong sense of its mission. The school provides outstanding levels of care for the more vulnerable children. The headteacher and senior leaders are committed to their vision for the school and they are well supported by governors and the parish priest. Parents hold the school in high regard. Faith is shared and every person is valued. There is a continuous drive for excellence and to enhance and improve life chances for all. This is a real strength of the school and all members of staff are committed to this. Religious education is considered to be good and in this respect the school's judgement is accurate. Most pupils enjoy their RE and some identify RE as their best subject.

School self evaluation

School self evaluation focuses on improving the Catholic life of the school. Pupils benefit greatly from this because the headteacher has a clear vision and is very committed in her role of leading a Catholic school. Senior staff know the school well and areas for improvement have been identified and the school is beginning to embed formal processes in place to monitor the Catholic life of the school.

Monitoring and evaluation are identified by the school as a key aspect in maintaining high standards and the summary evaluation indicates that monitoring in RE takes place at least termly but does not include what the monitoring reveals. The school has a clear view of the attainment of pupils at the end of each key stage. There is no information about the

quality of teaching except that teacher's subject knowledge is good. Monitoring of RE lessons, for two teachers, has taken place in February 2012. The headteacher knows what the areas for development are and the accuracy of the judgements of the lessons is supported by the observations during the inspection and from the work in books and on display. The school indicates that they carry out book trawls twice yearly, however the monitoring could be more focused on the assessment of standards in RE. The recent monitoring of pupils' work in by senior staff does not identify the issues which would move learning in RE forward. The school should consider undertaking learning walks and observations of RE lessons as part of their monitoring cycle in order to improve outcomes for all pupils.

There is a tendency in the school self evaluation to be descriptive, particularly in the section on the effectiveness of the curriculum in promoting pupils' learning. The school has identified appropriate developments in order to improve the curriculum further and is using the four areas from the *Curriculum Directory* to check coverage. The contribution of the school curriculum to pupils' spiritual, moral and vocational development focuses on community cohesion and moral development. The school needs to evaluate how the curriculum fosters the pupils' spiritual and vocational development.

Whilst the provision of collective worship is reviewed by senior staff and there is some evidence of obtaining parental views on collective worship, more formal evidence of monitoring should be in place. Commentary focuses on what is done but there is little evidence in the self evaluation about the quality, apart from pupils' reverence in Mass and prayer times and that the vast majority of pupils are keen to participate. Areas for improvement have been correctly identified.

Plans are in place to improve both Catholic life and RE and, with the support of the newly appointed parish priest; the capacity for improvement is good, though planning needs to be more securely based in evaluation. Governors are aware of developments in Catholic life and RE through their visits to the school and the information provided in the headteacher's report to governors.

Overall effectiveness of the school¹

Outcomes for pupils in RE are good and pupils mainly make good progress across the school. Attainment at the end of Key Stage 1 is below average and average at the end of Key Stage 2. Pupils with learning needs make very good progress through a creative approach to learning and meaningful support from teaching assistants. Provision is good overall with all teaching good including outstanding practice in one lesson. Planning is effective and takes into account prior learning and there is effective differentiation. Children are enthusiastic about RE; they know the purpose of their learning, stay focused and their behaviour is excellent. The more able pupils would benefit from more challenging activities on a regular basis. Creative prayer ideas are used to end the lesson in a reflective way but still focusing on key learning. Teachers are more confident in assessing RE. Marking is supportive and usually provides clear guidance on improvement.

On the basis of the evidence of their attitudes, values, relationships and commitment to the school, pupils' spiritual, moral and vocational development is good. There are clear behavioural expectations which are linked to Jesus' teaching. Pupils are encouraged to respect one another and learn how to forgive others. Collective worship is very good; the

¹ As the quality of the school self evaluation has been affirmed, the judgements in this section of the report conform to those of the school.

pupils are reverent and attentive during Mass and assembly. They are familiar with a range of prayers. The beautiful prayer garden provides a reflective space which is well used by all members of the school community. The development of a Mass response sheet in line with the new translation has helped to support pupils' participation in the Mass.

The strength of the curriculum is the creative approach to learning. Non-Catholic staff are well supported in the delivery of the curriculum. The curriculum will be adapted further so that all pupils can learn about, and from, other religions.

Recommendations

Develop and embed formal procedures for the monitoring and evaluation of the Catholic life of the school and teaching and learning in RE.

Engage children more in the planning, preparation of assemblies, Masses, liturgies and prayer times.

Create opportunities to deepen and develop pupils' understanding and awareness of other faiths by making links with other faith leaders and visiting places of worship.



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March 2012

Dear Parents and Carers

Section 48 (Diocesan) Inspection of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, March 2012

I am writing this letter to share with you the findings of the diocesan inspection of your children's school. Diocesan inspection now explores in detail the school's own view of itself as expressed in its self-evaluation. For this reason, much of the report is more technical than used to be the case. You are still entitled to have a copy of the full report should you require one and it will be available on the school website or by request from the school office.

The school provides outstanding levels of care for your children and the Catholic Mission underpins all that the school does. Mrs Newman and her staff are committed to improving the Catholic life of your school. Pupils enjoy their work in RE and make good progress. Teaching in RE is good. Those needing additional support also achieve very well through a creative approach to their learning and effective support from the teaching assistants. Teachers encourage your children to behave well both in class and around the school.

I have recommended that the school should gather more formal evidence about how well it is doing. Also, it should give your children more opportunities to plan and prepare assemblies, Masses and prayer times and give them opportunities to visit other places of worship.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Newman, her staff and all the children for their welcome. It was a privilege to spend time in your wonderful school. The children are a credit, not only to Corpus Christi School, but also to you their parents and carers. I thank you, on behalf of the Diocese, for the ways you encourage your children in the development of their faith.

Yours sincerely

Sister Susan Collins
Diocesan Inspector