



# Archdiocese of Birmingham

## Section 48 Monitoring Visit

### HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Priest Lane, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1EB

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Inspection date	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2014
Reporting Inspector	Joseph Skivington

Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

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Type of School	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	4-11 years
Number on roll	156
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors (acting)	Fr Peter Jones
Telephone number	01386 552518
E-mail address	office@holyredeemer.worcs.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	July 2009
DFE School Number	885/3368
Unique Reference Number	116908

<b>Headteacher</b>	<b>Mrs Christina Hall</b>
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Previous inspection:	1
This inspection:	1

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DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE





June 2014

Diocesan Education Service,  
Don Bosco House,  
Coventry Road,  
Coleshill,  
B46 3EA

Mrs Christina Hall  
Holy Redeemer Catholic Primary  
Priest Lane  
Pershore  
Worcs WR10 1EB

Dear Mrs Hall

### **Section 48 Monitoring inspection:**

Thank you for the welcome you, your staff and pupils gave to me when I inspected your school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, and for the information you provided both before and during the inspection. I am grateful for the time given by all including the parish priest in speaking with me.

The inspection was a "light touch" monitoring inspection because your school was judged at the last section 48 inspection to be an outstanding school and because it is now five years or more since you last received a diocesan inspection.

The purpose of the inspection was to assess the quality of the school's self-evaluation and improvement planning for Catholic life and religious education. In order to make this judgement I read school documents, including a summative self-evaluation, interviewed senior leaders, governor representative, parish priest and deacon, the subject leader for RE, and pupils, observed a range of lessons during a learning walk, and looked at a sample of pupils' written work. In addition, I gathered evidence of some of the outstanding practice in the school as part of a diocesan wide survey of good practice in Catholic life and religious education.

### **Catholic Life**

Holy Redeemer school provides an outstanding Catholic education for all its pupils. The evidence gathered in this monitoring visit matches and validates the school's own self evaluation. The quality of the provision and subsequent outcomes for Catholic life and collective worship is outstanding. The pupils make a very significant contribution to the school's ethos, not least by their excellent caring behaviour, and benefit enormously from it. The vibrant Catholic life is maintained successfully because the school has a well embedded culture of self reflection and critical self evaluation, and this has been adopted by the pupils themselves who by their constant feedback on their learning and experiences, confirm what the school sees itself to be. For instance, they regularly feedback on the quality of collective worship, and suggest ways in which the liturgy could be improved in terms of reading or serving. Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 frequently lead collective worship for their peers, planning them in their own time, recording its impact in close detail, evaluating their service and crucially suggesting ways it could be bettered. Likewise, the mission of the school has been reflected on by each class, who have then been able to interpret and frame it in their own words. They take on full responsibility for the liturgical life of the school with enthusiastic commitment. Parishioners and parents are frequent visitors to the school supporting their learning and preparing them for their roles as readers and servers. All pupil interviews identify prayer as an aspect of importance and enjoyment, and the aspect from which they gain the most.

Regular feedback from pupils, parents and staff provides accurate and reliable judgements, which are then acted upon by all those concerned. The school has copious evidence of processes that secure detailed evidence of the quality of the Catholic ethos; for example, the close and hands-on approach by the governors who know the school well and can realistically raise the challenge and hold the school to account using the mission statement as its measure. The link governor is involved in pupil interviews, the annual work scrutiny, and the monitoring of collective worship. The spiritual life of the staff is supported very effectively with many staff attending Sunday Mass in the parish. Governors ensure good quality Catholic induction for new staff by, for instance, diocesan training on curriculum strategy, and training for teachers new to Catholic education. Through the audit of prayer life they gain not only a very clear picture of the spiritual health of the school, but ensure that new objectives



are included in the school spiritual development plan. Detailed self evaluation takes place at every governors' meeting, where they scrutinise and probe reports and reviews with a critical but supportive stance.

### **Religious Education**

The school has judged provision and outcomes for Religious Education, including teaching, assessment, and curriculum to be outstanding, and inspection evidence supports its judgement. Achievement at both key stages is outstanding, but particularly in the early years where pupils entering with a very low baseline level of prior knowledge make remarkable progress even in the first few months. This is the direct result of consistently good teaching over time, with much that is outstanding. This was evident not only in the lessons observed but also the pupils' written work, photographs and displays. Pupils work well both independently and in small groups, and have a sound grasp of what it means to be in a Catholic school and what RE is all about, whether they are baptised Catholic or not. They are encouraged to contribute to a judgement on the quality and relevance of their learning through questionnaires and discussions. Through critical and detailed review the school was able, for instance to uncover some comparative weaknesses in the content of attainment target 2 (learning about religion) which it was then able to correct successfully. The quality of formative feedback is excellent, the result of immensely detailed work scrutiny, which enables the pupils to understand what level they have achieved and how they can progress further. The curriculum and schemes of work are constantly being reviewed, evaluated, and re-shaped. The school turns to the best practice available, for example, attending the diocesan training on creative strategies, in its striving to nurture and maintain its very high quality of religious education. The school uses other subjects to enhance religious experience, especially art and music, and experiences which widen pupils' perspective on other religions. School and parish work ever more closely together, thanks to the leadership and inspiration of the parish priest, pray frequently together, and share the Sunday Mass as a vibrant community within the mission and life of the Church Universal.

The overall outstanding effectiveness of Holy Redeemer School is directly attributable to the leadership and management, which is self reflective and takes great pains over every detail and aspect of school life. Its self evaluation is robust, accurate and reliable, and it knows this because it seeks feedback and pointers to improvement from pupils, parents, staff, governors and parishioners. These processes ensure that all have ownership and responsibility for its continuing excellence.

Yours sincerely

Joseph Skivington  
Diocesan Inspector