



# Archdiocese of Birmingham

## INSPECTION REPORT

### SS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL PYPE HAYES, BIRMINGHAM

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Inspection dates 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013  
Reporting Inspector Mrs Margaret Dance

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	209 (R – Y6)
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governors	Father John Batthula
School address	Kingsbury Road Pype Hayes Erdington Birmingham B24 9ND
Telephone number	0121 675 6028
E-mail address	enquiry@ssptrpl.bham.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	June 2008
DFE School number	330 3362
Unique Reference Number	103454

**Headteacher** Mrs Ann Owen

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DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE



## **Evidence**

The inspection was carried out by 1 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, and to evaluate the impact of teaching on their learning over time, the inspector observed 3 RE lessons, together with the headteacher and RE co-ordinator, completed a work scrutiny and held discussions with pupils. She held meetings with governors, staff and parish clergy. She observed a whole school Mass and end of the day prayers in Year 4. She undertook a learning walk 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 including the development plan, monitoring and evaluation procedures, assessment records and planning. Alongside the validation of school self-evaluation, the inspector gathered evidence about the leadership of RE which will be shared with other diocesan schools.

## **Information about the school**

SS Peter and Paul's is a one-form entry, over-subscribed Catholic primary school serving the parish of SS Peter and Paul, Pype Hayes, Birmingham. The percentage of children who are baptised Catholic is high at 96%. Social and economic deprivation is slightly higher than the national average. The majority of pupils are of White British origin, with the percentage of children from ethnic minority groups being 33%. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals and entitled to the pupil premium is in line with the national average. The percentage of children with learning needs and/or disabilities is below average and with statements is well below average. Attainment is above average overall.

## **Main Finding**

In its self-evaluation SS Peter and Paul School accurately judges itself to be an outstanding Catholic school with a very strong Catholic ethos based on the love of God, the importance of family life and parish community and the mission to nurture the future Church. The school's judgement that the children's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith by the end of Year 6 demonstrates outstanding progress from a low baseline on entry in Reception is fully justified. This is a direct result of teaching which is at least good and sometimes outstanding and which stimulates the children's enjoyment and promotes their learning. The self-evaluation is accurate in stating that RE provision has a powerful effect on children's behaviour, attitudes and relationships, providing them with a sound basis for making good choices. The school is correct in its judgement that the children's contribution to the Catholic life of the school and their response to and participation in collective worship are outstanding.

## **School self-evaluation**

The school uses an impressive range of self-evaluation procedures to provide information on its current practice in RE. Book scrutinies and interviews with pupils support the evaluation of teaching and learning. They demonstrate that pupils have very good knowledge of the RE curriculum as appropriate to their age and experience and are able to reflect on their learning and apply the message of the Gospel to their own lives. The judgement that teaching and learning are at least good and sometimes outstanding is based on a programme of lesson observations led by the RE co-ordinator which focus not only on teaching but also on outcomes for the pupils. Review and feedback provide developmental advice to promote improvement.

Information from the monitoring of teaching and learning has led to the acknowledgement that, although standards are high, there is a need to achieve consistency in providing a greater level of challenge and more opportunities for independent learning for the most able pupils. Joint observations with the headteacher and RE co-ordinator in the course of the inspection confirm the accuracy of their judgements. Children's work is marked regularly, with most teachers referring to the learning objective, asking searching questions and giving guidance on how the work could be improved. The children's response to marking is developing so that it will provide a more formative dialogue with the teacher and lead to improvements.

Although there is no formal monitoring, the school judges correctly that the provision for and quality of collective worship is outstanding. There is clear evidence that the children enjoy assemblies, Masses and prayer services and are confident in their participation. The school is not complacent, however, and acknowledges that the children's role in preparing and leading acts of worship is an area for further development.

Evidence that the impact of the Catholic life of the school and the children's contribution to it is outstanding is gathered from learning walks by the senior management and governors, questionnaires for parents and pupils and beautifully produced learning journals which provide pictorial records of relevant activities by each class. However, there are no formal procedures for monitoring and evaluating the Catholic life of the school and for providing effective support for forward strategic planning.

In view of the quality and accuracy of its self-evaluation the school is in a strong position to consolidate its success and to secure further improvements in both the Catholic life of the school and RE. Governors monitor progress through first-hand observation, headteacher's reports, and presentations by senior staff and have a clear vision for the future of the school. They are very well-informed and provide appropriate support and challenge to the school in tackling any issues which arise and its determination to secure improvement.

### **Overall effectiveness of the school**

The headteacher of SS Peter and Paul's Catholic School provides outstanding leadership and, together with her senior leaders, demonstrates strong commitment to the Catholic life of the school, the spiritual growth of the community and the provision of high quality Catholic education. The children's spiritual, moral and social development is outstanding. They demonstrate very good moral values and respect for one another and have a clear understanding of the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation. Pastoral care and guidance for the children and their families is outstanding. The children feel safe and secure in school and respond very well to the support they receive. Children in Year 6 take their responsibility as playground buddies for the younger children very seriously. The children's opinions are valued highly, and the school council meets regularly to discuss ideas for the future development of their school. A programme of family life education provides effective moral guidance in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The children's enthusiasm for and enjoyment of RE reflects their teachers' passion for the subject. They behave very well in RE lessons and are fully engaged in their learning, which is promoted through a wide range of activities and supported by a wealth of excellent resources. There is some outstanding work in the books of all year groups and most children are careful and take a pride in their work. The school environment is enhanced by high quality RE displays which celebrate the children's achievement, challenge their thinking and extend their learning. Progress is outstanding across the school. Attainment in RE on entry to the school is low, yet by the end of Year 6 most children achieve at a level above diocesan expectations. Their ability

to retell stories from the Old Testament and the life of Jesus in detail and to analyse the meaning of these stories and apply them to their own lives is well developed. For example, children in Year 6 can identify characters from the Old Testament who showed jealousy or who were challenged by God and reflect on what these stories teach them about the characters themselves, their relationship with God and God's relationship with his people. This reflects the mostly good, and sometimes outstanding, teaching in RE which promotes effective learning and enjoyment of the subject. Assessment for learning is well embedded and teachers are becoming skilled in using the level descriptors to give meaning and focus to their teaching and using the tracking data to inform their lesson planning. Planning is thorough and takes account of previous learning in setting learning objectives. However, the school acknowledges that planned activities do not always meet the needs of all pupils and that the most able pupils would benefit from a greater level of challenge and more opportunities to extend their thinking independently.

The RE curriculum is based on the curriculum strategy "Learning and Growing as the People of God", which has been adapted to meet the particular needs of the school. This is subject to ongoing review and evaluation based on thorough assessments to ensure progression and full coverage of the Strategy. The curriculum is enriched by visits to places of Catholic heritage and places of worship of other religions, and by residential and on-site retreats.

Provision for collective worship is outstanding and is a strength of the school. A wide range of liturgical experiences and worship is provided to which the children respond enthusiastically. They act with reverence and respect and participate with confidence. They have very good knowledge and understanding of the forms and purposes of prayer and know prayers relevant to their age and experience. In the current development plan for RE the school has identified that the children need more opportunities to plan and lead collective worship and is responding to this. Sacramental preparation programmes are very well organised and involve the school, the families and the parish community. The school is an integral part of the parish, benefitting from the close proximity of the church. A high percentage of children attend Mass regularly, serve on the altar and sing in the choir. The parish priest, who is also chair of governors, is a regular visitor to the school. He is well known by the children and their parents, and knows them well too, and provides excellent spiritual and pastoral support for the whole community.

Pupils have good knowledge and understanding of the practices of other faiths through the study of a different faith each year. They also have strong links with a parish in India through their parish priest, for which they provide active support. They demonstrate their understanding of their responsibility for others less fortunate than themselves both at home and globally through the many fund-raising activities which they undertake and their participation in local initiatives.

SS Peter and Paul's School is an outstanding Catholic school where all pupils benefit from the rich spiritual and moral values which permeate all aspects of school life. The children thrive in the secure and happy environment which the school provides.

### **Recommendations**

Develop formal procedures for the monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of the Catholic life of the school on the pupils to provide a secure basis for targeted forward planning.



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

March 2013

Dear Parents and Carer

**Section 48 (Diocesan) Inspection of SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School,  
February 2013**

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 want one and it will be available on the school website or by request from the school office.

SS Peter and Paul's is an outstanding Catholic school with a very strong Catholic ethos which places the love of God and its mission to nurture your children as the future of the Church at its heart. Your children thrive in the secure and happy environment which the school provides. Their contribution to the Catholic life of the school, their spiritual and moral development and their participation in and response to collective worship are outstanding. Religious Education as a subject is given a high priority. Your children enjoy their learning in RE lessons, behave very well, make very good progress and reach high standards. This is because of very good teaching in RE which is supported by rigorous monitoring and assessment.

The partnership between the school, the families and the parish is very strong and your children are encouraged to play an active part in the parish and the local community. They understand their responsibility to support others less fortunate than themselves in the wider world.

The leadership team, supported by an enthusiastic and committed governing body, has a very good understanding of the school's needs because of its thorough and accurate assessment and is committed to continued improvement. To support future development I have recommended that it should develop formal procedures for monitoring and evaluating the quality and impact of the Catholic life of the school on the children to support forward planning.

I very much enjoyed my visit to SS Peter and Paul Catholic School. I would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome and your children for their eagerness to talk about their school and their learning. They are a credit to their school and to their families and those who care for them.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Dance  
Diocesan Inspector