



DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

**St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School
Windermere**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

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

School:

St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School Windermere

Address:

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School URN:

148698

Headteacher:

**Mrs Sarah Tansey (executive headteacher) Mrs Lucy
Bone (head of school)**

Chair of Governors:

Mrs Janet Hutton

Lead Inspector:

Mrs Adrienne Delaney

Team Inspector:

Mrs Rachel Ballard

Date of Inspection:

1st March 2022

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St Cuthbert's is a Catholic Voluntary Aided primary school situated in the Lake District in the Diocese of Lancaster. It is a small sized primary school with currently 36 pupils on roll (42 with nursery) of which approximately 86% are baptised Roman Catholics. Other pupils come from no faith or other Christian backgrounds. 41% of pupils come from families who do not have English as their first language. There are two main classes, one being Early Years/Key Stage 1 and the other Key Stage 2.

Approximately 35% of pupils are on the SEND register.

The school building is well maintained and surrounded by well utilised land. It is in the heart of a small but bustling town which has amenities that can be used by pupils. The Parish Priest is responsible for two parishes in a wide area.

PUPILS	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	6	2	5	3	3	9	8	36
Catholics on roll	6	2	5	3	7	5	7	31
Other Christian denomination						1	1	2
Other faith background								
No religious affiliation								
No of learners from ethnic groups	3	1	3		2	4	3	11
Total on SEN Register	1		1	3	4	2	0	16
Total with Statements of SEND (EHP)	2				1		0	3

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

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Our Lady and St Herbert's	31
Holy Trinity and St George	3

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

TEACHING TIME FOR ENGLISH	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	5	5	5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	52.5
% of teaching time	16%	16%	16%	20%	20%	20%	20%	

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

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	1
Part-time teachers	3
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	5.6
Classroom Support assistants	2
Number of Catholic teachers FTE	75%
Number of teachers teaching RE	4
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	2
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0
Chaplaincy staffing	1
1:1 support	5

ORGANISATION	
Published admission number	56
Number of classes	4
Average class size Key Stage 1	9
Average class size Key Stage 2	18

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2020-21	Current financial year 2021-2022	Next financial year 2022-23
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	£ 8566	£ 16270	£ 16359
RE Curriculum allowance from above	700	1,000	1,200
English Curriculum allowance from above	500	1500	1000
Total CPD budget	1093	2600	2600
RE allocation for CPD	600	600	600

How the school has developed since the last inspection
<p>Aspects for improvement since the last inspection have been addressed and are beginning to have a positive impact on raising standards. A baseline assessment and tracking system across the school are in place and governors are informed and are monitoring attainment and progress in curriculum RE. Improvements are identified and acted upon through marking, monitoring and assessment.</p> <p>The school has a good capacity to sustain this continuous improvement. The dedication of the governors together with the commitment of the leadership team and all staff, demonstrate the capacity to facilitate continuous improvement. Inspection has shown that self-evaluation is broadly accurate.</p>

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

CATHOLIC LIFE

1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

St Cuthbert's is a good and improving Catholic school. It is very welcoming and has inclusion for all as a central goal and a shared vision. The school's Mission Statement 'Help one another. This is what we do with all our hearts.' is lived out daily and pupils enjoy attending their school and articulate positive attitudes to learning. One pupil interviewed described St Cuthbert's as a place where 'We love one another and help each other to spread our love'. Pupils deepen the knowledge of their faith throughout their time in school and gain a firm understanding of Catholic practice. Governors play a significant part in leading the strategic direction of the school in the community that it serves. The RE governor and the board of governors are dedicated to ensuring that there are strong parish links and that a broad RE curriculum is being accessed by pupils. The more recently appointed executive headteacher and head of school have addressed the recommendations from the last inspection. All leaders and staff place emphasis on raising standards and putting the Catholic life of the school at the forefront of their plans for St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary.

The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding and the commitment from the leadership team, the governors, staff, and parish laity to support pupils in their prayer life and faith development has remained a priority during periods of change within the school and in the parish. Staff set good examples, support each other, are proud of their school and they work well together. Staff appreciate the small library of religious books in the staffroom that enables them to deepen their own and the pupils' spirituality. The successive Parish Priests have been regular and welcome visitors to the school, actively fulfilling their role both pastorally and canonically. Children participate in the Mass and receive the sacraments regularly. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is very good and has an impact on everyday life at St Cuthbert's. This can be seen through pupils' responses to each other and in their understanding of the notion of the common good. The pupils willingly become involved in a variety of activities, supporting their own and the wider community. They have raised funds for a local hospice, CAFOD, and the active school council respond spontaneously to other deserving causes. This contributes to pupils' social, emotional and moral development. Parents appreciate the school's efforts and they welcome opportunities to participate in Catholic life. Gospel values permeate school life and pupils are helped to grow in their spirituality, make the most of their abilities and nurture their faith.

Many opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy are embedded and there are plans to extend and hone the good practice. Pupils act with reverence and join in prayers confidently. Prayer and Liturgies observed on the day of inspection demonstrate that children prepare and plan these with thought and care. They make full use of resources available to them and appreciate the opportunities offered, for example, the use of the prayer areas, both inside and outside the school, Masses and liturgies.

The quality of curriculum RE is good overall and pupils are provided with a 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 and many aspects of the curriculum are good. Clear action plans are in place to continue to raise attainment and progress. The monitoring and assessment of all strands curriculum delivery has begun to have an excellent effect on evaluation of the provision of curriculum RE. The SLT have devised of a curriculum that incorporates all required elements.

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

Governors and leaders take full account of the '*Fit for Mission? Schools*' guidance.

The recent HRSE recommendations are being acted upon and the policy is in place. HRSE is incorporated into the curriculum and is well embedded.

The school's capacity to maintain improving standards is outstanding.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

To improve further the school needs to:

- Improve outcomes for all pupils by:
 - sharing the best practice in the teaching of RE, so that all staff consistently deliver good and outstanding lessons
 - ensuring that all pupils have more opportunities to learn about faiths and cultures other than their own, particularly those of a monotheistic tradition
 - Enhance provision in Early Years and Key Stage 1 so that pupils can access relevant RE resources in order to ensure differentiation and quality experiences
- Celebrate successes by:
 - Continuing to work with the parish so as to maintain the strong parish links
 - Strengthening the good links with schools in the Mater Christi Trust so that good practice continues to be shared

PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

1

- 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

1

1

1

Inspection confirms the judgement made by the school that pupils make an outstanding contribution to the Catholic Life of the school.

Governors, leaders, teachers and support staff at St Cuthbert's are committed to supporting the Catholic ethos of the school and its mission and this culture is embedded in the life of the school family.

The pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Life of School is greatly enhanced by their participation in and contribution to many aspects of school life. Pupils know that they belong to St Cuthbert's Parish family and are proud to be part of the school and parish. For example, a pupil interviewed said 'We show that we love each other and help each other to spread our love'. On the day of inspection Key Stage 2 pupils led prayer in their classroom. They were enthusiastic in talking about the elements of prayer, could question each other and demonstrate maturity in their self –assessment of the prayer activity. The children answered the response to the gospel and were reverent throughout. From the Foundation Stage onwards pupils are beginning to demonstrate their ability to share their own faith through whole class Prayer and Liturgy. This was demonstrated in children observed in a whole school prayer and liturgy class where children readily volunteered responses and their own thoughts and reflections. They sing hymns readily and joyfully.

Pupils understand that their Catholic Faith is different from other faiths and that they share this distinctiveness with other Catholic schools. They share activities when possible with other schools in the Trust. The school takes part in many community activities that have enabled their understanding of wider community and the common good. Examples of this are the celebration of Mass with the parish, fundraising with the parish and collecting money for CAFOD, the homeless and hungry, the food bank and a local children's hospice. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils spoken to on the day of inspection could readily discuss the reasons for fundraising during Lent.

The active Laudato Si group members articulated Pope Francis' message to the inspectors. One pupil said: 'We are the stewards of God's creation. We need to protect the earth'. The *mini police* in school help the local environment.

On the day of inspection, a pupil said that St Cuthbert's 'helps us to be kind and peaceful like Jesus'. This articulation of ethos encourages best behaviour and focused learning. Catholic principles and values are at the core of behaviour and relationship policies resulting in a strong and shared vision for the Catholic Life of St Cuthbert's.

The Priest, lay helpers in school, governors, school leaders, teachers and support staff are fully committed to fulfilling their role in ensuring that provision remains outstanding for the Catholic Life of the school. Their expectations are high and they are working together to implement the Catholic philosophy of education. The SLT provides a clear direction for the Catholic Life of the school and the spiritual and moral development of pupils.

The Governors, leaders and managers are fully committed to partnerships with the diocesan family of parishes and schools. The school has recently become part of the Mater Christi Trust and although there are often many miles between schools they have embraced the opportunity to celebrate their Catholic identity and share good practice.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. St Cuthbert's is an inclusive, welcoming and friendly community with a very strong family ethos where everyone is valued and pupils and staff flourish. There is a very visible sense of family and community in all aspects of school life. This is evident in the quality of relationships that exist between all stakeholders.

The school is a prayerful community that provides a stimulating learning environment to reflect the school's mission and its Catholic character. Staff and governors work hard to develop and enhance the school for the benefit of everyone at St Cuthbert's. Staff INSET has ensured CPD in RE and staff subject knowledge has been strengthened through reflection and through training from the SLT and opportunities offered.

PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2

- 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

2

2

2

Inspection adjudged that the extent to which pupils enjoy and achieve in RE is good.

The majority of pupils at St Cuthbert's enjoy RE, are religiously literate and engaged in their learning. They are able to remain on task when entering into discussion and working independently. Through active participation in prayer and liturgies, together with good curriculum coverage, pupils show a good knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith. They now need to be given further opportunities over Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in order to learn about faiths and practices other than their own, in particular Judaism and Islam; this will teach them about the roots of monotheistic cultures. Plans were in place to extend this practice but the pandemic curtailed them. Pupils understand that Christ is at the centre of all school life and are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. For example, one pupil said 'Learning about Jesus helps to reassure us that God is always there for us. We learn to love one another'.

Many pupils begin to make good progress in RE from a low baseline when they join St Cuthbert's in Foundation Stage. They are beginning to develop and apply a range of skills throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, including independence and imagination. However, the sharing of good practice within the Mater Christi Trust will further enhance teaching and provision in those stages. Skills are built upon in Key Stage 2 where pupils are able to reflect upon their own scriptural knowledge of, for example, the notion of caring for the poor and needy as a part of their mission to 'Help one another: this is what we do with all our hearts' This knowledge enables them to forgive, love and respect and to reflect on the notion of justice and the common good.

Tracking demonstrates that pupils' attainment is good. The RE leader has introduced a visual form of tracking, whereby the small numbers within groups of pupils are highlighted and targets are set for further improvement. This analysis shows that all groups make at least expected progress.

Pupil attainment and progress is good and in line with standards in other core subjects. Pupils have a great respect for each other and can discuss their faith. They now need to be given more opportunities to learn about the faith of others both in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Good quality teaching and learning was observed on the day of inspection. Most pupils enjoy their learning because teachers try to make their lessons relevant and interesting.

Pupils' progress in RE in each of the attainment targets is good and analysis of results is ongoing. Parents spoken to on the day of inspection state that they are happy with the school and questionnaires affirm this. Children's progress is reported to parents in regular reports, alongside other core subjects. The school's use of the Dojo system helps children and parents learn about pupils' progress in RE. The school's website is updated to inform parents of curriculum RE and the Catholic Life.

Inspection found that leadership and management in RE is good and has improved in the recent past. Changes have been supported by leaders, governors, teachers and support staff, ensuring that good practice is sustained and leads to best outcomes for pupils. The executive head and the head of school have an accurate view of the quality of teaching and learning, monitoring and evaluation in St Cuthbert's. They are clear about the improvements needed and, supported by governors, and staff they are moving ahead with programmes of study, new means of assessment and monitoring of RE.

Curriculum RE is at the forefront of teaching. Modelling teaching of RE, monitoring of lesson plans, formal and informal observations together with book scrutiny and conversations with pupils are carried out by SLT, ensuring that the improvement of quality of teaching and learning remains a priority. The RE leader continues to look at the curriculum in order to provide a programme of work that incorporates the best of the published schemes whilst adhering to the requirements set out in the *Curriculum Wheel*. This will help to ensure progression of tasks and good outcomes for pupils.

Teaching in RE is good overall and inspection found provision to be of a good standard. Support staff are deployed effectively to assist pupils with additional needs. In lessons observed, teachers showed good subject knowledge, built on prior learning and differentiated tasks to suit the needs of most learners. The practice of peer tutoring and observation of good practice would greatly enhance teaching and learning and secure good and outstanding teaching across the key stages. Next step marking is embedded and pupils spoken to on the day of inspection knew what to do to improve their work.

The quality of displays around the school is good and reflects the pupils' learning.

The RE curriculum meets the requirements of the Bishops' Conference and is informed by the Curriculum Directory and diocesan requirements.

The executive headteacher, the head of school, governors, teachers and support staff have sought opportunities to reflect on the teaching of RE and the Catholic Life of the School. The executive headteacher and head of school have ensured CPD for staff. Staff members appreciate the library of books in the staffroom that helps enable them to learn more about the faith. Resources are used effectively and enhance teaching and learning in St Cuthbert's School. The purchase of relevant artefacts and resources, particularly in Early Years and Key Stage 1 will further enhance provision in curricular RE.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Overall Effectiveness	1
Capacity for sustained improvement	1
Catholic Life	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders and managers promote and ensure provision for the Catholic Life of the school through monitoring and evaluation. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school. 	1
Religious Education	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision in Religious Education. 	2

	Pupil Outcomes	Leadership & Management	Provision	Overall
Catholic Life	1	1	1	1
Religious Education	2	2	2	2