

Diocese of Wrexham



INSPECTION REPORT

SECTION 50

St David's Catholic Primary School,
St David's Lane,
Mold.
CH7 1LH

Head Teacher: Mr. S Hughes

Chair of Governors: Mrs Karen Morris

Date of Inspection: June 2014

Inspectors: Mrs K Ranson

Mrs. S Williams

Introduction

The inspection of the school was carried out by two Diocesan appointed Section 50 Inspectors. The inspectors visited all religious education lessons and held meetings with the head teacher, the chair of governors, the subject leader and the parish priest. They observed the school's work and provision, including prayer and collective worship. They looked at a range of evidence, including key documentation such as the school's self evaluation, the school development plan and pupils' work.

The effectiveness of the school was judged against the progress made by the school since the last inspection, with consideration of three key questions:

Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?

Key Question 2: How good is provision?

Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?

Inspectors provide an overall judgement on the school's current standards against the framework and on its prospects for improvement.

The inspectors used a four-point scale and judgement. What the judgement means:

Excellent	Many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice
Good	Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement
Adequate	Strengths outweigh areas for improvement
Unsatisfactory	Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths

Context of the School

St. David's School is a Catholic primary school situated in Mold, Flintshire, which is in the parish of St David's, Mold. Currently, the school has 114 pupils on roll aged between 3 and 11 years. Of the children, 75% are baptised Catholic, 12% of pupils are entitled to free school meals, 10% have English as an additional language and 17% of pupils are on SEN register

Summary of the inspection findings.

St David's school is good overall in providing Catholic Education. It is a welcoming and inclusive school and its strong Catholic ethos ensures that every pupil is valued and fully integrated into the school community. Gospel values are reflected in the school which provides a happy and caring environment and aims to help all children enjoy their learning and achieve their full potential.

St David's has a Mission Statement "Living and learning through Jesus in all that we do". The ethos of the school is well established. As a Catholic school it is happy and positive in its approach with a clear emphasis on care and respect for all within the school community.

This shows in the behaviour and attitude of the pupils who show they enjoy their learning and behave well.

Provision for religious education is good. The teaching observed was good. The standards reached by pupils in their written work, across the school are at least average. Assessment of work is in place across the school, though this needs further development.

Since the last inspection the school has made improvements in religious education and implemented some diocesan recommendations. However, the system of self evaluation needs to be strengthened further, in particular, by being more closely linked to the school development plan so that points identified as areas for further action can be clearly seen. Assessment systems have been established but these need to be further developed to improve the accuracy and the rigour of moderation across the year groups.

The school has good links with outside agencies and with the parish community. Parents speak well of the school and warmly acknowledge the care and encouragement their children receive. Pupils enjoy coming to school, they feel safe and know what to do if they need help or are worried about anything. Overall the school has good capacity for sustained improvement.

Recommendations

In order to make progress, the school needs to:

R1

Strengthen the section 50 self evaluation process within the school by more closely linking the school development plan with the points identified for further action in the self evaluation report.

R2. Raise the standards of attainment in religious education further by:

- using the language of the level descriptors when planning and differentiating for groups of children;
- ensuring differentiation is by both task and outcome;
- ensuring that there is sufficient progression and challenge
- whole school use of driver words in 'next steps' when marking to

inform pupils learning.

R3. Further develop the work being done in assessment, monitoring and tracking of children's progress by:

- improving accuracy and rigour of moderation across year groups;
- making more use of information gleaned through analysis of -assessment data to inform planning and strengthen the tracking of pupil progress.

What happens next?

St David's School will create an action plan which shows how it is going to address the recommendations. The Diocesan Education Service will support and monitor the school's progress.

Key Question 1. How good outcomes are for individuals and groups of pupils

Pupils take on responsibilities and participate constructively in the Catholic life of the school. This is expressed in the mission statement "Living and Learning through Jesus in all that we do" and reflected in the relationships and mutual respect shown between the staff, parents and children. The mission statement is known by all within the school community and its impact is evident in the school's warm and welcoming ethos and the behaviour of the pupils.

Pupils understand that religious beliefs and spiritual values are important for many people and they show care and respect for religious objects within the school.

They have a good understanding of right and wrong and contribute to and benefit from the school being a cohesive community. They understand the importance of key celebrations in school throughout the liturgical year and in the parish community. They value and respect the Catholic tradition of the school and its links with the parish community. They are considerate towards others and they show good signs of responding to the needs of people beyond the school. The recently establish 'Mini Vinnies' group within the school have been involved in supporting the Flintshire Food Bank and the children singing for a local residential home are ways in which pupils are helped to be considerate to others and caring to anyone in apparent need.

The pupils' learning and progress in religious education are adequate. Evidence from lesson observations during the inspection showed that the children enjoy their religious education. The standard of pupils' work recorded in religious education books is adequate overall though written tasks need more variety and challenge and especially for the more able children. Lesson planning has improved but it needs to plan more for children with different abilities and create opportunities for informal assessment. More care must be taken when planning for mixed age groups to ensure every child makes progress. Better use of levels of attainment and systems for moderating assessment should be made across the school. The standards reached by pupils at key stage 2 are at least broadly average.

Whilst differentiation was seen in the lessons observed there was no evidence of differentiation seen in the pupils' workbooks. The evidence of attainment provided by the school show outcomes to be good though the inspectors question the accuracy of some of these levels of attainment.

Prayer and collective worship observed in the school was good. Pupils were involved and assisted with the whole school worship and children in the foundation phase prepared the focus tables for class worship. Pupils need more opportunity to plan, lead and evaluate worship across the school.

Pupils at St David's school show reverence. They reflect in silence, sing joyfully and join in community prayers appropriately and with confidence. No one is expected to act in a manner contrary to their beliefs and all show respect for each other. They have a good understanding of the religious seasons and feasts and are at ease when praying with their school community and appreciate what is taking place.

Key Question 2. The quality of the school's work in providing Catholic education

The quality of teaching observed across the school is good and teaching assistants are employed effectively across the school to support the delivery of the religious education curriculum. Pupils show interest in their work and make progress that is broadly in line with their capabilities. A reasonable range of strategies ensures that pupils are generally engaged in their work and show enjoyment in the tasks undertaken.

Currently there is a tracking system in place for the monitoring of pupil achievement in religious education. Formal assessments take place three times a year but this work needs to be annotated with the correct use of the driver words. Informal assessments are not indicated within the books and early learning goals are not currently in use. The judgements made by the school in respect of the standards of attainment of pupils in religious education are not accurate enough. The moderation of pupils' work needs more development so that assessment is consistent across the school.

The pupils' work is generally well presented and marked with positive comments. However, a consistent system of marking work and informing pupils of their next steps in learning needs to be established across the school. The use of driver words in teacher comments will ensure a consistent approach to setting objectives using the language of the level descriptors when marking pupils work across the school. Teachers provide opportunities for pupils to work independently and collaboratively.

The school follows the 'Come and See' programme recommended by the Diocese and meets the requirements of the Curriculum Directory for religious education. This ensures complete religious education entitlement for each child and meets national and diocesan requirements. Of the total curriculum time, 10% is allocated to religious education. This meets the requirements of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Planning ensures full coverage of the religious education programme. The school implements new curriculum developments as appropriate. The religious education curriculum provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual and moral development. Behaviour across the school is good.

The school's prayer and worship provided is good and plays a key part in meeting the spiritual needs of the pupils. Children are enabled to pray formally and the learning environment created within the school is positive. The subject leader has the knowledge and skills to support and develop the staff and pupils in planning, leading and evaluating worship. Collective worship is planned by staff but the pupils need to be encouraged to plan, lead and evaluate acts of collective worship. Staff accept responsibility for leading prayer and involve pupils in its delivery. Key seasons of the Church's year are celebrated and other religious festivals acknowledged. Parents and members of the community value the school and are invited to attend the celebrations

throughout the year. Positive relationships are established between the school and the parishes of St David's, Mold and Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley.

Key Question 3. How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school

The Head teacher is very committed to developing the Catholic life of the school. Leaders, governors and managers demonstrate a commitment to the Church's mission in education with spiritual and moral development a priority. The school's mission statement is reviewed regularly and is known by everyone. The governors at St David's are well informed and discharge their responsibilities well. They have effectively helped to shape the direction of the school. There is a mission and purpose committee established to review and monitor the Catholic life of the school and through self evaluation, priorities for further development have been identified. These priorities are included within the school development plan and a specific Catholic performance management objective has been agreed to help the implementation of the identified priority. In addition the school has produced a pupil version of the school development plan to ensure that all have a clear vision of the development of religious education and the needs of the school. There is a link governor with responsibility for overseeing the Catholicity of the school. This needs to be extended to include monitoring of provision for curriculum religious education across the school in future.

The pastoral care support and guidance at the school is good. Staff and pupils have a high regard for the Catholic life of the school. Systems for the tracking of religious education are in place. Self evaluation priorities have been identified by the school. A religious education area for further development has been identified within the school development plan. The process of self evaluation would however be further improved by more closely linking the school development plan with the points identified as areas of further action within the self evaluation report.

Parents and pupils express positive views about the school. Lessons are monitored. The introduction of the new scheme of work 'Come and See' is having a positive impact on standards. Assessment is in place across the school and pupils are making progress. The school needs to develop further the work being done in assessment, monitoring and tracking of the pupils' progress by improving the accuracy of assessments, and the rigour of moderation across year groups. Further use should be made of the information gleaned through analysis of assessment data to inform planning and strengthen the tracking of pupil progress.

The school is an Inclusive community. Positive relationships have been established with all members of the school community.

The school successfully promotes community cohesion through its good links with outside agencies and the parish community. Parish links have been developed and promoted through weekly school masses and special celebrations. The parish priests of St David's and Our Lady of the Rosary have established good relationships with the school and appreciate the commitment of the Head teacher and the staff in nurturing the Catholic Life of the school.

The school raises funds for a range of charities such as 'Mission Together', Cafod, 'Macmillan Cancer Research' and 'Operation Christmas Child' throughout the year. Through the study topics on the 'Universal Church' and 'Other Faiths', pupils across the school are able to respect and recognise other people's beliefs and needs and develop a sense of the wider world.
