



St. Catherine's
RC Primary School

13th July 2023

Catholic Schools Inspection - Final Report - July 2023

Dear parents and carers,

We are delighted to share our Catholic Schools Inspection report with you, after being inspected on 21st and 22nd June.

We are thrilled with the outcome of our inspection and how inspectors recognised and commented on so many wonderful elements of our school community. We thank all parents who took time to share their views on the Catholic Schools Inspection parent survey and for speaking so positively about our school community.

In line with our own self-evaluation, we have secured 'good' in all key areas of the inspection, including a number of sub-elements (not specifically reported on in the CSI report) which were graded as 'outstanding'. We have also fully met the areas from improvement from our last inspection.

Our next steps, again in line with our own self-evaluation, are to further develop Catholic Social Teaching so that pupils feel inspired to change the world as missionary disciples, and to develop further independence of children in planning and leading prayer and liturgy.

Some of the highlights of the report are:

- Pupils actively contribute to the mission of the school. They have a clear understanding of St Catherine's Catholic identity and are able to articulate the school mission statement and how it impacts the life of their school. Indeed, one child stated 'It is the middle of everything. It is the reason for everything we do.'
- Pupils understand that they are valued and cared for in this loving community.
- The mission statement is known, lived and witnessed throughout the school day.
- There is a culture of welcome that extends to the whole community.
- The school is a supportive and joyful community and is appreciated by parents. One parent stated, 'My husband and I feel lucky to have found this school'.
- Staff know the families well and are excellent role models.
- The care and attention given to the physical environment of the school mirrors the Catholic identity.
- Imaginative use of limited space has allowed for areas of quiet prayer and reflection in communal spaces.

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'Be who God wants you to be and so set the world on fire.' Saint Catherine of Siena

Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration

- Leaders and governors have a shared vision of guardians of the Catholic life and mission of the school.
- During the pandemic, leaders used technology creatively for prayer and worships and for all pupils to continue to have question and answer sessions with the parish priest.
- Pupils make good progress in knowing more and remembering more and can speak with confidence about what they have been learning in religious education lessons over time. Pupils enjoy their lessons. As one pupil said, 'School is better for having RE lessons.'
- Pupils relative to their age use their knowledge, understanding and skills effectively.
- Teachers are confident in their subject knowledge and know where to seek support if required. A member of staff said, 'I always feel valued, kept informed and help is always available when needed.'
- Teachers have high expectations of pupils in religious education lessons using sacred scripture as the starting point in all lessons observed.
- The Religious Education subject leader, through her inspiring vision and own expertise, has been a model of good practice for staff leading to a significant impact on the teaching of religious education.
- Pupils understand there are a variety of ways of praying that are part of the Catholic tradition. They have a good understanding of the liturgical year and all sacred spaces in the school reflect this.
- Scripture is central to prayer and liturgy and is carefully chosen to help those present fully participate.
- All leaders are models of good practice to staff and pupils. Skilled staff help pupils plan and lead prayer and liturgy.
- Pupils have used their gifts to enhance liturgy in school and this has been recorded creatively in the beautiful Catholic life and mission books.
- Staff work hard to include families in the prayer life of the school and work well with the parish. A parent said, 'The school and staff have created a wonderful community working in harmony with the parish church'.

Thank you to our wonderful children for continuing to represent our school so well. Thank you to our incredibly hard-working and dedicated staff for everything they do to support our children in school and to ensure our mission and vision is lived out in all that we do. Thank you again to our parent community for always being so supportive, appreciative and kind.

Our report will also be published on our school website so that it can be shared more widely within our community too.

Kind regards,

Miss Quiligotti