

Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Frizington

URN: 112350

Carried out on behalf of the Right Rev. Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster on:

Date: 9th November 2023

Overall effectiveness The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school.....	3
Catholic life and mission (p.3) How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.....	3
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Collective worship (p.7) The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.....	3
The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference	✓
The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop	x
The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection	Partially

Summary of key findings

What the school does well

- Strong religious education subject leader
- High quality pastoral care within the school community
- Support for the vulnerable in school and the wider community
- Secure pastoral links with the parish priest

What the school needs to improve:

- Deepen pupils' knowledge by helping them to make links between learning in religious education and their daily lives
- Introduce robust induction processes so that staff understand the directives in the *Religious Education Directory* and guidance on prayer and liturgy so that feedback, including marking is consistent and leads to good pupil progress
- Develop a consistent prayer and liturgy overview and policy across the school

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade:.....

3

Pupil outcomes

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

3

Provision

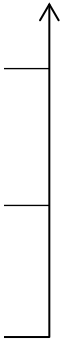
The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

3

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

3



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a small, welcoming and fully inclusive school. Pupils are cared for and Christ is very much at the centre of this school community. Pupils take part in the Catholic life and mission of the school but they struggle to articulate how the Catholic identity makes a difference to their lives. Pupils interviewed were unsure when discussing the unique and distinctive nature of St Joseph's and found it difficult to talk about the values that underpin the school. Pupils could discuss some teachings of Jesus but their sense of understanding as to how these teachings relate to their personal responsibility is not secure. Pupils were able to discuss the opportunities they have had to help those in need. Evidence showing ways that the school has supported the most vulnerable groups in society was seen on the day of inspection. Pupils have respect for themselves and each other and the recently introduced behaviour procedures were shared by children spoken to and have begun to make a positive impact. The parish priest is respected by the pupils who could talk about his involvement in their lessons and school. He uses parish resources to enhance the Catholic life of the school and develops the singing through the weekly hymn practices. It is clear that pupils enjoy their singing and spoke enthusiastically about these sessions with the parish priest.

The mission statement has been reviewed within the last year and is clearly visible around the school and in the classrooms. Staff and pupils were able to talk about how it impacts life in school. The mission statement 'we care, we belong, we learn together in faith' is lived out through active participation in fund raising for Cafod, Mary's meals, Hospice at Home, McMillan, supporting Ukraine and donations to the local foodbank in the area. The school is a welcoming and supportive community and the current acting executive head teacher has invited parents

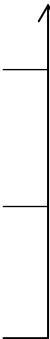
into the Friday celebration assembly to strengthen home/school links. This has proved extremely popular with a high turnout of parents attending these celebrations. St Joseph's welcomes all and has a high proportion of pupils with special educational needs and learning disabilities. There are very few pupils from different cultures but the curriculum is enriched with a variety of learning opportunities about faiths and backgrounds to help deepen pupils' knowledge and respect for others. Staff are positive role models and bear witness to the school's Catholic life and mission. Staff know pupils well and these positive relationships enable them to support the needs of all pupils, especially the most vulnerable. The school environment reflects the Catholic identity of St Joseph's and reflects the attention given to the Catholic life of the school. There are engaging and spiritual displays around the whole school which show that the Catholic nature is at the heart of this school. The chaplaincy provision is provided by the parish priest who visits school weekly and provides pastoral support to the staff and pupils in school. The provision for relationships, sex and health education meets the statutory and diocesan requirements and inspectors analysed evidence of lessons and learning and impact in this area.

On the day of the inspection, the team were able to talk to the acting executive head teacher, the senior teacher and the religious education subject leader. The acting executive head teacher and the senior teacher have worked hard to manage St Joseph's in recent weeks, following an unsettling and difficult period. The very experienced religious education subject leader has been very determined in her drive to prioritise the Catholic life and mission of St Joseph's. She is supportive to the other members of staff who are early career teachers. Evidence was seen showing that during the last academic year and since her appointment in September 2022, she has met regularly with governors to ensure monitoring and to scrutinise the provision for the Catholic life and mission. Current action plans and previous governors' meetings minutes (summer 2023) seen on the day of inspection show that Catholic life and mission remains a priority.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade:.....	3
Pupil outcomes How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education.....	2
Provision The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education.....	3
Leadership How well leaders and governors promote, monitor, and evaluate the provision for religious education.....	3



Pupils are developing knowledge, understanding and skills in religious education and data demonstrates that progress in religious education is in line with other subjects. As St Joseph's is a smaller than average school, there are mixed classes. One class is following the current curriculum directory and inspectors observed detailed planning which was adapted to meet the needs of all pupils, including pupils with additional needs and pupils from disadvantaged groups. Two classes have begun following the new *Religious Education Directory*, and are using the approved scheme of work. This is still in its infancy and further development is needed to extend the teachers' knowledge, understanding and skills. Pupils are able to speak about what they have learned in religious education but they struggle with questions which explore subject specific vocabulary. All three classes were observed during the inspection and behaviour was good in the religious lessons, with pupils participating, but depending on direction from the teachers on occasions. Pupils spoke about their enjoyment of the subject and they were engaged and interested in their learning. Previous books (last academic year) demonstrated good work that is presented well and pupils are proud of what they have learnt in their religious lessons. The current books demonstrate a variety of tasks to engage the pupils but feedback and marking is not consistent and does not always help pupils to understand how to progress their learning. Pre-learning sheets are visible at the start of each topic to recap prior knowledge and learning.

Teachers are committed and enthusiastic about teaching religious education and this was evident when observing the lessons. The experienced subject leader supports the two early career teachers and has observed and monitored their progress during this term. On the day of inspection, lessons were observed in all three classes. Whilst some classes had adapted work to meet different year groups, this was not consistent across all classes. Some of the activities

lacked higher order thinking and therefore did not challenge pupils at age appropriate levels. This is an area that needs addressing to ensure improved outcomes during this academic year. Some pupils were sitting for too long, listening to the teacher before getting on with independent work.

Work is assessed throughout each unit and linked to the planning intentions. A clear baseline assessment in Early Years Foundation Stage has been established by the religious education subject leader and inspectors were able to see good progress throughout last academic year. Reflection time in lessons was not observed and this is an area that the school has recognized that needs to be addressed.

School have taken steps to introduce the new *Religious Education Directory* with two classes, whilst the third class remains on the existing religious education directory. The timetabling of the subject meets the statutory requirements and reporting to parents is in line with other subjects.

The subject leader for religious education has a clear vision and has worked extremely hard to improve teaching and learning. She has used her expertise to support staff in their teaching of religious education. The recent changes in staffing have been a challenge but she is striving to ensure that religious education remains stable across the school and is working closely with the two new teachers. The subject leader, who works part time in school, has worked with leaders and governors throughout her time at St Joseph's and inspectors saw evidence of this.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.

Collective worship key judgement grade:.....	3
Pupil outcomes How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship	3
Provision The quality of collective worship provided by the school	3
Leadership How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship	3

Pupils were observed taking part in prayer and liturgy on the day of inspection. They prayed respectfully using a variety of resources, such as a candle, a bible and a pebble. The prayer and liturgy observed was mostly teacher-led with pupils reading and responding to scripture. The pupils had limited understanding about the church's liturgical year and their knowledge about the types of prayer was also limited. Pupils found it difficult to articulate how prayer linked to the wider life of school. However, they were able to share examples of opportunities and actions they had been involved in for example, filling shoeboxes for vulnerable children and attending the Advent service. The pupils were unable to link these actions to prayer and liturgy. On the day of the inspection, the prayer and liturgy sessions were significantly shorter than the diocesan guidelines.

A prayer and liturgy policy which details the daily prayer and liturgy provision was seen by the inspectors. School subscribes to *Ten Ten* resources but this is not always used and was not seen on the day of the inspection. Pupils shared the fact that they pray before lunch and at the end of the day. Prayer and liturgy is timetabled to take place at the end of each day with a whole school faith assembly at the start of the week. No whole school prayer and liturgy was observed on the day of the inspection.

Each classroom has its own prayer space which reflects the themes and colours of the liturgical year and pupils have access to the religious artefacts within the prayer space. There is a well-cared for prayer room which is welcoming and reflects the Catholic nature of St Joseph's. It was not used for prayer on the day of inspection and pupils confirmed that they rarely used it.

Pupils celebrate whole school Mass at the start of each term and observe holy days of obligation. The school has taken steps to engage with the local parish with invitations to Mass and other liturgies e.g. St Joseph's day celebrations. Hymn practice takes place every week and is led by the parish priest.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	112350
Full postal address of the school	Yeathouse Road, Frizington, Cumbria, CA26 3PX
School phone number	01946 810702
Name of head teacher or principal	Miss Annette Savage
Chair of governing board	
School Website	www.stjosephs-catholicprimaryfrizington.co.uk
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age-range of pupils	4 to 11
Trustees	Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	June 2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	2- Good

The inspection team

Michelle Holden	Lead inspector
Claire O'Donnell	Team

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement