



INSPECTION REPORT

St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary School

Aberdeen Road, Redland, Bristol BS6 6HY

Telephone: 0117 9030070

e-mail address: st_peter_paul_p@bristol-city.gov.uk

D/ES Number: 8013402

Headteacher: Mrs C J Sutcliffe

Chair of Governors: Mr A Farrell

Canonical Inspection under Canon 806 on behalf of the Diocese of Clifton
and inspection of Denominational Education under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Date of inspection: 15 & 16 November 2006
Date of previous inspection: 27 & 28 September 2000

Reporting Inspector: Mrs M Barnard

Description of School

St Peter and St Paul is a smaller than average school serving the parish of Clifton Cathedral. It is in the City of Bristol unitary local authority. The school serves an area that has advantageous social and economic circumstances. Pupils start at the school with attainment that is better than average. At present there are 205 pupils on roll and 77% are Catholic. The number of children receiving free school meals is below average. Pupils come from a range of backgrounds and there are 10% who have English as an additional language. 15% of pupils have learning difficulties and disabilities and this is slightly below average.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1: Outstanding; Grade 2: Good; Grade 3: Satisfactory; Grade 4: Unsatisfactory

Overall effectiveness of this Catholic school

This is an outstanding school that provides an exceptional commitment to the Catholic ethos in all areas of school life. The leadership shown by the head teacher and the leadership team inspire others to strive for excellence within a highly organised, effective and prayerful community that puts their catholic faith at the heart of all they do.

Grade 1

Improvement since the last inspection

Improvements since the last Inspection have been very good. The school has introduced the Here I Am scheme and this is now embedded in the school. A more detailed progression of the units will support continuity and progression within and between year groups and key stages. Detailed assessment and recording procedures have been developed across the school and these are becoming effective in informing teacher planning to maximise learning opportunities for pupils. All RE resources are now catalogued and well organised to support the teaching and learning. Collective worship has been reviewed since the last Inspection and the range and quality of it is now an outstanding feature of the school.

Grade 2

The capacity of the school community to improve and develop

Governors, leaders and staff share a very strong commitment to the school and are very supportive of its Mission. The school's self evaluation is accurate and provides a clear agenda for future development. The leadership team has aspirational views and inspires staff and pupils. The support of the parish community is strong and links are good but the location and profile of the parish church as a Cathedral inhibits fuller parish/school development. Parents are very supportive and contribute well to the life of the school. The school targets resources effectively and as a result very good improvements are made. There is a clear commitment to evaluating practise to continually strive for excellence in standards of provision.

What the school should do to improve further

- Develop opportunities for pupils to participate and plan class Masses and KS2 and Para liturgical services at KS1. Develop a progressive understanding of prayers within the Mass across the school
 - Plan a more detailed progression of the units in Here I Am to support differentiation, continuity and progression within and between year groups and key stages
 - Plan for the parish community to lead the Sacramental programme for First Communion for all pupils from Y3 upwards
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The Catholic Life of the School

Leadership and Management

The leadership and management is outstanding. It is very strongly focused on promoting the catholic ethos within the school. The headteacher instils a vibrant sense of purpose with a very keen focus on promoting high standards and the fullest personal development of all within the school. There is excellent role modelling by all the leadership team which gives the school a strong sense of shared purpose amongst staff at all levels. The Mission statement is very well promoted in the school. The management of the school is effective with good quality assurance and use of resources. The parish priest is very supportive of the school. Spiritual and moral development is strong within the school. Pupils are happy, enjoy coming to school and are very well cared for. Pupils show respect for one another and for adults and they are caring and considerate. Governors show a firm commitment to the catholic nature of the school and understand their strategic role well.

Collective Worship

Prayer is central to all aspects of school life. Staff and pupils pray together very regularly and there are also frequent opportunities for staff to pray together. The pray life of pupils is promoted in a wide range of ways to develop a high level of involvement of pupils with support from staff. Small groups of Y5 and Y6 pupils regularly plan and present their own highly personal and very effective class acts of worship that engage and involve all pupils in the class. The comfort corner gives further opportunity for pupils to be reflective and prayerful. Music is used regularly to create a calm and reflective atmosphere. Pupils show reverence and respect during prayer times. The liturgical year is very well supported through a planned programme of whole school Masses and assemblies and this is well recorded and shared with staff and complements the Here I Am scheme. The school should create opportunities for pupils to plan and participate in their own class Masses at KS2 and paraliturgical services at KS1 to promote further understanding of the Mass and the prayers within it. Drama is used to re-create significant liturgical celebrations and pupils lead in preparation and participation, sometimes within the Cathedral. The school sometimes joins with the local catholic Care home in prayers and Mass celebrations. In order to fulfil diocesan guidance, the school should plan for fuller parish involvement in leading the sacramental preparation for children from Y3 upwards. Both pupils and parents have an opportunity to participate in prayer groups. Prayer underpins the values which permeate the school and this provides a very valuable contribution to the spiritual growth of all within the school community.

Religious Education

Achievement and Standards in Religious Education

In KS1 and KS2, attainment is well above the national average for that expected in each year group. Pupils start out at the school with levels of attainment which are generally above average, although there are variations between cohorts. Pupils are challenged and expectations are high across the school. Pupils make good and sometimes very good progress. Pupils with learning difficulties and those with English as an additional language generally make good progress. Learners gain knowledge, skills and understanding in all key stages in RE.

Grade 1

Teaching and learning in Religious Education

The RE subject leader regularly monitors, evaluates and gives feedback to staff on teaching and learning. She supports teachers in their planning and delivery of the curriculum very well. The standard of teaching and learning in RE across the school is good with some outstanding features. Children therefore make good progress in their learning. Further opportunities for differentiation to meet the needs of all learners should be included in lessons. Resources are well organised and catalogued to support teaching and learning. Assessment, target setting and tracking of pupils is now established in the school and the leadership team is evaluating the effectiveness of these procedures to inform planning and maximise the impact on learning. There are good opportunities for the training and development of teachers both catholic and teachers who are not catholic. A portfolio of levelled work is kept to support assessments. ICT is being used in teaching and learning and the school plans to develop this further to support learners.

Grade 2

Quality of the Curriculum

The quality of the curriculum for RE is good and it fulfils the requirements of the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools. The curriculum is organised around the life and teachings of Jesus using the Here I Am programme which is now implemented across the school. The many high quality and effective displays around the school support and enhance the curriculum. Prayer areas in each classroom give a focus to collective worship and reflective prayer. The quality of resource provision is good and they are well labelled and accessible. Interactive whiteboards have increased opportunities for cross curricular links. Continuity and progression of the Here I Am programme within and between year groups and key stages needs to be consistent and clearly set out in writing for all staff. The curriculum makes a very significant contribution to the spiritual and moral development of pupils is enhanced through charity work and links with the local as well as the wider community. The Sex and Relationship Education policy is in place and a new scheme of work is to be introduced in the spring term. Evidence of the teaching of other faiths contributes well to the cultural understanding of pupils.

Grade 2

Leadership and management of Religious Education

The leadership and management of RE in the school is outstanding. There is a strong commitment to developing the Mission of the school and striving for excellence. Staff are encouraged to develop their own expertise through training. The curriculum for RE is very well supported by the subject leader through a programme of assessment, monitoring and

evaluation. The strengths and areas for development have been clearly and accurately identified by the school through its own self evaluation process. The continual development of RE and its priority in the school is paramount to the leadership and management. The headteacher, the deputy head and the subject leader for RE have a good subject knowledge and they use this very well to lead, manage and inspire other staff in the school. The commitment to the catholic faith pervades all areas of school life and is evident in all areas around the school. There is an Action Plan for RE in place and areas for development are a high priority in the School Development Plan and are linked to objectives for Performance Management

Grade 1