



INSPECTION REPORT

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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D/ES Number: 801 3400

Headteacher: Mrs Anne Peachey

Chair of Governors: Mr Tim Rogers

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: 9th and 10th January 2007
Date of previous inspection: 21st and 22nd May 2003

Reporting Inspector: Mrs Mary Usher-Clark

Description of School

Christ the King Catholic Primary School serves a disadvantaged area, within the parish of Christ the King. It is a popular school of 170 pupils although the percentage of baptised Catholic pupils is only 37%, ten percent lower than at the last inspection. Well above average numbers of pupils are entitled to free meals and there are above average numbers of pupils with learning difficulties. Attainment on entry is well below national expectations. Parents are very supportive of the school and there are strong links with the adjacent parish church and nearby convent.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of this Catholic school

Christ the King is a very good Catholic school with a strong and caring ethos. Each pupil is individually welcomed into school by staff each day. Pupils achieve very well and the standards in religious education are good and are above those of literacy overall. Teaching and learning is at least good and sometimes outstanding. Pupil's behaviour and their attitudes towards their work are exemplary. All staff provide excellent role models for the pupils. Prayer areas and displays are lively and inviting, particularly those that brighten up the main corridor. Significant spending on RE over the last two years has resulted in an excellent range of good quality resources that enhance pupils' learning. The quality of collective worship is excellent. The leadership and management of the head teacher, RE coordinator and governors are very good. The strong staff team, are fully supportive of each other and also of the Catholic ethos of the school which is always evident.

Grade 2

Improvement since the last inspection

Improvements since the last inspection have been good.

The school has undertaken a significant and meaningful evaluation of the "Here I Am" scheme and agreed that a combination of three schemes would more suitably meet the needs of the pupils of this school.

The school is now outstandingly resourced, and weekly key stage assemblies are included in the greatly improved collective worship programme.

Grade 2

The capacity of the school community to improve and develop

The school's capacity to improve is excellent. The strong leadership of the Headteacher together with the relatively new leadership team, in place since the last inspection, has clearly

identified further areas of improvement, and all the staff are highly committed to maintaining the good standards of religious education. The schools own self-evaluation is very accurate.

Grade 1

What the school should do to improve further

- Ensure the school's mission statement is reviewed to reflect the provision and ethos of the school as it is now.
 - Continue to monitor the teaching and learning of RE to ensure that standards remain high.
 - Continue to review methods of assessment, as identified in the school improvement plan
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The Catholic Life of the School

Leadership and Management

The leadership and management of the catholic life of the school are outstanding.

The governing body are experienced and supportive. The Head teacher keeps the governors well informed. They support her and equally challenge, always ensuring policy documentation includes some element of faith and spirituality. They have a clear understanding of the strengths and areas within the school needing development. The link religious education governor has recently met with the religious education coordinator and has made a full monitoring report to the governing body. The impact of the clear vision of the Head teacher and the strength of the leadership team is evident in the increasingly improving standards and good progress. Pupils feel secure and responsible in the school. Older pupils enjoy helping other pupils in the playground in their roles as playground "buddies" or as trained peer mediators. They enjoy raising money for various charities and particularly enjoyed bringing in their toys to send to an orphanage in India. A strong and shared belief is evident throughout the school and is seen in the excellent relationships and attitudes of the pupils. There are excellent links with the parish priest, who is seen in school frequently and enjoys attending as many school training days as he is able. He is also a very active vice chair of the governing body. Sacramental programmes are run within the parish.

Grade 1

The Prayer Life of the School

The prayer life of the school is outstanding. Pupils pray reverently and show a depth of understanding, apparent in the prayers they compile in their workbooks and in their class prayer books. They have confidence to lead prayers and readings at appropriate times in the classroom and in front of the whole school. Many opportunities for different forms of collective worship are provided. The school closely follows the liturgical year and major feast days are celebrated with a whole school Mass. Individual class masses take place in school and sometimes in the adjacent parish Church. During the inspection the whole school mass celebrated by the parish priest in the school hall was a deeply spiritual occasion. Many pupils took a part and were extremely confident in their various roles. The deep reverence displayed by all the pupils, from the very youngest in the reception class, was outstanding. The Mass was well attended by parents and parishioners. Pupils show a great depth of understanding of the

mass and are eager to fully contribute. The singing was excellent. All staff take turns to lead whole school and Key Stage assemblies.

Grade 1

Religious Education

Achievement and Standards in Religious Education

Achievement and standards are very good. Pupils enter the school with skills and knowledge below the nationally expected standard. Pupils work hard and are enthusiastic about their learning. They are effective learners and their work is always well presented. They say, "RE lessons are fun" and their RE books are "special". They make good progress and pupils with learning difficulties are well supported during lessons by experienced learning support assistants. By the end of Key Stage 2, standards are of a high quality. Pupils subject knowledge is very good. They are able to articulate their understanding of the teachings of Jesus and how these relate to their own lives. They have good, accurate knowledge of bible stories, the sacraments and of other world religions. Older pupils were proud of the Internet research they had done and could recount the lives of Mother Theresa and Pope John Paul the Second.

Grade 2

Teaching and learning in Religious Education

Teaching and learning is good overall with some outstanding lessons observed. Lessons are well planned and good use is made of the new interactive whiteboards. In one outstanding lesson pupils could ably identify with Mary's premonition of her son's death. Older pupils capably identified the symbols used in William Hunts painting, The Shadow of Death. Pupils responded competently to the high expectations and challenge of their teacher. These excellent links between art and religious education are evident in other work seen within the school. Teachers have good subject knowledge and question their pupils well. The support seen from learning support assistants throughout the school was very good. Marking of work, when good, offers pupils information of how to improve their work and sometimes challenges them to do further research. Detailed assessments are written at the back of their RE books and are shared with pupils and parents, however the school recognises a further need to review their methods of assessment to ensure that it more securely informs future planning.

Grade 2

Quality of the Curriculum

The curriculum is planned around a combination of three schemes and meets the requirements of the Bishop's Directory. This combination of schemes was found to match the needs of the children more closely. The main scheme follows the liturgical year and is supplemented by the schools own scheme, mainly for sacramental work and the "Here I Am" scheme of work. Personal relationships, health and drugs education are included in the personal, social and health education programme. Excellent links with the school nurse, local police officer, and drugs consultant provide extra support to deliver these lessons. There are strong links between Religious Education and other subjects, most particularly with the arts and with information and communication technology. (ICT) The curriculum in the Foundation Stage follows the three schemes and is fully inclusive, placing no presumptions on the many children who come into

school with no faith background. Older children are knowledgeable about Judaism, Islam, and Hinduism and some excellent work on Islam is currently displayed in the school. Religious Education has been very well funded over the last two years and excellent quality artefacts are seen throughout the school.

Moral, social, spiritual and cultural development is outstanding. The main corridor is very welcoming and spiritual. All the displays here, mainly done by the head teacher, are colourful and vibrant, mainly featuring work on RE, PSHE and spiritual and cultural development. A good range of posters remind pupils to be tolerant and considerate to each other.

Grade 1

Leadership and management of Religious Education

The RE coordinator is a member of the leadership team, and offers very good support to all staff. The school has an RE focus for one of its INSET days most years. The coordinator leads many staff meetings and RE is perceived by staff and pupils to be a core subject. The Head teacher gives excellent support in the monitoring and evaluation of Religious Education. It prominently features in this years school development plan. The school recognise the need to formally monitor the teaching and learning of Religious Education and look at new ways of assessing pupils' work. Strong links have developed with the Sisters of Charity from the nearby convent and three Sisters regularly help and assist the school in many varied ways.

Grade 2