



Archdiocese of Birmingham

INSPECTION REPORT

ST WILFRID'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL BIRMINGHAM

Inspection dates
Reporting Inspector

3rd - 4th July 2012
Teresa Quick

Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	4-11 years
Number on roll	208
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governors	Fr Johnny Moore
School address	Shawsdale Road Birmingham B36 8LY
Telephone number	0121 675 3319
E-mail address	enquiry@stwilfrd.bham.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	March 2009
DFE School number	330 3359
Unique Reference Number	103451

Headteacher

Mr Richard Baker

DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE



Evidence

The inspection was carried out by 1 Diocesan Inspector. The focus of the inspection was on the effectiveness and use of the school's self evaluation of religious education (RE) and Catholic life. To validate the effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation of teaching and learning, the inspector observed 2 full RE lessons with the headteacher. In addition the inspector completed a work scrutiny and held a discussion with pupils to evaluate the impact of teaching on their learning over time. She held meetings with the chair of governors, who is also the parish priest, and staff. She attended a Mass and undertook a learning walk to look at aspects of learning and teaching in RE, the presentation of the Catholic life of the school, and pupils' behaviour. She looked at a range of evidence related to the school's self evaluation such as RAISEonline, the development plan, teachers' planning, and learning journals. Alongside the validation of school self evaluation, the inspector gathered evidence about assessment which will be shared with other diocesan schools.

Information about the school

St Wilfrid's is an average size Catholic primary school serving the parish of St Wilfrid's in Castle Bromwich, Birmingham which is an area of high deprivation and changing socio-economic factors. The proportion of Catholic pupils is currently 62%. The proportion of ethnic minority pupils is 37.5%. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals are double that found nationally and steadily rising. The numbers with special needs and/or disabilities is lower than the national average. Attainment on entry is consistently low when compared with the national average. The school is subject to a major building programme which will increase the intake to 60 pupils in September.

Main Finding

In its self evaluation St Wilfrid's judges itself to be a good Catholic school in which all pupils benefit from and participate in the spiritual and moral values of the school. Religious education is judged to be good with all groups of children making good progress from their individual starting points. Pupils are enabled to develop in the knowledge, understanding and love of Jesus Christ. St Wilfrid's develops the Catholic life for all through its mission. The leadership of the school ensures that the Catholic life is strong. Pupils feel safe, secure and happy within the school's positive Catholic ethos. All pupils irrespective of age, ethnicity, ability and gender or faith background are encouraged to fulfil their potential. The school is well supported by the governors. The senior leadership knows the school well. They have clear vision for the mission of the school and plan well for the future.

School self evaluation

The school's evaluation of its Catholic life and religious education is rooted in an effective monitoring process planned across the year. The evaluation of Catholic life is accurate. Inspection evaluation reflects the overall quality of leadership. The leadership of Catholic life within this community by the headteacher and the deputy headteacher who is also the subject leader is very good. The leadership and management promote and model a sharing culture where staff, pupils and parents share ideas, resources, practical help and moral support. This is evident in a strong team spirit and a high level of commitment to the school ethos at all levels. Pupils know and actively live out the school's mission to "Love, care, share and respect" Pupils are able to demonstrate empathy with others. Informal discussions take place between staff, parents and governors on the Catholic life of the school which can result in improvement and change. Pupil's interviews are a good source of information which can lead to improvement. During the last year the format/timings of key stage assemblies were altered slightly to take account of pupils' views in keeping these

times relevant and engaging to themselves and their peers. There is formal reporting to the governors on Catholic life of the school in the headteacher's report to governors. There are information gathering exercises. Outcomes are evaluated and form part of the subject and school improvement plan. The development plan for religious education is very clearly to improve aspects of teaching and learning in RE and Catholic life.

Regular monitoring and evaluation in RE are carried out as part of the school's monitoring cycle with teaching observed. Teaching in RE is good overall. Teaching observed during the inspection was good. The school works to achieve a consistency of learning and most pupils make good progress. The accurate assessment of teaching and learning was established after observations of teaching RE, learning walks, detailed planning scrutiny and assessment scrutiny and monitoring of pupils books and interviews over a period of time. This year's lesson evaluations have been linked to the targets set by the subject leader to meet the needs of each year group to improve learning and further support continuity of learning throughout the school. The governor's policy is to recruit Catholic teachers where possible. They have been successful in this ambition. If a non Catholic teacher is appointed they are well supported to ensure that they are able to deliver the RE curriculum. Newly qualified teachers and those new to the school are also given good support. Teaching groups differ in challenge but planning shows that work is arranged to meet individual needs. At present there is little opportunity to observe the good practice in other classes. The school plan to share good practice across the staff to raise standards further. The programme of school training is well planned to meet the needs of the school. The good teaching assistants greatly assist the quality of learning helping to ensure that pupils are interested, learning and behave well.

The school judges the curriculum to be good. Inspection would agree with this judgement. The well thought out curriculum based on the diocesan *Strategy for Religious Education* links to PSHE and the SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) programme. The curriculum is integrated to include multicultural teaching and collective worship. Family life and sex education is taught following the *All that I am* diocesan programme. Visits are arranged to other places of worship. Pupils understand the expectations of how they are to treat each other, their teachers and the adults around with respect. The curriculum is well focused and regularly reviewed by the highly committed and effective subject leader. Rigorous monitoring and improvement systems have been put in place by the RE co-ordinator. Assessments of pupils' achievement are made, targets set, and evaluated. Pupils enjoy their RE lessons because teachers make them interesting. Pupils are attentive and engaged in their lessons. Behaviour in lessons is good. Behaviour at Mass was outstanding. Pupils are able to carry out research. Some research using ICT was seen. Generally teachers' questioning is good and they correctly aim to increase the planned opportunities for children to become independent critical thinkers. In view of the quality of the school self evaluation and the developments that have been put in place the capacity for sustained improvement in both the Catholic life and religious education is good. The governors know the school and give good support. The chair of governors meets regularly with the senior leadership. The school aims to develop further strategies enabling governors to successfully and independently hold the school to account for provision, progress and performance.

Overall effectiveness of the school¹

The governors and senior team robustly defend the Catholic mission of the school. All staff promote the collaboration between home school and parish. Families are helped through the work of the school to support their children on their faith journey. This supports pupils' good spiritual, moral, social and vocational development. Teachers attend the Sunday

¹ As the quality of the school self evaluation has been affirmed, the judgements in this section of the report conform to those of the school.

Sacramental Masses and are involved in the parish activities. Outcomes for the pupils are good. There is clear direction especially through the one to one peer mentoring of teachers by the subject leader to ensure consistency of learning. Pupils enter school with very low knowledge and understanding of the faith. From their individual starting points pupils make good progress and achieve well. During the Foundation Stage pupils progress to slightly below what would be expected by the end of the reception year. In Year 2 more pupils are achieving what is expected for their age. In Year 6 assessments show many pupils are achieving in line with expectations. Pupils can talk knowledgeably about their recent learning in RE. All pupils participate in every aspect of Catholic life. The quality of learning for pupils with particular learning needs and/or disabilities and their progress is good. Inspection found that the school's processes of self evaluation were thorough giving clear guidance on next steps towards further improve learning.

The headteacher and deputy headteacher inspire the strong Catholic ethos in the school which encourages pupils to gain a good understanding of the school's mission. Pupils acquire attitudes, values, relationships and commitment to the school community. The school reaches out to the community and links with parents are very good. *Inspire* workshops were held during the Sacramental preparation and First Communion banners were produced for the church. Parents are given the opportunity to support their children through meetings in the sacramental preparation time. The school supports the pupils' spiritual, moral and vocational development well. There are clear behavioural expectations linked to the teachings of Jesus. Respect is encouraged throughout the school. The school builds pupils self esteem they feel valued. "School looks after me". There are harmonious relationships throughout the school. Pupils are proud of their school. It is a place where they feel safe and happy. "It's a caring school; you know that you are going to be safe with the teachers". Collective worship is a strength of the school. Pupils participate reverently in prayer and liturgy. Pupils plan simple liturgies but the school aims to develop this further so pupils can plan liturgies for a wider audience. Pupils experience differing types of prayer.

Provision overall is good. Planning is effective and meets the needs of the various groups of pupils whether by the provision of different tasks or through the support of teaching assistants. The assessment processes are rigorous. The impact can now be seen. Teacher's marking is positive and can be developmental. Pupils know if they have achieved the learning objective. The curriculum meets the needs of all pupils. The school encourages pupils to respect the lives, cultures and beliefs of others in the school, the local community and beyond. Pupils aim to live the school mission statement: "Love, care, share and respect". There is a strong community bond within the school.

Recommendations

- Continue to share good practice across the staff to raise standards further.
- Teachers should challenge pupils more to a higher level of thinking and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- Create more opportunities for children to plan a range of collective worship for a wider audience.