

EAST ANGLIA DIOCESAN SCHOOLS' SERVICE



Director of Schools' Service: Mrs Julie O'Connor

The White House, 21 Uppgate,

Poringland, NR14 7SH

Tel: 01508 495509 Fax 01508 495358

Email: joschools@rcdea.org.uk or ssc@rcdea.org.uk

Interim Monitoring Visit

St Pancras Catholic Primary

4th April 2019

St. Pancras is a one form entry primary school for pupils from 4 to 11 years situated in Northwest Ipswich and serves the parish of St. Mary Magdalen. There are 205 pupils on roll of which 34% are Catholic. The school serves a diverse social background where 11% of pupils are eligible for free school meals, 40 pupils are pupil premium. 33 pupils are identified as having Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) but there are no pupils with a statement of educational needs. 11% of pupils have English as a second language. The percentage of staff who are Catholic is 34%. Since the last S48 inspection, the Headteacher has retired and an interim Headteacher was appointed in April 2018, supported by the Senior/RE Leader. The Senior Leader was appointed to the role of Head of school, from January 2019. The school is now a member of Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust (CMAT). The school continues to maintain its effectiveness in religious education.

Progress towards targets since last RE Denominational Inspection in November 2013:

All teaching staff to have an individual target for religious education in the annual cycle of performance management

The head of school identifies the need **to continue** this in the next cycle of performance management in the new school year and targets will reflect the priorities on the religious education action plan.

To ensure that the monitoring of Catholic life of the school is as formalised and systematic as the monitoring of religious education.

The monitoring of the Catholic life of the school **is yet to be formalised and actioned** by leaders and governors. The inspector recommends that the monitoring schedule for RE is a priority target on the religious education action plan.

To ensure that high quality feedback and marking is consistent across the school so that pupils are clear about their achievements and know what to do to improve.

The Head of School identifies the need for improvement in high quality marking and feedback. This **continues** to be a priority to be addressed so that it is consistent throughout the school. The inspector agrees with this action.

Continue to build skills and provide age appropriate opportunities to empower pupils to plan and lead acts of worship.

There are increasing opportunities for pupils to plan and lead their own worship and the head of school recognises that this needs to be **further embedded**.

Catholic Life

Pupils clearly demonstrate that they value and enjoy belonging to St. Pancras Catholic school through their good behaviour, attitudes to learning and respect for everyone within the community. Across all age groups there is evidence that pupils benefit from the faith in action aspect of school activities, facilitating the spiritual and moral development of most pupils and staff. Pupils have experiences within school of identifying and practicing strong Christian values. Staff and pupils alike are committed to the universal rule of 'building bridges not walls'. This extends to being pro-actively involved in the wider and global communities through work with local charities and CAFOD and in visiting other places of worship. The Catholic identity of the school is clearly visible through the vibrant displays across the school, highlighting Catholic social teaching, care of our common home and the celebration of pupils' achievements. Governors are committed to the Catholic life of the

school and the chair of governors and RE governor have been instrumental in supporting recent improvements in RE.

The head of school identifies in the school's self-evaluation form (SEF) that the Mission Statement needs to be reviewed with all stakeholders, making it more concise and accessible for pupils.

Leaders recognise the need to embed a nurturing commitment to RE and the Catholic life of the school, where religious education is valued and prioritised as a core subject by all. The inspector fully recommends this action.

Religious Education

Most pupils achieve expected outcomes in RE, broadly in line with other core subjects. Some pupils are challenged by being able to ask and answer deep questions and in some years there are opportunities to reflect on learning in RE through good marking and feedback. More able pupils would benefit from increased challenge, especially in Key Stage 2. RE is mostly well taught throughout the school, and staff are well supported by each other and the RE leader. The pupils report that learning is more memorable when they participate in role play or express their ideas through art 'you can just show what you feel deep inside'. Leaders, including the RE governor have a deep understanding of development needs and share a clear vision for RE across the school. End of phase outcomes are carefully tracked using the New Standards in RE allowing the RE leader to identify trends and points for development.

The inspector recommends that leaders devise a robust and systematic schedule for the monitoring of teaching and learning in RE to address consistency in expectations, effective marking and feedback and ensuring 10% curriculum time is dedicated to RE.

The head of school has identified that the school needs to further embed the use of the New Standards in RE through planned CPD. The inspector recommends that planning in RE should also link with the appropriate Ofsted 5 recommendations.

Collective Worship

During the visit Collective Worship was observed in the form of a Passion play. Pupils in all classes were reverent and engaged throughout. Everyone was visibly moved at the spiritual message conveyed by the year 4 pupils. Despite there being a temporary break in chaplaincy support, the school offers a wealth of prayer and sacramental opportunities for the whole school community. There is a comprehensive timetable embedded and adopted by all staff ensuring a balanced coverage of collective worship throughout the liturgical year. Some year groups are now independently planning and delivering worship, in particular for All Saint's Day, Remembrance and Candlemas liturgies. Pupils have a good understanding of the various forms of worship and how it forms part of a liturgical cycle. They are aware of how each form demands a different way of participating. Visits to places of worship and events outside school give the pupils and staff a sense of being part of a wider faith community and an appreciation of different beliefs and viewpoints.

The inspector recommends that there are greater opportunities for pupils to experience leadership in collective worship, stewardship and pastoral roles.

Feedback regarding the interim monitoring visit was that it had been productive for the school.

I would like to thank everyone at St. Pancras for such a warm welcome. I enjoyed my visit to the school and meeting so many staff and pupils.

Margaret Stewart

Diocesan S48 Inspector