

## DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH VALIDATION REPORT



### Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Lymington

Ramley Road, Pennington, Hampshire SO41 8GY

URN 116378  
 Date of previous validation November 2012  
 Date of this validation date **23 May and 7 June 2018**

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	Previous validation:	Good
	<b>This validation:</b>	<b>Good</b>

<b>The school community:</b>	Good	<b>Attainment and progress in RE:</b>	Good
<b>The wider community:</b>	Good	<b>Quality of teaching in RE:</b>	Good
<b>Spiritual development:</b>	Good	<b>Leadership and management of RE:</b>	Good
<b>Moral development:</b>	Outstanding	<b>Leadership and management:</b>	Good

#### This is a good school.

- The school's mission to promote 'a happy, exciting and successful learning community with Jesus at the centre' has a significant impact on the daily life of the school community.
- The recently appointed executive headteacher and head of school are fully committed in their drive for continuous improvement.
- The governing body, many of whom are new to the role, have a clear vision for the way forward. One described the school's attitude to inclusion as 'a shining example of a Christian community in practice'.
- Visitors to the school are warmly welcomed by all members of the community.
- Attainment and progress in RE are good.
- Our Lady and St Joseph is a school that is caring, inclusive and supportive. There is a clear focus on social justice and the need to be stewards of God's creation.
- The school has good links with the parish and is supported by the parish priest, the school/church link parishioner and the Sisters at Sway.
- The school's Catholic ethos is enhanced by the high quality of the physical environment and the many displays celebrating its Catholic and cultural identity.
- In the school a varied range of worship is offered, which provides children with good quality opportunities to develop their relationship with God.
- The school embraces opportunities to nurture spirituality which helps to ensure spiritual development is good.
- The children are great ambassadors for their school and moral development is outstanding.
- Staff and children act as witnesses to their faith, through their support of one another and their support for local, national and international charities.
- Parents are very supportive of the school. A very large majority was positive about all aspects of school life.

#### What does the school need to do to improve further?

In order to continue to move forward, the school should consider the following:

- Ensure the process of delivering high quality RE is supported by consistent planning linked to the national levels of attainment.
- Plan activities that allow children to be challenged in their demonstration of knowledge and understanding in RE.
- Use assessment and feedback more effectively to promote further learning.
- Provide training to enable older children to plan and lead class worship.

## Full Report

### The school as a Catholic community

The school community: Good

The wider community: Good

- Throughout the school there is firm evidence that you are within a community of faith. Particularly strong examples include:
  - The warmth of the welcome received by visitors.
  - The quality of the central displays and artefacts linked to the school's Catholic life, for example, the entrance display linked to the Feast of the Sacred Heart.
  - The very good relationships between all members of the school community and the commitment of all to the school's mission, vision and aims.
  - The obvious care given to ensuring that the school environment is maintained to a very good standard and is used well to enhance the liturgical life of the school.
- The links between the parish and school are good and the school is advertised in the parish newsletter. The parish priest and the school/parish link parishioner provide good support. Junior children go to the Priory for retreats with the Sisters at Sway. Parishioners are invited to be volunteers in school and attend PTA events. These links can be further strengthened by a more visible presence in the parish church where possible, for example, each class takes a turn to attend mass in the parish on a termly basis.
- The school is developing closer links with its local Catholic cluster through meetings, moderation visits and support in developing the Catholic life of the school.
- Members of the school community demonstrate their commitment to the principles of stewardship, through their support of a range of charities, including CAFOD, Oakhaven Hospice and the local basics bank.
- The school is an active member of the local community through attendance at Remembrance Day service, singing at local Christmas fairs and involvement in local projects.
- All children are actively involved in leading improvements in the school as team members of TED (together everyone decides). It would be beneficial to include a team relating to the Catholic life of the school and worship.

### Curriculum religious education

Attainment and progress: Good

Quality of teaching: Good

Leadership and management of RE: Good

- The evidence in the children's books, the quality teaching seen on the day and discussions with pupils all combine to show that attainment and progress in RE are good.
- Teachers in the school are fully committed to developing their subject knowledge. They are working very hard to plan and deliver lessons that are RE focussed.
- In the best lessons, children were challenged to identify gifts of the Holy Spirit in passages of scripture. They recognised these gifts in their peers and in role models in the wider world. They were able to refer to prior learning. However, this quality of teaching and learning is not consistent throughout the school.
- Planning needs to reflect the key driver words. Activities must ensure that children are challenged in their thinking in order to develop their knowledge and understanding of the RE curriculum.
- The children's written evidence in RE needs to match work seen in English where possible. Those with less well developed writing skills need alternative opportunities to demonstrate

their knowledge. Where appropriate children should be encouraged to use scripture references to demonstrate their understanding.

- Teachers need to use assessment and feedback more effectively to promote further learning. Children need to become more confident in understanding the next steps in their learning journey. This will encourage challenge and enable progression.
- Pupils' behaviour is good during lessons and they are keen to learn more.
- Pupils are often able to demonstrate good subject knowledge but need to be given more opportunities to articulate their understanding.
- RE displays reflect the current topic. Their use as working walls is not consistent throughout the school.

## Spiritual and moral development

Spiritual development:

Good

Moral development:

Outstanding

- The school provides a range of good quality worship, which allows individual and collective members of the school community to express their relationship with one another and with God in a reflective and prayerful manner.
- The worships seen on the day were based on scripture and were prayerful and reflective. The children sang and signed with great joy.
- The school embraces opportunities to nurture spirituality and give Christian witness; these include:
  - The children taking a central role in Advent and Easter services in the parish.
  - The provision of displays in the church, for example, palm crosses with personal prayers.
  - The making of prayer crosses for the sick in the parish and finger rosaries for the children's liturgy group.
  - The attendance of retreat days by junior children.
- The children do not currently plan or lead their class worships. Thought should be given to training the older children in this important ministry. They should then be encouraged to model this in other classes.
- The children in the school demonstrate outstanding behaviour and Christian attitudes in their relationships, with a clear sense of right and wrong. All pupils take on responsibilities through their membership of TED, for example, various monitoring duties, buddying, organising fund raising for charity and gardening club.
- Pupils are very proud of their school. They describe their school as a place where '*everyone is positive, shows kindness and friendship to each other.*'

**Leadership and management:**

Good

- All those in a position of leadership are committed to developing and living the Christian ethos of the school.
- The executive headteacher and head of school have a clear understanding of the way forward to ensure that standards in teaching and learning in RE continue to improve.
- The school needs to ensure that the self review process is firmly embedded in the school's annual cycle of self evaluation.
- The new governing body is a strong supporter of the school. Governors are kept informed of developments in RE and the Catholic life of the school.
- Some progress was made on the areas identified in the previous validation. However, some major changes in leadership, staffing and governors have redefined previous and current priorities.

## School details

<b>Name of school</b>	Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Primary School
<b>Age range of pupils:</b>	4 – 11
<b>Gender of pupils:</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on roll:</b>	114
<b>Chair of Governors:</b>	Pam Morrissey
<b>Executive Headteacher:</b>	Declan Goodwin
<b>Head of School:</b>	Nanette Allies

Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Primary School is a smaller than average primary school in the New Forest pastoral area. It serves the parish of Our Lady of Mercy and St Joseph in Lymington. Currently 62% of the pupils are Catholic, with a further 27% from other Christian traditions. 26% of pupils have English as an additional language. The percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals is below the national average.

## Information about this validation

This report to the Bishop of the Diocese under Canon 806 of the Code of Canon Law is also the report to the governors of the school on religious education. For Catholic maintained schools, the report also fulfils the requirements of Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

### Validation Team

Helena Pickering	Lead Validator
Patricia Opalko	Assistant Validator

### Activities Carried Out as Part of the Validation

- Ethos walk.
- Discussion on the school's self-evaluation sheets.
- Discussions with various members of the school community.
- Observations of whole school and class collective worship.
- Observations of teaching and learning in RE, including joint observations with members of the school leadership team.
- Pupil work scrutiny.
- Feedback of key findings.

## Conclusion

The validators would like to thank the executive headteacher, head of school, staff, governors, the parish priest, parents and pupils of Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Primary School for their preparatory work for the validation, which forms part of the school's regular self-review cycle. They would also like to express their appreciation for the warmth of welcome they received and the support given during the validation process.