



**DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION  
REPORT (Section 48)**

**Our Lady Star of the Sea,  
St Anne's**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION  
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

**THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL  
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**School:**

**Our Lady Star of the Sea**

**Address:**

**Kenilworth Rd  
St Annes on Sea  
Fylde  
FY8 1LB**

**Telephone Number:**

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**Email Address:**

**head@ourladystarofthesea.lancs.sch.uk**

**School URN:**

**119627**

**Headteacher:**

**Miss J Hornby**

**Chair of Governors:**

**Mrs D Hills**

**Lead Inspector:**

**Mrs Adrienne Delaney**

**Team Inspector:**

**Mrs Annalisa Howarth**

**Date of Inspection:**

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Our Lady Star of the Sea is a Catholic voluntary aided primary school in the Diocese of Lancaster. It is situated on the Fylde coast. It is an average-sized primary school with currently 210 pupils on roll, of which approximately 93% are baptised Roman Catholics. Other pupils come from no faith or other Christian backgrounds, with a small number from other world faiths. Most pupils are of White British heritage with a small minority of pupils from other cultural backgrounds.

Approximately 17% of pupils are on the SEND register.

The school is of a modern design with a great deal of surrounding land which is well utilised.

It works closely with the Catholic schools within the cluster.

PUPILS	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210
Catholics on roll	26	30	28	27	29	30	26	196
Other Christian denomination			1	1				2
Other faith background					1		3	4
No religious affiliation	4		1	2			1	8
No of learners from other ethnic groups	2	3	6	4	6	5	7	33
Total on SEND Register	7	2	7	6	5	6	4	37
Total with EHCP							1	1

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	2
Index of multiple deprivation	c			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Our Lady Star of the Sea	167
St Alban's	24
St Joseph's	7

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2.33	2.33	2.33	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
% of teaching time	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

TEACHING TIME FOR ENGLISH	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
% of teaching time	26% +	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%

<b>TEACHING TIME FOR MATHS</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Y1</b>	<b>Y2</b>	<b>Y3</b>	<b>Y4</b>	<b>Y5</b>	<b>Y6</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total teaching time (Hours)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
% of teaching time	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%

<b>STAFFING</b>	
Full-time teachers	7
Part-time teachers	3
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	8.83
Classroom Support assistants	11
Number of Catholic teachers FTE	88%
Number of teachers teaching RE	7
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	8+2 TAs
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0
Chaplaincy staffing	0

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	30
Average class size KS2	30

<b>EXPENDITURE (£)</b>	<b>Last financial year 2018-19</b>	<b>Current financial year 2019-20</b>	<b>Next financial year 2020-21</b>
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	£35,800	30,700	Planning in Feb 2020
RE Curriculum allowance from above	£2,200	£500	
English Curriculum allowance from above	£ 6,500	£6,500	
Total CPD budget	£1,000	£500	
RE allocation for CPD	£1,000	£500	

<b>How the school has developed since the last inspection</b>
<p>All aspects for improvement since the last inspection have been addressed and have had a positive impact on maintaining high standards. A baseline assessment and detailed tracking system across school are in place and governors are well informed and well able to monitor attainment and progress in curriculum RE.</p> <p>The school has an outstanding capacity to sustain high standards. The dedication of the governors together with the commitment of the leadership team and all staff, demonstrate the capacity to facilitate continuous improvement. Inspection has shown that self-evaluation is accurate and issues arising from in-house moderation meetings have identified areas for development in curriculum RE.</p>

## INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS**

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**CATHOLIC LIFE**

1

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS**

Our Lady Star of the Sea is an outstanding Catholic school. It is a very welcoming and inclusive learning environment: pupils enjoy attending and they have positive attitudes to learning. One Year 6 pupil described the school as a place where, "Everyone obeys our mission statement that we are all precious in God's eyes and this makes our school a great place". Pupils deepen knowledge of their faith throughout their time at Our Lady's and gain a firm understanding of Catholic practice. The school lives out its mission statement and pupils can speak about the importance of Gospel virtues. Governors play a significant part in leading the strategic direction of the school in the community which it serves. The stable leadership has enabled recommendations since the last inspection to be addressed successfully. The recently appointed RE leader has ensured a thorough handover of the subject has taken place by shadowing the former leader for 18 months and has since been tireless in her efforts to ensure the Catholic life of the school and curriculum RE are outstanding. The work of the governors, head teacher and recently appointed RE Leader, support staff in raising standards and putting the Catholic life of the school at the forefront of their plans, this is a strength of the school.

The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding and the commitment from the head, the governors, staff, and parish priest and parishioners to support pupils in their prayer life and growth in faith has remained a priority. Staff set good examples, are proud of their school and work well together. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is good and has an impact on everyday life at Our Lady's. This can be seen through pupils' responses to each other and to the notion of the common good. The pupils actively and willingly become involved in a variety of activities supporting their own development and that of the wider community. This contributes to their social, emotional and moral development. Gospel values permeate school life and pupils are helped to grow in faith, make the most of their abilities and become the best they can be.

Opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy are outstanding; pupils act with reverence and join in prayers confidently. They make full use of resources available to them and appreciate the opportunities offered e.g. Masses and liturgies in church and in the purpose built chapel within the school grounds.

The quality of curriculum RE is outstanding and pupils are provided with an excellent range of learning opportunities to deepen their faith, to understand Catholic traditions and practices, and to make progress in their learning. Pupils enjoy RE lessons and many aspects of the curriculum are outstanding. Clear action plans are in place to continue to raise attainment and progress from low starting points.

Teachers' subject knowledge is outstanding and has a positive impact on the delivery of curriculum RE. They are well supported in terms of professional development. The curriculum meets the needs of all learners in line with diocesan and national recommendations.

Governors and leaders take full account of the '*Fit for Mission? Schools*' guidance.

### **WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER**

To improve further the school needs to:

- Improve outcomes for all pupils by:
  - Ensuring that the quality of teaching across school continues to be consistent in planning, pace, differentiation, marking and feedback through sharing the good practice that exists in school
  - Further developing the curriculum in terms of links with the wider community. This would help prepare pupils for life in modern Britain whilst enhancing their understanding of justice and the common good.
- Celebrate successes by:
  - Building on the practice of providing tasks to enable deeper learning in RE
  - Continuing to involve parents in celebrations, acts of prayer and liturgy
  - Continuing the practice of facilitating curriculum evenings for parents to include knowledge of teaching and learning in RE.

## PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

### THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

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- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school
- The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school

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All staff members at Our Lady Star of the Sea are wholly committed to supporting the Catholic ethos of the school and its mission and this culture is embedded in the life of the school.

The pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Life of School is greatly enhanced by their participation in and contribution to all aspects of school life. Pupils know that they belong to Our Lady's Catholic Parish and are proud to be part of the school and parish. For example, a Year 1 pupil stated that: "Everyone here makes you feel like you're in a family". Pupils' leadership of Prayer and Liturgy is outstanding. From the Foundation Stage onwards pupils develop their ability to share their own faith through whole class Prayer and Liturgy. This ability is developed throughout Key Stage 2. Pupils plan and share their own Prayer and Liturgy; this often takes place in a dedicated school chapel situated within the school grounds.

Pupils understand that their Catholic faith is different from other faiths and share this distinctiveness with other Catholic schools. Activities that have enabled this understanding are the celebration of Mass with the parish, fundraising with the parish and collecting money for CAFOD and deserving charities such as the local hospice, Brian House.

Pupils at Our Lady's articulate their belief in Jesus as 'the light of the world'. This encourages best behaviour and focused learning at all times. Catholic principles and the adoption of The Jesuit Pupil Profile underpin behaviour and relationship policies resulting in a strong, shared vision for the Catholic Life of the school.

The Parish Priest, lay volunteers in school, governors, school leaders, teachers and support staff are fully committed to fulfilling their role in ensuring outstanding provision for the Catholic Life of the school. They have high expectations and are actively working together to implement the Catholic philosophy of education and gospel values which permeate all aspects of the school. An example of this is the prayer area at the school's entrance. Pupils regularly put prayers of petition and thanksgiving on the prayer wall in this area, demonstrating their understanding of their faith practice. The head teacher provides these opportunities which are given the highest priority, providing for the spiritual and moral development of

pupils. Her deputy, teachers and her staff have a strong vision for the school which is articulated through their actions.

The governors, leaders and managers are fully committed to partnerships with the diocesan family of parishes and schools. The school has excellent links with the primary and secondary schools in the local Catholic cluster; they work as a wider family of schools to provide opportunities to celebrate their faith collectively.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. Our Lady's is a welcoming, inclusive, friendly community with a strong family ethos, where everyone is valued and pupils and staff flourish. Governors, managers and staff have high expectations and a shared vision with regard to the Catholic mission and ethos. There is a visible sense of family and community in all aspects of school life which is evident in the quality of relationships that exist between all stakeholders.

The school is a prayerful community that provides a stimulating learning environment to reflect the school's mission and Catholic character. Staff and governors work hard to develop and enhance the school for the benefit of everyone at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Older pupils take part in, lead and prepare prayer and liturgies with enthusiasm and confidence and they lead singing joyfully. The Parish Priest and the headteacher have been instrumental in the development of all teachers' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith through their support and guidance.



## PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education
- How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education
- The quality of provision in Religious Education

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The majority of pupils enjoy RE, are religiously literate and engaged in their learning. Through active participation in prayer and liturgies, together with outstanding curriculum coverage, pupils show excellent knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. They understand that Christ is at the centre of all school life and are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. The vast majority of pupils make rapid and sustained progress in RE, from a low baseline, when they join Our Lady Star of the Sea in Foundation Stage. They develop and apply a range of skills throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 including independence and imagination. This is built upon in KS2 where pupils reflect upon their own gifts and talents that enable them to forgive, love and respect. They are able to reflect on the notion of justice and the common good. A Y4 lesson observed on the day of inspection demonstrated that children could engage with questions of faith. When they listened to background music they spontaneously began singing the words of the 'Gloria!' with joy and reverence.

The RE curriculum meets all the requirements of the Bishops' Conference and is informed by the Curriculum Directory and the Diocesan document 'Fit for Mission? Schools'. RE is at the centre of the school's curriculum and is given priority in the improvement planning where targets are clearly identified and set to continue to maintain outstanding attainment. A culture has been created where a common vision and commitment to high standards have been established. This is largely due to the excellent practice of the head teacher, the deputy and recently appointed subject leader who ensure that pupils continue to make progress in their religious literacy. Professional discussions during staff meetings explore how enthusiastic and imaginative teaching motivates pupils and deepens their understanding of the subject.

Since the last inspection, a system has been developed to improve standards, including monitoring lesson plans, book scrutiny, lesson drop ins, conversations with pupils, alongside pastoral and behaviour support; these activities have made a significant impact on the improvement of teaching in RE. The practice of sharing good practice needs to continue to be embedded so that all RE lessons demonstrate a high level of teaching and learning. The practice of differentiation of RE tasks and tasks that demonstrate children's greater depth of understanding also needs to continue as the curriculum delivery is refined and honed.

Teachers' planning is based on the diocesan curriculum wheel and teachers confidently enrich the curriculum using other valuable resources e.g. *The Way the Truth and the Life*, CAFOD's Universal Church topics, *Come and See* and Caritas. Staff subject knowledge is very good due to their own drive for excellence in RE and to the opportunities offered to them. Governors are informed of the curriculum through reports at meetings and regular visits to school.

Every class has an area for pupils to celebrate Prayer and Liturgy along with full access to the designated prayer area and the school's small chapel; this helps pupils' spiritual growth. Classes celebrate Masses regularly at the parish church and within school.

Pupils' progress in RE in each of the attainment targets, (knowledge and understanding of religion and an ability to reflect on meaning), is above national expectations and is reported to parents in annual reports alongside other core curriculum subjects. Communication with parents is a strength of Our Lady Star of the Sea: it has a very informative website that openly promotes the school's Catholic values. Curriculum Evenings are well attended and now need to be extended to learning in RE.

Pupil attainment and progress in RE is outstanding and is in line with the high standards in English and Maths. Since the last inspection, the subject leader has led training for all staff and modelled excellent practice to ensure that standards in teaching have continued to improve. Analysis of the progress of all groups of learners enables success to be celebrated.

The school serves a mainly Catholic community where pupils have the utmost respect for each other. They now need to be able to confidently and articulately discuss their own religious beliefs and those of other monotheistic faiths so as to be prepared for a multi faith society. Good quality teaching and effective learning are present in RE lessons. Pupils enjoy RE because teachers make their lessons engaging, interesting and relevant.

The quality of provision for RE is outstanding. Since the last inspection the parish priest, governors, head teacher, leaders, teachers, and support staff have continued to seek opportunities to reflect on the teaching of Religious Education and the Catholic Life of the school. This contributes to excellent subject knowledge and confidence in teaching RE: they inspire pupils and ensure that they make exceptional progress as independent and collaborative learners. Resources are used effectively, together with the support provided by dedicated staff, to optimise learning. Consequently, pupils are well motivated and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

<b>Overall Effectiveness</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Capacity for sustained improvement</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Catholic Life</b>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well leaders and managers promote and ensure provision for the Catholic Life of the school through monitoring and evaluation.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The quality of provision in Religious Education.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>

	<b>Pupil Outcomes</b>	<b>Leadership &amp; Management</b>	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Overall</b>
<b>Catholic Life</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>