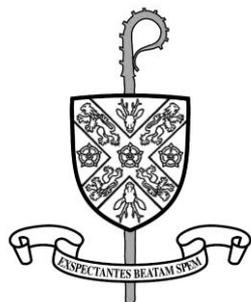


Diocese of Middlesbrough



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29 June 2016

Mrs Liz King
St Joseph's RC Primary School
Marton Road
Middlesbrough
TS4 2NT
15th June 2016

Dear Mrs King

Interim Review visit to St Joseph's RC Primary School

I write to confirm the main findings of the Interim Review visit carried out on Tuesday 14th June 2016.

The Interim Review visit was carried out to verify that the school maintains its previous grading and to discuss the progress made against the recommendations from the Denominational Inspection carried out in June 2013. I am delighted to inform you that based on the limited evidence from the visit, St Joseph's RC Primary School is maintaining its previous outstanding grading and has made progress against the recommendations from the previous inspection which were:

- to increase Governor involvement and knowledge of the school as it moves through its current period of leadership change so it can provide appropriate support and challenge by making every effort to:
 - ensure all Foundation Governor vacancies are filled, as soon as possible, with people who can bring appropriate skills to bear
 - establish a full programme of governor visits and reports from them to ensure the Governing Body has a full picture of the three main aspects of the Catholicity of the school
- deliver a comprehensive induction/support programme for the new Headteacher who starts in September
- review the roles within the newly established Religious Education Team to reflect the three main leadership aspects of Religious Education, Collective Worship and the Catholic Life of the school
- use the recently established peer observation system and the varied skills of the Religious Education Team to share high quality teaching in order to raise the standard of all Religious Education lessons to outstanding
- establish a broad based Chaplaincy Team to build on the very good work already done by the school in developing the pastoral support and spiritual life of the school community in the future.

Evidence

Before and during the visit I examined a wide range of evidence, including:

- scrutiny of detailed school development plans, reviews of actions taken and subsequent impact on performance, school self-evaluation document (SED)
- a tour of the whole school, including, sacred spaces and displays within each classroom and displays throughout the school
- Act of Collective Worship led by Year 5 pupils
- “drop in” to Religious Education lessons throughout the school, including Nursery
- discussion with pupils in class
- scrutiny of pupils’ books across the complete age range
- school website
- interview with Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Religious Education co-ordinating team, representatives from the school’s governing body: Chair, Vice Chair (Chair of Finance) and Foundation Governor (Chair of Raising Achievement).

Main findings

Relationships are central to the life of the school and the school operates in a climate based on mutual respect and appreciation for the hard work and effort by everyone within the school community. The Headteacher, staff and governors have worked tirelessly to ensure that the recommendations made in the previous S48 inspection have been fully addressed as detailed below.

To increase Governor involvement and knowledge of the school as it moves through its current period of leadership change so it can provide appropriate support and challenge by making every effort to:

- ensure all Foundation Governor vacancies are filled, as soon as possible, with people who can bring appropriate skills to bear
- establish a full programme of governor visits and reports from them to ensure the Governing Body has a full picture of the three main aspects of the Catholicity of the school
- deliver a comprehensive induction/support programme for the new Headteacher who starts in September

The Governing Body is highly proactive in the life of the school offering support and challenge in equal measure. It consists of a group of very well informed and truly committed individuals who play a pivotal role in supporting the Catholic Life of the school in its entirety. They are scrupulous in their attendance at meetings, have completed a rigorous self - evaluation of their own strengths and areas for development and have had training on school self - evaluation (SED). They ensure that the Headteacher has a Religious Education target as part of her performance management cycle and they review all school development plans at relevant points in the academic year. There is a comprehensive record of Governor’s visits to the school. Although there are currently two vacancies for Foundation Governors on the school’s governing body, two people have been recruited and their appointments are in the final stage, awaiting DBS from the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

Review the roles within the newly established Religious Education Team to reflect the three main leadership aspects of Religious Education, Collective Worship and the Catholic Life of the school

The school is in the enviable position of having a team of three people co-ordinating Religious Education within the school, one responsible for the RE curriculum, one responsible for Collective Worship and one with responsibility for Catholic Life. All three are excellent practitioners who work together as a team to ensure that standards in all areas of Religious Education are consistently outstanding. There is a termly monitoring and evaluation cycle across the school with a different aspect under scrutiny each term, for example, book scrutiny, learning walks, lesson observations. Each member of the Religious Education team completes a monitoring feedback sheet and

general feedback is given to staff in a staff meeting. If there is an individual issue that will be dealt with at an individual level and appropriate support offered.

Use the recently established peer observation system and the varied skills of the Religious Education Team to share high quality teaching in order to raise the standard of all Religious Education lessons to outstanding

Every opportunity has been taken to ensure that high quality teaching is shared and has a positive impact on pupils' learning as evidenced in samples of lesson observations and feedback. The standard of work in the pupils' books is exemplary. The marking and response system in place is excellent. The teachers comment on the pupils' work in red pen and the pupils respond in green pen. This is a policy firmly embedded throughout the school. From the scrutiny of work that I carried out during my visit, it is obvious that effective differentiation is taking place in all lessons. Similarly, it is very easy to identify individual progress as all teachers effectively use annotated post-its in the children's workbooks, highlighting where progress has been made. The children understand the driver words in Religious Education and they use these to check how they are progressing in their work. Teachers are secure and confident in their ability to moderate work in Religious Education across all year groups.

Establish a broad based Chaplaincy Team to build on the very good work already done by the school in developing the pastoral support and spiritual life of the school community in the future

Although the school does not have a Chaplaincy team, there are several teams in school providing pastoral support and enhancing the spiritual life of the school. A member of staff has attended Chaplaincy training and there are two nurture groups, led by teaching assistants, providing support and activities for vulnerable pupils at lunchtime in school. Two Rainbow support groups are well established providing support for children who have experienced any loss in the lives. The school employs a parent support officer (PSO) who is a welcome point of contact for parents who may need support but do not always want to approach a member of staff. The children are deeply respectful and supportive of each other and also of the needs of the wider community. They belong to various teams within school: house teams, school council and the most recent team is the Mini Vinnies who organise fundraising within the community and visit the local nursing homes to sing and read for the residents. The whole team at St Joseph's: children, staff and governors, truly live out the commandment in their mission statement "Love one another as I have loved you.

Recommendations

- to further enhance pupils' understanding and confidence in leading Collective Worship.
- to further develop the involvement of parents and the wider community in the Catholic Life of the school.

Thank you for your hospitality during my visit. Your school truly lives out its mission of "*celebrating* our uniqueness, *learning* together, *caring* for and *servng* one another.

I am copying this letter to Kevin Duffy, Director of Schools, Theresa Laverick, Religious Education Adviser and David Nolan, Chair of Governors.

Yours sincerely

Theresa Rogerson

Theresa Rogerson
Diocesan Denominational Inspector