

# DIOCESE OF HALLAM

## MONITORING OF THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### PRIMARY

(One year review following Section 48 Inspection)

School: St John Fisher Catholic Primary

Date of Visit: 22.11. 2017

Inspection Date of Latest S48: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016

#### Recent leadership developments

In September 2017 Mags Barrett joined the school as Deputy Head; and, with many years experience as RE coordinator, has taken on the role of subject leader at St John Fisher. She and Nicola Holloway, the previous coordinator still on the staff, have been working effectively together in the transition between roles. A new Catholic SENCO has been appointed to start in January.

#### Issues from S48 Inspection and the school's response

- **Increase the proportion of outstanding teaching through**
  - **Ensuring all teachers have excellent knowledge and understanding of Catholic tradition and belief**
  - **Providing opportunities for all teachers to benefit from the sharing of existing outstanding practice**

*The school has started to share practice between teachers. It is expected that the recent 'Lesson Study' programme instigated in Mathematics has given staff the context to work together and observe each other in a Religious Education Context.*

*Teachers have been attending 'Come and See' Topic days in the diocese, and there has been much sharing of planning.*

- **Continue to improve pupils' attainment and progress in Religious Education by**
  - **Increasing the quality of pupils' oral responses**
  - **Further embedding in-house moderation of assessment**
  - **Consistent implementation of the marking policy**

*There has been revision of the marking policy in order to bring about a more consistent implementation across school, with a focus on the use of driver words on marking stickers. However, developments elsewhere in the curriculum, particularly English, are bringing about a further period of review to ensure that the marking policy is manageable and effective.*

*Nicola Holloway attended an assessment moderation meeting between Sheffield Catholic schools, and has used the knowledge gained to hold further in-house moderation.*

*The school has moved towards investigating Godly Play as a means to increasing the quality of oral response in pupils. Mags Barrett, as a trained leader, will be taking the implementation further. Investigations are taking place as to where a permanent focus area could be placed in school, possibly in the library.*

### **Learning Walk with the RE Co-ordinators**

*A Learning Walk took place, with a visit to all of the classrooms and shared areas of the school. Key points to not were:*

- The school's Catholic character is very evident in all areas, with particular care taken to ensure that important seasons in the liturgical and cultural year are celebrated. The 'Prayer Space' is well cared for, and celebrated recent remembrance liturgy, involving pupils each making a poppy to form a number of wreaths. The Jubilee candles, with special pupil-designed logos, were also evident, as was the work done by the In-Reality Youth team with the chaplaincy team. A special prayer focus area in the hall is very striking, alongside a display featuring the Catholic Life of the school, designed to grow and change over the year. Each classroom had attractive and prominent prayer focus areas, with displays moving from 'green' time towards the beginning of Advent.*
- Prayer is a very strong feature within school. Each prayer area highlighted, in different ways, how pupils could add their prayers, or requests for prayers, on 'prayer trees' for example. Scrapbooks in each class also draw attention to the liturgies taking place throughout the term. Another innovation is the use of a formal prayer throughout the school every few weeks, so that pupils come to know each by heart and to use them regularly. 'Hail, Holy Queen', 'Eternal Rest' and the 'Magnificat' being three current examples from this term.*
- There was evident enthusiasm and creativity in the way in which teachers were leading RE lessons in each class. One could sense the excitement within the introduction of a new Advent topic in the energetic and willing response of the children from the Early Years through to upper Key Stage 2. Pupils were happy to share what they were learning, and to talk about the activities they were undertaking.*
- The high standards observed at the time of inspection are very obviously being maintained thanks to the prominence of RE in the curriculum and staff enthusiasm in delivering a high quality of teaching.*

### **Discussion with RE Co-ordinators**

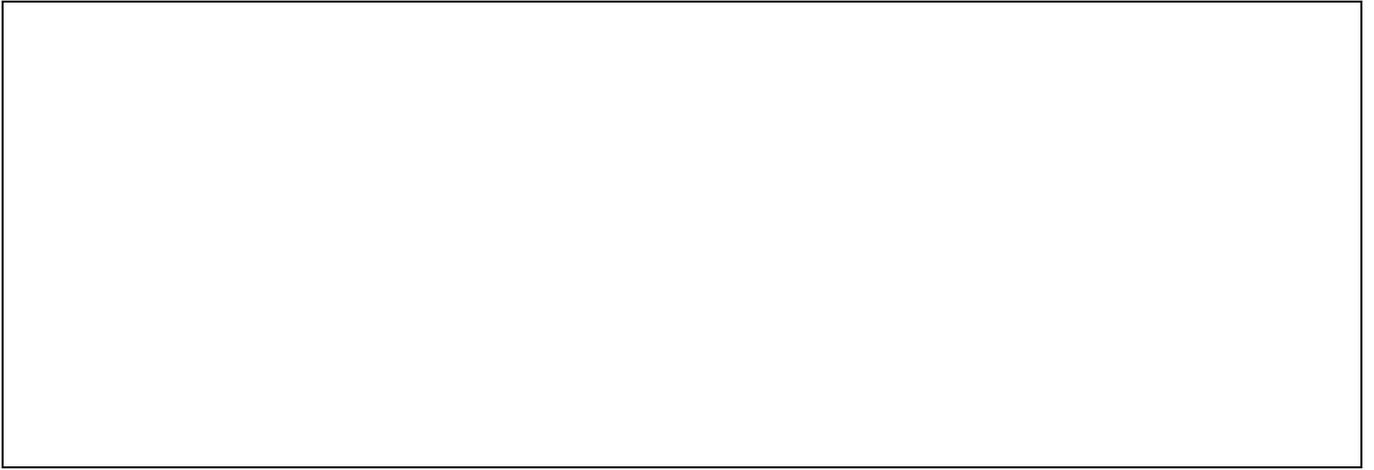
*Further developments discussed were:*

- The introduction of 'Worship Bags' to encourage prayer at home within the family: So far these have focussed on Harvest and Remembrance, with other themes planned for the rest of the year.*
- The new Chaplaincy Team is in action, now charged with distributing the worship bags and leading liturgy in the school, as well as looking after the Sacred Space.*
- A new school website has a Catholic Life area, ready for the chaplaincy team to highlight events and news.*
- A grant has been obtained to develop an outside area of the school: It is hoped to incorporate a prayer garden within it.*
- A well structured and regularly reviewed action plan has helped the transition between RE coordinators, ensuring that the school is focussed on continuing to develop RE, Catholic Life and Worship.*

### **Review with Head, RE Coordinators and RE Link Governor**

*The school's drive to maintain and improve on its status as an outstanding Catholic school was acknowledged, and to continue to build its partnership with parents and the parish.*

*As a result of the review, it is recommended that the school leadership and staff be congratulated on their commitment and enthusiasm, and be affirmed in the knowledge of the excellent witness they are passing on to their pupils. The school is well placed to continue to develop as a Catholic learning community, and is recommended to keep its strong sense of creativity, enthusiasm, imagination and innovation in carrying out its Catholic mission as it goes forward.*



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## HALLAM DIOCESAN SCHOOLS: TEN PRINCIPLES

*The review will seek to confirm adherence to the following principles. The school may be asked to refer to examples where appropriate.*

<u>Principle</u>	
1. Active member of the Diocesan family of Schools	
2. Working for the Common Good and community cohesion.	
3. Catholicity of Head, Deputy Head and Head/Co-ordinator of Religious Education.	
4. Religious Education taught a) in line with Curriculum Directory	
b) for 10% of curriculum time in KS 1-4 and 5% in KS5	
5. Religious Worship in accordance with rites, practices, disciplines and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.	
6. PSHE and in particular, SRE taught in line with guidance of Bishops' Conference and the teachings of the Catholic Church.	
7. Numbers of Foundation and other governors.	
a) Is the Chair of Governors a Foundation Governor?	
8. School is led, managed and governed according to the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church. Expressing a preferential option for the poor, particularly those with SEN and those in public care.	
9. Priority given to promoting good relationships with homes and parishes.	
10. Working collaboratively with Diocesan and local families of school.	

**Comments:**

**FOR CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMIES**

Please confirm that the school is adhering to the terms of the Partnership Agreement.	
Please confirm that the school is subscribing to the Diocesan Partnership Support Fund.	
Please confirm that the school is using the Catholic Church Insurance Association, or the EFA voluntary risk pooling scheme, to provide Land and Buildings and Content cover.	
Please give details of the accountants used by the school:  <b>Name:</b>  <b>Address:</b>	

**ALL SCHOOLS**

Please confirm that the school has effective safeguarding arrangements in place.	
Please give details of the School Child Protection Liaison Officer:	
Please give details of outstanding practitioners / future leaders in Catholic Education :	

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Governors

Please print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher

Please print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_