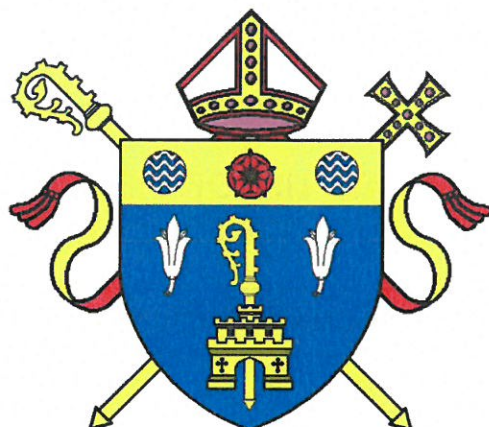




DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

St Columba's Catholic Primary School
Walney, Barrow-in-Furness

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

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

School:

St Columba's Catholic Primary School

Address:

**Church Lane
Walney Island
Barrow in Furness
LA14 3AD**

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School URN:

112364

Headteacher:

Mrs C O'Donnell

Chair of Governors:

Mr Peter Craig

Lead Inspector:

Mrs Adrienne Delaney

Team Inspector:

Mrs Michelle Holden

Date of Inspection:

October 17th 2017

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St Columba's is a Catholic voluntary aided primary school in the Diocese of Lancaster. It is an average-sized primary school on Walney Island in Cumbria.

It has gone through a number of changes since the last Section 48 inspection in 2012 including the retirement of established staff and the appointment of a new chair of governors, new teachers and a new deputy headteacher.

The school takes pupils from the wards of North and South Walney which are in the top 10% of deprived Wards in Great Britain.

PUPILS	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on roll	27	26	30	28	28	29	27	195
Catholics on roll	19	14	5	20	15	16	19	116
Other Christian denomination	3	1	5	6	11	11	5	42
Other faith background	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No religious affiliation	5	11	12	2	2	2	2	36
No of learners from ethnic groups	2	1	0	1	1	3	1	9
Total on SEN Register	1	5	4	3	5	3	2	23
Total with Statements of SEN (EHCP)	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	4

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	TOP 10%			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Our Lady of Furness	116

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	17.5
% 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)	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	32
% of teaching time	16%	16%	16%	20%	20%	20%	20%	18%

TEACHING TIME FOR MATHS	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	32
% of teaching time	16%	16%	16%	20%	20%	20%	20%	18%

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	7
Part-time teachers	3
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	8.9
Classroom Support assistants	6
Number of Catholic teachers FTE	66%
Number of teachers teaching RE	8
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	8
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0
Chaplaincy staffing	0
Teachers with CTC	0

ORGANISATION	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	28
Average class size KS2	38

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2016-17	Current financial year 2017-18	Next financial year 2018-2019
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	£ 14048	£ 9000	£ 7500
RE Curriculum allowance from above	4050	2750	2000
English Curriculum allowance from above	5000	3000	2500
Total CPD budget	11368	6500	5500
RE allocation for CPD	4500	2000	1750

How the school has developed since the last inspection

The school was previously inspected under Section 48 in 2012. Governors, the headteacher and staff have worked hard to maintain the very strong parish links and effect positive improvements in the Catholic Life and curriculum RE at St Columba's. All aspects for improvement since the last inspection have been addressed and have had a sustained and positive impact on raising standards. A well-embedded baseline assessment and detailed tracking system across the school are in place and as a result governors are highly effective in challenging and supporting the monitoring of attainment and progress across curriculum RE. Improvements are consistently identified and acted upon through rigorous marking, monitoring and assessment.

The school has an outstanding capacity to sustain this continuous improvement. The dedication of the governors together with the commitment of the leadership team and all staff, demonstrate this capacity.

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

CATHOLIC LIFE

1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

St Columba's is an outstanding Catholic school. It is a very welcoming and inclusive learning environment where the Mission Statement is based on the verse from St John's Gospel 10:10 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly'. This Mission Statement underpins the life of the school. Governors justifiably speak with great pride about their school describing it as their own family where Gospel values are practised daily. There is a deep commitment by all governors, leadership and staff to the continued development of the school. Pupils enjoy attending St Columba's and they have positive attitudes to learning. One Year 6 pupil described St Columba's as a place where 'Corporal Acts of Mercy can be found in the playground'. Pupils deepen the knowledge of their faith throughout their time in school and gain a firm understanding of Catholic practice. The school lives out its mission each day. The RE governor regularly visits the school, supporting staff and pupils alike, offering sound advice and constructive challenge. The leadership has ensured that recommendations since the last inspection have been addressed successfully. The headteacher shares the subject leadership with her deputy and they work well together to ensure that the Catholic Life of the school and curriculum RE are outstanding. The work of the deputy headteacher and senior leadership team has ensured that standards in the school are maintained during the headteacher's maternity leave.

The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding and the commitment from the governors, head, staff, parish clergy and laity to support pupils in their prayer life and to grow in faith has remained a priority. Staff set good examples, support each other, are proud of their school and work well together. They value the support and opportunities that they have to deepen their own religious knowledge and deepen their own spirituality. The Assistant Priest is a regular and welcome visitor to the school, actively fulfilling his role, both spiritually and pastorally. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is outstanding and has an impact on every-day life at St Columba's. This can be seen through pupils' behaviour, their responses to each other and to their understanding of the notion of the Common Good. The pupils actively and willingly become involved in a variety of activities supporting their own and the wider community. They have raised funds for CAFOD, Mary's Meals and for a school in Africa to which they are linked. The pupils have their own School Improvement Teams, one of which is active in looking for ideas that will further the school's mission. Pupils in the team take a lead role in Prayer and Liturgy for pupils

and have been instrumental in raising funds for local and global charities and organising many fundraising events that involve the local community. This aids pupils' understanding of the spreading of God's word and demonstrates their understanding of Scripture.

Parents appreciate this close-knit community school and they welcome opportunities to participate in school life, such as the family liturgies and Masses. Gospel values permeate school life and pupils are helped to grow in faith. The quality of Prayer and Liturgy are outstanding; pupils act with reverence and join in prayers confidently. They sing joyfully and on the day of the inspection were observed singing reverently, using appropriate actions. Prayer and liturgies observed in Key Stage One and Key Stage Two demonstrate that children prepare and plan these with thought and care. Pupils have older buddies that assist them in their prayer lives and help build their confidence during liturgies. They make full use of resources available to them and appreciate the opportunities offered.

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. The pupils spoken to on the day of inspection demonstrated excellent scriptural knowledge. All books scrutinised on the day confirmed this. Clear action plans are in place to continue to raise attainment and progress. The monitoring and assessment of all strands of Attainment Target 1 and 2 is having an excellent effect on the evaluation and the provision of curriculum RE. A programme of work that is unique to the school and that both enhances and fulfils the Bishop's Conference requirements has been introduced in order to improve standards in RE.

Teachers' subject knowledge is outstanding and has a positive impact on the delivery of curriculum RE. Teachers 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.

The recent Human Relationships and Sex Education (HRSE) policy is in place and its delivery is well under way.

The school's capacity to maintain improving standards is outstanding.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

To improve further the school needs to:

- Improve outcomes for all pupils by:
continuing to share the best practice that exists in the teaching of RE, so that all staff, consistently deliver outstanding lessons.
- Celebrate successes by:
Seeking to develop the school's mission further by sharing good practice within the schools' cluster group.

PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

1

- 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

1

1

1

Inspection confirms the judgement made by the school that pupils make an outstanding contribution to the Catholic Life of the school, and benefit from that life in a range of ways.

All governors, leaders, teachers and support staff at St Columba's 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 family. It is a harmonious school with a palpable Catholic ethos. On the morning of the inspection all teachers participated in the day's reflection that was led by the deputy headteacher. This demonstrates the staff's dedication to the Catholic ethos of the school.

The pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Life of the school is greatly enhanced by their participation in and contribution to all aspects of school life. Pupils are proud to belong to St Columba's Catholic Parish family and are proud to be part of the school and parish. For example, Pupils' leadership in enhancing the improvement 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. On the day of the inspection a child was seen to pick up a children's Bible and retell the Creation Story to a small group. Following their RE lesson the Year 2 class spontaneously broke into a hymn of praise and thanksgiving, with no direction from the teacher. Many Key Stage Two pupils attend the liturgically based art club that takes ownership for maintaining the prayer stations that are present around the school. The religious art and the displays are of a very high quality facilitating understanding of purposeful Prayer and Liturgy.

Pupils understand that their Catholic faith is different from other faiths and that they share this distinctiveness with other Catholic schools. Activities that have enabled this understanding are the celebration of family Masses, Masses with the parish, fundraising with the parish and collecting money for CAFOD, and Mary's Meals. All these activities are visible demonstrations of pupils' understanding of the gospel message that is their Mission Statement.

On the day of inspection, a Year 6 pupil said 'At St Columba's Jesus is in the centre of everything'. This articulation of ethos encourages best behaviour and focused learning. Catholic principles and values underpin behaviour and relationship resulting in a strong, shared vision for the Catholic Life of the school.

The priests of the parish, 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 school life. The headteacher provides a clear direction for the Catholic Life of the school and gives it the highest priority, along with the spiritual and moral development of pupils. Her deputy and all staff have a strong vision for the school and this 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 good links with the primary and secondary schools in the local Catholic cluster.

The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. St Columba'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.

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 St Columba's. Staff INSET has ensured Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in RE and staff subject knowledge has been strengthened. A great range of opportunities has been offered and taken up by staff including INSET led by lead RE teachers, parish clergy and training for the school's cluster group.

PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

- 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

1

1

1

Inspection confirms the school's judgement that the extent to which pupils enjoy and achieve in RE is outstanding.

The vast majority of pupils at St Columba's 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. During the inspection the Reception Class pupils were able to discuss the Creation Story and Year 2 pupils could discuss and explain scriptural texts. A Year 6 lesson observed during inspection demonstrated high challenge and excellent subject knowledge. Pupils wrote letters to vulnerable groups, advising them to turn to God, using the Magnificat and Scripture to evidence the advice. They were observed using their Bibles confidently and accurately.

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 in RE when they join St Columba's in Foundation Stage. They develop and apply a range of skills throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage One including independence and imagination. This is built upon in Key Stage Two where pupils reflect upon their own scriptural knowledge, for example the forgiving nature of God, that enable them to forgive, love and respect. They are able to reflect on the notion of justice and the Common Good and pupils interviewed could articulate the scriptural sources that influence and enable their actions. Quality teaching enables all learners to articulate their understanding to a high standard.

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. Since the last inspection the culture has continued, ensuring that the common vision and commitment to high standards remain at the forefront of school life. This is largely due to the excellent practice of the headteacher and her deputy 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.

Teaching in RE is outstanding. Subject knowledge is excellent and as a result pupil outcomes are remarkable. Support staff are deployed effectively to assist pupils with additional needs. Next step marking is embedded across the school and work displayed around the school and in all exercise books is exemplary. Pupils know what to do to improve through next step marking and targets that are consistently displayed in their books. Teachers now need to share their excellent expertise in lesson delivery in order to further enhance learning opportunities for all pupils.

Since the last inspection the school has continued to implement its rigorous system of monitoring. This includes the monitoring of lesson plans, book scrutiny, informal and formal observation of lessons and conversations with pupils. This practice, together with pastoral and behaviour support, has made a significant impact on the continuous improvement in the teaching and learning in RE.

Teachers' planning is based on diocesan advice and the headteacher's innovative understanding of the planning and delivery of RE. It does not rely heavily on any one scheme but uses various resources to enhance pupils' learning. Teachers' own subject knowledge enables them to make outcomes for pupils outstanding. They use this subject knowledge and Catholic schemes such as Caritas in order to enrich the curriculum. The curriculum wheel that has been devised in the diocese has been incorporated into planning. 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 areas for their own spiritual growth. All classes have access to the parish church and a designated prayer room is well used by staff and pupils.

Pupils' progress in RE in each of the attainment targets, (knowledge and understanding of religion and an ability to reflect on meaning), is good and is reported to parents in termly reports alongside other core curriculum subjects. Communication with parents is excellent. The school sends home regular newsletters and the website class areas are regularly updated. A termly report gives parents an overview of RE and the school's open door policy enables parents to discuss RE matters with school staff.

Pupil attainment and progress in RE is outstanding and is in line with high standards in English and maths. Since the last inspection the headteacher and her deputy have facilitated many training opportunities for staff. Analysis of the progress of all groups of learners enables success to be celebrated. Pupils have the utmost respect for each other and can discuss their own faith and that of others. 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, his assistant priest, governors, headteacher, deputy, teachers, and support staff

have continued to seek opportunities to reflect on the teaching of RE and the Catholic Life of the school. This contributes to excellent subject knowledge and confidence in teaching RE. They inspire pupils and make sure 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 RE.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Overall Effectiveness	1
Capacity for sustained improvement	1
Catholic Life	1
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.	1
How well leaders and managers promote and ensure provision for the Catholic Life of the school through monitoring and evaluation.	1
The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school.	1
Religious Education	1
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.	1
How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education.	1
The quality of provision in Religious Education.	1

	Pupil Outcomes	Leadership & Management	Provision	Overall
Catholic Life	1	1	1	1
Religious Education	1	1	1	1

