

St Chad's Catholic Primary School

URN: 119679

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Liverpool

04–05 December 2024

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

1

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

1

Collective worship (p.7)

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

1

The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference

Yes

The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop

Yes

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection

Fully

1

Compliance statement

- The school meets the requirements for religious education laid down by the Bishops Conference.
- The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the Archbishop of Liverpool.
- The school has fully responded to the areas for improvement identified in the last inspection.

What the school does well

- The commitment to Catholic life and Catholic social teaching shown by all members of staff is exemplary.
- The whole school curriculum underpinned by its strategic plan provides a truly Catholic education built on the mission statement and gospel values.
- Strong relationships at all levels enable pupils to thrive, grow and achieve through the very best that Catholic education can offer.
- Highly effective, interactive and creative teaching in religious education ensures that pupils are well motivated, achieve well and are religiously literate.
- Prayer and liturgy is central to life at St Chad's, providing pupils with a broad range of experiences in which they actively participate and lead.

What the school needs to improve

- Maintain the quality of the existing process for assessment and moderation of standards in religious education as the school continues to implement the *Religious Education Directory*.
- Proceed with the provision of indoor and outdoor prayer spaces for reflection and spontaneous prayer.

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

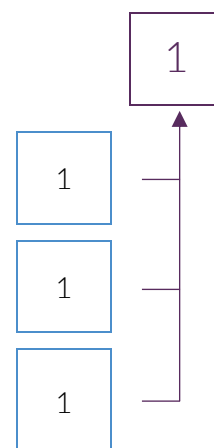
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school



Pupils are valued and cared for at St Chad's. They know they are unique and precious to God and are encouraged to 'Be who they are created to be...' as their mission statement expresses. They are truly nurtured in their faith as valued members of the school and parish family because of the opportunities provided. Consequently, pupils are motivated to flourish in all they do. From their earliest years, pupils are encouraged to be active participants in their faith journey. Pupils make a significant contribution locally, nationally and globally and have a full understanding of the difference they can make. A Year 6 child voiced that 'we are trusted to look after God's world which is a gift to us.' Pupils are exemplary role models to each other and take positions such as buddies and school council members with pride and a sense of responsibility. Their behaviour in and around the school is exceptional and it is evident that they care for each other and their community.

At St. Chad's the provision of a nurturing environment where every pupil feels a sense of belonging is paramount. Staff go above and beyond to support children and families, demonstrating a genuine care that extends beyond academic concerns and is rooted in love. The school's commitment to its Catholic identity is visible through the care and attention given to creating a beautiful learning environment in corridors and classrooms alike. The core values of St Chad's, namely, dignity, compassion, gentleness and peace are woven like a *golden thread* throughout the curriculum. This has been carefully planned to provide a wealth of opportunities for the pupils to actively participate and think deeply about their place in the world. They truly care for their common home and work on Fair Trade, CAFOD and the link with Saints Peter and Paul in Uganda that have each supported the school in gaining its *Live Simply Award*. The pupils spoke with passion about concepts such as discrimination, poverty and homelessness which

have initiated their own fundraising in the school and wider community. The relationships, sex and health education programme of study is well planned and timetabled across the school. The content meets archdiocesan and statutory requirements. The coordinator provides outstanding continued professional development.

The headteacher is fastidious in exercising his duty to be the guardian of this school family. He is supported extremely well by the governors, deputy headteacher, subject leaders, and the parish priest who share a deep commitment to ensuring that the Catholic faith permeates every facet of school life. Leaders place Christ at the heart of all they do. They are a source of inspiration for the whole community and exemplary witnesses to the Gospel. The mission statement review day enabled the school community to contribute to, and share the work they do, and to show how they put their faith and values into action. Staff feel valued at St Chad's and are given support in all aspects of school life and beyond, as they contribute to the Catholic life and mission through strong induction and professional development. The skilled and committed subject leader supported by the governors, engages with the archdiocese and local cluster to ensure there are plenty of opportunities for collaborative working and cascades information on a regular basis. The staff respects the leadership team as a valued role model.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

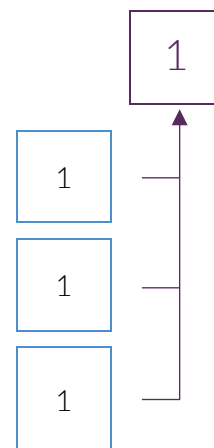
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for religious education



Pupils are developing excellent knowledge, skills and understanding in religious education in accordance with the requirements of the new *Religious Education Directory*. They are making good and better progress, and levels of attainment are in line with, and in some classes above, those of other core subjects. Pupils from the Early Years to Year 6 are encouraged to recap and recall knowledge at the beginning and during lessons to ensure they know more and remember more. Pupils are religiously literate. They are engaged young people who use their curiosity to think ethically and reflect spiritually. They are very articulate in their ideas, especially when discussing scripture, and can make links to how their religious beliefs are lived out in the wider home, school and parish community. Pupils enjoy their learning by expressing knowledge and understanding creatively and producing work of a consistently high quality. As a result of this, their behaviour in lessons is exceptional because they are highly motivated.

Teachers across the school are highly committed to religious education and understand the impact this has on pupils' spiritual and moral development. Teachers have strong levels of subject knowledge and teaching expertise. High expectations, well sequenced pedagogy, and planned opportunities for retrieval enable pupils to consolidate and achieve peak levels of knowledge and understanding in their religious education lessons, notably in their knowledge and recall of scripture. During inspection Year 5 pupils could cite crises situations such as homelessness, war, conflict, and bullying and then link these to the healing gifts of Jesus expressed in scripture, including tolerance, forgiveness and selflessness. Emphasis and repetition of new vocabulary was modelled and as a result used both verbally and in books with confidence and accuracy. Skilful questioning and adaptations ensure all pupils access and achieve in every lesson. In Year 6 artwork on the Annunciation was displayed and a detailed discussion was encouraged which was supported by excellent resources, purposeful

questioning, adult interactions and skills in information technology. Positive praise encouragement and feedback ensure pupils understand the next steps in their learning and when necessary, what they need to do to improve. Relationships are strong in school and adults both support and challenge, which the pupils recognise and use an impetus to improve. Teaching assistants are effectively deployed to optimise learning for all pupils.

Leaders and governors ensure the religious education curriculum meets the standards for the learning required by the new Religious Education *Directory*. Religious education and Catholic social teaching underpin the whole curriculum and are central to the school's strategic plan. The *Directory* has been thoughtfully introduced in the Early Years to Year 4 and is impacting positively in other year groups. Leaders have prioritised training for staff. Regular staff meetings, professional development opportunities and local cluster meetings ensure staff are confident in their delivery and feel well supported. Regular and effective monitoring has led to targeted support and strategic planning. Consequently, all teaching is strong. Governors are frequent visitors to school and are passionate, ambitious and thorough in their self-evaluation and levels of challenge. They are well informed about religious education through the headteacher's reports, monitoring information and first-hand observation of lessons. Governors are keen to celebrate the achievement of their pupils.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

1

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

1

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

1

1

Pupils at St Chad's fully participate in the well-planned and rich range of prayer and liturgical experiences. They engage enthusiastically, sing joyfully and reflect silently in the known presence of God. Pupils are aware of the Church's liturgical year and understand the importance of preparation for significant feasts and services throughout the year. They take an active part in the celebration of the Word, sharing readings and prayers as well as preparing focus tables. During inspection the Word was shared in celebration with a focus on the first Sunday of Advent. Pupils sang joyfully and offered the focus materials at the altar, which culminated in the lighting of the first Advent candle that heralded the reading of the Gospel. The confidence of the pupils and their support for the younger classes clearly demonstrated their part in the planning. The silent Christian meditations provide opportunities for personal prayer and reflection which in turn offer peaceful stillness for staff and children who say, 'It's my quiet time with God'. Over time pupils develop their knowledge of traditional prayer, responses, and liturgical norms in an age-appropriate way.

Prayer, liturgy and worship is central to life at St Chad's and is naturally embedded into its daily provision. The school has equipped pupils and staff with the resources and skills to effectively produce a range of prayer and liturgical opportunities. A parent noted that because of its prayer life 'this school enables my child to be closer to God'. Staff support pupils and show a deep commitment to the prayer life of the school. This is further enriched by the home, school and parish partnership. Senior leaders and staff are exemplary models of best practice when leading prayer and liturgy, which in turn supports pupils to plan and lead the celebration of the Word in class. Highly effective continued professional development has enabled these skills to be rolled out across the school with consistency. Pupils have a good understanding of the four-part liturgical model. When discussed with a group of pupils one said, 'At the Go Forth, we put God's

Word into action'. The staff regard prayer, liturgy and worship as integral to the life of the whole school community. Praying together before meetings or during training provides them with an objective focus on how to live mission through action.

At St Chad's there is a clear and precise policy for prayer and liturgy which is understood and put into action by all. There is a clear direction for prayer and its development as the pupils progress through the year groups. The school's extensive *Annual Plan of Provision* has been developed in line with the new *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*. There is a carefully planned calendar which reflects the liturgical year's seasons and feasts and provides flexibility to support school specific occasions, celebrations and spontaneous prayer. A staff member noted that, 'there is so much joy in assemblies and at prayer times. Prayer helps me stop and think for a moment each day'. Professional development, retreat days and mission statement review events ensure the highest priority is given to the spiritual development of all members of the school community. Quality displays support prayer and liturgy at St Chad's and the school is beginning to develop prayer spaces indoors and out to support spontaneous prayer and reflection. From the evidence gathered it is clear prayer, liturgy and worship underpin Catholic life and mission and is therefore integral to the whole vocation of this Catholic school.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Chad's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	119679
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	8883795
Full postal address of the school	St Chad's Catholic Primary School, South Hill, Blackburn Road, Chorley, PR6 8LL
School phone number	01257 264480
Headteacher	John Riley
Chair of governors	Keith Rollins
School Website	http://www.st-chads.lancs.sch.uk
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	5-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	17 th April 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	1

The inspection team

Janice Taberner
Dominic Vernon

Lead
Team

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement