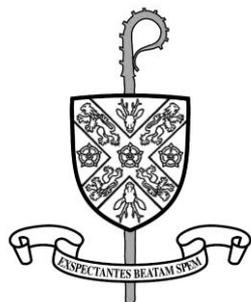


Diocese of Middlesbrough



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25th March 2015

Mrs P Graham
Headteacher
St Mary Queen of Martyrs VA Academy
Nidderdale
Sutton Park
HULL
HU7 4BS

Dear Mrs Graham,

Section 48 Interim Review Visit to St Mary Queen of Martyrs RC Primary School, Hull.

Following my visit to your school on the 20th March 2015, I write on behalf of Middlesbrough Diocese to report on the findings of the visit.

Thank you for the help you gave during my visit and for the very warm welcome you and your staff gave me during my visit.

The focus of the visit was to assess progress in the 4 areas recommended for development in the last Section 48 Inspection.

1. Ensure Religious Education is regarded as a core subject by:
 - a. Having the Catholic Life of the school including R.E. at the front of the school's strategic plan.
 - b. Having Performance Management targets reflect the development of the distinctive Catholic nature of the school.
2. Ensure progress in Religious Education is monitored termly and that the progress of individuals and groups is tracked so that any underachievement can be identified.
3. Build on the recent assessment and moderation work by putting in place a comprehensive and detailed system that promotes pupils attainment.
4. Review the school's Mission Statement.

Evidence

During the visit the following was considered:

- School Development Plans following the last Inspection and current, the School Self-Evaluation Document and children's books from each class and ability group.
- All classes were visited to observe the teaching of Religious Education and pupils discussed their work informally.
- 2 acts of Collective Worship were observed.
- Discussions were held with the Headteacher, Vice Chair of Governors, Lay Chaplaincy Coordinator, Acting RE Coordinator and the Parish Priest.

Main Findings

Following the last Inspection the school quickly addressed the areas identified for development. Religious Education and the Catholic Life of the school now has a high profile and is at the forefront of the School Development Plan. One of the main aims is: 'RE teaching/learning and the Catholic Life of the school is paramount in everything we do and say'.

All RE lessons are now held in the morning and the children's knowledge and enthusiasm were very much in evidence as they were keen to tell me what they had learned about the Easter Story. A range of teaching strategies was evident together with appropriate differentiation and challenge. Performance Management targets and appraisal supported the introduction and embedding of 'Come and See' and the Parish Priest commented on the children's knowledge of scripture through the new scheme.

Progress in RE is carefully monitored. All staff moderate RE writing regularly and work is formally assessed three times a year. The Teaching and Learning of RE as well as work scrutiny take place each term. Teaching staff plan collaboratively and are aware of standards for their pupils. 'I Can' and 'Can I' statements support pupils' self-evaluation. A comprehensive tracking system enables pupils needing support or challenge to be quickly identified. In Year 5/6 pupils are set for RE to ensure the higher attainers are challenged.

The school Mission Statement is currently under review.

The school judges itself to be Outstanding in the latest Self Evaluation document and, based on the evidence seen, I would agree with this judgement. The school now needs to embed and build on the progress made

Further actions recommended

- Further develop pupils' peer and self-assessment skills and ensure that all pupils have time to respond to next step marking.
- Further enhance pupils' skills in planning, leading and evaluating Collection Worship through the Junior Chaplaincy programme.
- Continue to drive standards for higher level 4 skills at the end of Key Stage 2.

I am copying this letter to Kevin Duffy, Director of Schools, Theresa Laverick, Diocesan RE Adviser and Mr Peter Harris, Chair of Governors.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Bruce

Mary Bruce
Diocesan Section48 Inspector