



Distribution:
✓ Head Teacher: Mrs Philippa Mathews
✓ CAO:
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Brentwood Diocesan Education Service	
S48 MID-TERM REVIEW	
Name of School:	St Philomena's Preparatory Catholic School
Name of Headteacher:	Mrs Philippa Mathews
Name of Diocesan Link Adviser:	
Name of Diocesan Reviewer:	Sr Jude Groden, rsm
Date of visit:	19 th November 2019
Date of last S48 inspection:	2 nd December 2015
Met with:	Headteacher & R.E.Coordinator: Mrs Philippa Mathews. Chair of Governors: Mrs Jo Geldard. Pupils, Staff and attended a whole School Assembly

Context changes since last inspection:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Headteacher April 2019. • Ages 4 -11 • 98 Pupils on roll of which 33 are Catholic • 3 Teachers are Catholic. • 1 Teacher working towards the CCRS. • New Tuition Centre inaugurated. • School Council more structured. • Curriculum restructured. • Parent Forum Meetings introduced. • All Classes have a curriculum plan. • PSHE introduced as new subject.

Areas to Improve from last inspection:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to address those areas currently identified in the School development plan. 2. Review resources for religious education to ensure classes in Key Stage 2 have sets of bibles. 3. Ensure pupils have additional opportunities to lead and plan worship.

Action taken and impact since last inspection:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Details of previous School Development Plan are not available. 2. A review of resources has been carried out and there are now new sets of Bibles available in Key Stage 2. This development point has been fully addressed. 3. Pupils are given opportunities to plan and lead worship. This development point has been fully addressed.

Strengths of the School – Catholic Life of the School:

Since the appointment of the new inspiring and enthusiastic Headteacher (April 2019) the entire provision of Education, including the Catholic Life of the School, has been given a very impressive high priority.

It is evident that the vision and mission at St Philomena's is integral to the life of the School as expressed in the Mission Statement:

St. Philomena's Catholic School is inspired by the love of Jesus by celebrating the gifts of all as we grow and learn together in a happy welcoming community.

This is embedded each day by every member of the School community as they strive to provide a Christian learning environment as follows:

- Where Christ is at the heart of the community.
- Where every member of the School community is valued.
- Where consideration and co-operation are fostered and developed.
- Where difficulties are discussed, problems prayed about and solutions sought, success and failure are shared.
- Where they recognise the diversity of background and faith of both staff and pupils and aim to support and encourage each other in their journey of faith.
- Where forgiveness will be both spontaneous and generous.

The pupils, parents, staff and governors have collaborated to identify key Gospel values that are displayed as a "word cross" in the School entrance, in every classroom and every building. They are also written on stone pebbles that embellish the statue of Our Lady in the School playground. These values are exemplified daily, particularly: in the caring attitudes older pupils show towards the younger pupils; the genuine concern every adult shows towards the pupils; the ways in which the staff support each other; the prayers shared in difficult times; the forgiveness and generosity shown towards each other; and, the trust pupils show towards adults at times of personal difficulty. These values reflect an awareness of the Catholic Life and Ethos and contribute to making the School community happy, special, safe and inclusive.

Behaviour is exemplary and a culture of care, respect, love of neighbour and the wellbeing of all pervades this School.

There is a programme in place for Relationship and Sex Education which follows Diocesan guidelines and uses the 'Journey in Love' programme.

The School is a welcoming place and new pupils integrate quickly because of its warm family-spirit and systems that ensure quick adaptability. New pupils are always welcomed at their first assembly and a special prayer is said for them.

The School council is made up of two pupils from each year group from Forms 3 to 6. They select a charity each year to raise funds and organise fund raising events. These include a Tropical Disco, a collection for the Frinton and Walton Food Bank and a retiring collection for CAFOD at the 'Harvest Festival Service'.

Every classroom has its own carefully created prayer focus, which depicts the liturgical season and includes a cross/crucifix, bible, rosary beads that are age appropriate. These prayer tables/displays are the central focus of the class learning environment and are used productively as aids to prayer and support the teaching of Religious Education.

The School has recently undertaken a programme of refurbishment to enliven the learning environment and a feature of this is the creation of reflective quiet spaces including a “Quiet Sanctuary” for pupils to reflect.

There is a strong effort to raise awareness of belonging to the Diocese with a commitment to support and participate in Diocesan events including courses, conferences and other networking opportunities.

The inauguration of a Tuition Centre for pupils in the School and from outside the School is another feature of St Philomena’s impetus to become a centre of excellence.

The School also has raised its profile as Catholic School in the Parish and local community through participation in local church services and support of local events, such as, the Frinton and Walton Flower Festival, and the Christmas Bazaar. The School hosts events for the local Parish and community, such as: an afternoon tea in Summer 2019 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings; a service to commemorate Armistice Day; and a Christmas service is planned to which people from the Parish are invited to attend.

Representatives from other faiths, Church of England and the local Baptist church are welcomed to the School.

The School continues to be faithful to the charism and inspiration of the Sisters of Mercy who established it.

Suggested new or continued action - Catholic Life of the School:

Continue work already planned in the R.E. Action Plan for 2019-2020:

- Develop greater links with the Parish by hosting events at School and at the local church.
- Headteacher attends Parish meetings to ensure events are published in the Parish newsletter.
- Develop involvement of pupils in scripture reading and prayers during acts of worship.
- Develop the provision of R.E.CPD within the School.
- Invite the Link Governor to carry out an audit of the provision for the Catholic Life of the School.

Strengths of the School – Religious Education:

The School follows the ‘*Come and See*’ Religious Education Programme recommended by the Bishop of the Diocese. The Headteacher produces an annual curriculum plan to ensure sufficient time is allocated to the teaching of R.E. All classes are allocated at least 10% overall curriculum time for the teaching of this core subject.

All R.E. teaching and learning meets the needs of pupils as teachers are creative and resourceful in their teaching. Pupils are given feedback during lessons as well as for written work. The younger pupils are given verbal feedback as it is more meaningful and instant for them while for most part the older pupils receive written constructive comments on their work.

The teaching of R.E. is monitored through lesson observations, work scrutiny and learning walks.

Acknowledgement of achievement and effort is given through House Points and pupils are asked to show the Headteacher a piece of work which has been done exceptionally well. Effort and achievement are also celebrated during assemblies when all of the children share in the successes of others.

All pupils are baseline assessed at the beginning of each academic year. The resulting data is analysed to inform planning and develop appropriate teaching strategies to ensure all pupils make progress.

A tracking document has been introduced for R.E. and updated after each unit of work. The Headteacher monitors progress and discusses any underperformance with the relevant class teacher to address with the pupil.

The Headteacher provides clear direction to teachers to maintain high standards in R.E. and where necessary she will model a lesson for others to observe.

The Headteacher maintains an electronic tracking spreadsheet to monitor progress and attainment for each unit of work.

Planning documents are checked by the Headteacher and lesson observations carried out to ensure work is differentiated so that every child is able to achieve their best.

The Headteacher attends local cluster meetings to moderate work and ensure consistency between classes.

During the Spring Term Pupils in Forms 5 and 6 are offered a ‘*Walk Through the Bible*’ course which extends their scriptural and religious literacy.

Suggested new or continued action – Religious Education:

Continue work already planned in the R.E. Action Plan for 2019-2020:

- Review tracking document with class teachers on a half term basis to record attainment, address underperformance and build in challenge.
- Record the outcomes of RE lesson observations and work scrutiny so they can be evaluated with all staff during curriculum meetings or INSET days.
- Develop mastery in the teaching of R.E. by peer observations and directed CPD sessions.
- Carry out an annual audit to evaluate the provision of R.E. with the link governor for the subject.

SCHOOL ATTAINMENT DATA – Data not available.

End of Key Stage Data - % at each level/grade/band 2019

End of Key Stage 1 - Teacher Assessment (over the last three years)

Year	No. in cohort	Working towards		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2016-2017											
2017-2018											
		Emerging		Expected		Exceeding					
2018-2019											

End of Key Stage 2 - Teacher Assessment (over the last three years)

Year	No. in cohort	Working towards		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4		Level 5		Level 6	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
2016-2017															
2017-2018															
		Emerging		Expected		Exceeding									
2018-2019															

Strengths of the School – Collective Worship:

The provision of worship in this School is of a very high standard as was evident in a whole School assembly observed. It is underpinned by the School's identified Gospel values.

Pupils are given various opportunities to pray each day and are introduced to diverse forms of prayer which include: traditional, spontaneous, liturgical, reflective and scriptural. The Head Boy and Head Girl lead prayers at the start of each whole School assembly.

The prayer and worshipping life of the School is greatly enhanced by its inspiring religious music. Pupils are motivated and encouraged to compose their own hymns as was observed during this visit.

There is a programme of assemblies in place which include whole School and class based. These take account of the liturgical season, feasts of Mary and the Saints and are based on the Word of God.

Parents are invited to assemblies and the members of the local Parish, the Parish Priest and Sisters of Mercy are invited to join the School for events such as the 'Harvest Festival Service', the 'Lighting of the Advent Candle', Christmas and Easter Masses, Nativity and carol Services, the 'Crowning of Our Lady', Speech Day and the 'Year 6 Leavers' Service'.

The School is very appreciative of the generous Chaplaincy support it receives from the local Parish Priest who provides whole School Masses at the end of each term at the Church of the Sacred Heart and St Francis, in Frinton and is also available for School based Masses. He visits the School regularly and supports its Catholic Life in various ways for example: a blessing on Armistice Day, a blessing of the Advent wreath and lighting the Advent Candle, welcoming pupils to visit the church as part of their R.E. lessons.

Reconciliation services take place during Lent and Advent with opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for those who are eligible.

The Chair of Governors is extremely supportive of the School at all levels and particularly its Catholicity. She attends a weekly assembly, School Masses and events. She is also a member of the Parish and is involved as a catechist in preparing children for First Reconciliation and First Communion. The Headteacher is in the process of undertaking the role of catechist in the near future.

Suggested new or continued action-Collective Worship:

Continue work already planned in the R.E. Action Plan for 2019-2020:

- Encourage pupils to read scripture and prayers during whole School assemblies.
- Encourage pupils to plan, lead and evaluate Acts of Worship.
- Develop pupil leadership of Collective Worship.

Progress

St Philomena's Catholic School has evidently begun a journey of transformation and is putting measures in place on a daily basis to ensure it becomes an outstanding, Christocentric learning environment. This is largely due to the passionate, enthusiastic and innovative vision and inspiration of the new Headteacher and her strategic vision. She is well supported in this venture by the dedication of each member of the School community, including the Parish Priest and Governing Body.

Appendix 1

Additional comments:
No additional comments.

Appendix 2

Document	Check	Date of document	Notes
R.E. Policy		2019	
Collective Worship Policy		2019	
RSE Policy		2019	
R.E. SEF		2019	
CPD Log		2019	
How many Catholic Teachers		3	
How many teachers have the CC RS?			1 ongoing
Monitoring		Ongoing	
R.E.Action Plan		2019	
RE/Catholic Life info on website/info to parents RS?		The website is currently outsourced	