



St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School

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School Unique Reference Number: **126061**

Headteacher: Mrs A. O'Hara

Chair of Governors: Mrs J. Billings

Lead Inspector: Mrs A. Oddy

Associate Inspector: Mrs P. Rickard

Inspection date: 01.07.2014

Overall Effectiveness Previous Inspection: 1

This inspection: 1

Catholic Life: 1

Collective Worship: 1

Religious Education: 1

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FOR PARENTS AND PUPILS

St Wilfrid's is an outstanding Catholic school because:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ St Wilfrid's is an outstanding Catholic school. It is an inclusive and supportive community centred around its mission statement 'Our Faith, Our Learning and Each Other'. Pupils enjoy coming to school and achieve well. Pupils' behaviour and attitudes to their learning are excellent. Parents are appreciative of the school and the Catholic education it offers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The quality of collective worship is outstanding. Prayer and worship are interwoven into all aspects of school life and form a firm basis for the school as a Catholic community. Pupils, staff, governors and parents are included in a wide variety of liturgies, masses and other prayer and worship opportunities throughout the year. Pupils welcome their involvement in preparing and participating in these and respond very positively.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Catholic life of the school is outstanding. Attractive, high quality displays and artefacts reflect the school's Catholic identity and enhance the learning environment. The school has a strong sense of the Common Good, reaching out to those in the wider community. Pupils are active participants in the many and varied events relating to the school's Catholic life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The quality of religious education is outstanding. Teaching and learning is excellent and all groups of pupils make good progress. Pupils' work is of a very high standard. Pupils enjoy religious education and appreciate its importance to their lives.

FULL REPORT

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

- St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School is situated in the Lewes deanery of Arundel and Brighton and is maintained by West Sussex local authority.
- The principal parishes which the school serves are St Wilfrid's, Burgess Hill and St Edward's and St Luke's, Keymer.
- St Wilfrid's is a larger than average size primary school.
- There are 413 pupils on roll.
- Around 60% of pupils are baptised Catholics.
- The proportion of pupils with special educational needs is below the national average.
- The proportion of pupils eligible for pupil premium funding is below the national average.
- The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups is close to the national average.

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL NEED TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

- Continue with the school's identified focus on developing assessment opportunities and systems of pupil tracking linked with the 'Come and See' programme of religious education.

CATHOLIC LIFE

THE QUALITY OF THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.
- The quality of provision of the Catholic Life of the school.
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school.

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The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.

- Pupils have a strong sense of belonging to a vibrant Catholic community. They relate the essence of the mission statement 'Our Faith, Our Learning and Each Other' as central to the life of the school. Pupils and families from other faiths are welcomed and included and are valued members of the school family.
- Pupils are encouraged to promote the school's Catholic ethos in the wider community. They support a number of local, national and international charities and take part in initiatives to help others in their local community. The school was awarded 'Community School of the Year 2014' for its work with elderly local residents.
- Pupils respect and care for each other, recognising that they are all members of the school family. 'Worry' and 'Sorry' boxes help them to share and deal with anxieties.
- Pupils are offered opportunities to take responsibilities and are proud to be of service to their school and to help others.
- The school environment reflects its Catholic identity. Displays and artefacts are of high quality; they enhance the learning environment and show the importance of religious education, prayer and worship in the school.
- The parish priest is a frequent visitor to the school, celebrating liturgies and also supporting the religious education curriculum. The school has very good links with its local parishes and supports the sacramental preparation programme.

The quality of provision of the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.

- The school's mission statement is central to all that the school does. It is explored and renewed in all classes at the start of the school year. Its essence is expressed in shortened form as 'Our Faith, Our Learning and Each Other' and is known by all pupils.
- The school's Catholic identity is reflected in its attractive faith based learning environment, the importance of prayer and worship and the excellent relationships between all members of the school community. A prayer garden offers a place for quiet reflection and a space for outside liturgical celebrations.
- Pupil behaviour is excellent. Pupils are polite and considerate to visitors and each other. They know that adults in the school will help them if they have any problems.
- Programmes of SRE (Sex and Relationship Education) and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) are in place. Excellent and valued systems of pastoral care include Rainbows, school learning mentors and outside agencies as appropriate. Buddies and play workers provide peer support.

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.

- Leaders and managers are deeply committed to the Catholic life of the school. They are excellent role models, leading and inspiring a cohesive staff team.
- The Catholic life of the school is an integral part of the School Improvement Plan. At least one annual INSET day focuses specifically on religious education and the Catholic life of the school.
- Governing body meetings regularly include the Catholic life of the school as an agenda item. It also features as a focus for governor visits.
- Governors attend diocesan training. They are committed to promoting staff well-being and pastoral support as part of their vision of a caring Catholic community.
- A pupil religious education team has recently been formed to provide an opportunity for pupils to take part in monitoring and evaluating the school's Catholic life and in planning and preparing school liturgies.
- The school is committed to actively engaging with parents. Parents are invited to numerous school liturgies and celebrations and respond very positively. Parents run prayer groups in Advent and Lent. Support groups for parents are well established. Parents are very appreciative of the school and the Catholic education it offers. A high number of questionnaires were returned. These were overwhelmingly positive. Comments included "I have seen both my children thrive spiritually-" and "St Wilfrid's is a school where faith is at the centre of all the children do. There is always time available for reflection and space for faith to grow."

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP / PRAYER AND WORSHIP

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- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship.
- The quality of provision for Collective Worship.
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship.

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How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship is outstanding.

- Pupils are offered a range of collective worship opportunities and respond very positively. In the act of collective worship observed, the Pupil Religious Education Team made a significant contribution using drama and role play which they had planned. Pupils responded with enthusiasm and interest. Pupils also help to set up prayer focus areas and are involved in the preparation of school and class liturgies.
- Pupils respect those of other faiths and understand the need to include them while respecting their differing beliefs.
- Prayer opportunities include spontaneous prayer as well as the traditional prayer of the Church. Pupils enjoy writing and sharing their own prayers. They are able to appreciate and participate in times of quiet reflection as well as joyful celebration.
- Spiritual journals provide a beautiful record of pupils' liturgical celebrations, personal prayers and important events.

The quality of provision for Collective Worship is outstanding.

- Prayer and collective worship are at the heart of school life. Pupils start and end the school day with prayer, prayer is also an integral part of staff and governing body meetings.
- Assemblies, celebrations, masses and liturgies form part of the rich framework of school collective worship. Parents and governors are regularly included as part of the school community and speak appreciatively of these occasions.
- Thoughtful preparation goes into making these occasions opportunities for spiritual development. Pupils and staff are involved in planning and preparation.
- The school website highlights the importance of this feature of school life, with photographs and information regarding the religious life of the school.
- Themes chosen for worship reflect the liturgical season, events in the school year and religious education topics as appropriate. They are enhanced by careful choice of music and Bible readings, often chosen by the pupils themselves.

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship is outstanding.

- The religious education team promotes the provision for collective worship, modelling good practice and providing support for staff. They are committed to the mission of the school. Monitoring and evaluation form part of school self-evaluation and improvement planning.
- Diocesan training is provided for new teachers and for members of the religious education team.
- Members of the religious education team have considerable expertise in planning and delivering collective worship and are able to engage and inspire the school community.
- Pupil feedback is used to evaluate provision and inform future planning.
- Governors attend liturgical celebrations as part of their monitoring role. The headteacher monitors class and key stage liturgies on an informal basis and provides feedback to affirm and develop practice.
- Areas for development have been identified and are being addressed. These include increasing pupils' roles in assemblies and providing more opportunities for singing.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.
- The quality of teaching and assessment in Religious Education.
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education.

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How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education is outstanding.

- Pupils make excellent progress and achieve well in religious education, with significant numbers achieving at the higher levels.
- All groups of pupils receive appropriate support and challenge to achieve their full potential. Pupils with special educational needs are effectively supported and encouraged by classroom adult assistants.
- Behaviour in lessons is excellent. Pupils are fully engaged and motivated to learn.
- Outcomes are excellent. High standards of teaching ensure that pupils enjoy their learning as well as making good progress.
- A range of effective teaching strategies is used to interest and inspire pupils, who respond very positively. Pupils work well individually and collaboratively.
- Pupils speak confidently regarding their religious education, demonstrating high standards of knowledge and religious literacy.

The quality of teaching and assessment in Religious Education is outstanding.

- The school uses the diocesan recommended 'Come and See' programme of religious education. Curriculum time allocation is in line with the requirements of the Bishops' Conference.
- Lessons observed were generally outstanding. They showed good pace and subject knowledge and challenged the pupils to think deeply about spiritual issues. Differentiation was clearly evident. Children were encouraged to develop their questioning skills. Activities were well planned and interesting.

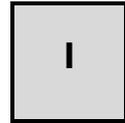
- Pupils' work is of an excellent standard in presentation and content. Marking is regular, thorough and helps pupils to progress in their learning. Pupils have a detailed understanding of what they need to do to improve and are given the opportunity to respond to teachers' comments.
- Pupils work is regularly assessed. Moderation is school based and also at deanery level. Assessment is effectively used to inform teachers' planning and religious education provision.
- The school maintains an excellent portfolio of moderated work for teachers to use as exemplars when levelling and moderating pupils' work.
- The school is introducing a new system of pupil tracking which will allow religious education to be tracked alongside other curriculum areas. This together with developing assessment opportunities linked with the new 'Come and See' programme of religious education has been accurately identified by the school as a focus for further development.

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education is outstanding.

- Leaders use a comprehensive range of monitoring activities including lesson observations, learning walks and book scrutiny. These identify strengths and weaknesses and inform school improvement planning.
- The religious education team consists of a range of members drawn from governors and staff. The team monitors provision and drives the strategic development of religious education throughout the school. Its members show commitment and enthusiasm for their task.
- In addition to its timetable allocation, religious education permeates the whole school curriculum and is central to school life. This is evident in the many cross curricular activities, school events and celebrations and the spiritual journals.
- The headteacher has considerable expertise in religious education. She is very well informed regarding recent developments, particularly the 'Come and See' programme which has been recently introduced in the school. Staff have benefited from training in delivery of the programme.
- The school has excellent links with the parish and works closely with other Catholic schools.
- Governors effectively fulfil their role of support and challenge. They are exceptionally well informed regarding religious education provision and standards in the school. They are frequent visitors, playing a full part in the Catholic life of the school.
- Recommendations made by the previous inspection have been fully addressed.

Summary of Inspection Judgements

How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education.



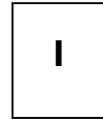
Catholic Life



The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.



The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school



How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school.



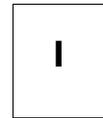
Collective Worship



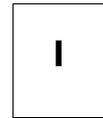
How well pupils respond to and participate in the schools' Collective Worship.



The quality of provision for Collective Worship



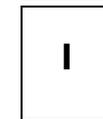
How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship.



Religious Education



How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.



The quality of teaching and assessment in Religious Education



How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education

