

The quality of teaching in Religious Education is outstanding. Pupils enjoy their learning. They concentrate well, they demonstrate excellent levels of engagement and their work is purposeful, of significant depth and well presented. The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding.

What the school needs to do to improve further.

- “ Bring a clarity of purpose to the school curriculum, and ensure that the Religious Education curriculum at Key Stage 3 is allocated 10% curriculum time.
- “ Integrate Character Education and the virtues throughout the curriculum.
- “ Ensure that the Religious Education curriculum at Key Stage 3 is allocated 10% curriculum time.
- “ Strengthen and sustain greater participation of pupils in Collective Worship by providing regular opportunities for them to plan and lead.

Information about this inspection

The Inspection of St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Full report - inspection judgements

CATHOLIC LIFE

The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.	1
The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision of the Catholic Life of the school	1

Almost all pupils are actively involved and benefit greatly from their participation in the Catholic Life of the school. Pupils' levels of involvement in Catholic Life events such as the 50 pupils preparing to go to Lourdes on pilgrimage this year and their treatment of each other on a daily basis illustrate a commitment to their faith.

Pupils embrace their faith and show a deep respect for themselves and for others in their community. They speak confidently about their experiences on retreat and on pilgrimage. We believe that if we pray to God he will help us. Pupil behaviour is excellent in and out of the classroom. They are able to listen to their peers, show understanding, tolerance and, when called for, forgiveness. They spoke confidently about their faith, charitable contributions and prayer life.

Almost all pupils are aware of what it means to be part of a Catholic school community and they eagerly embrace the opportunities offered to celebrate and serve it. This happens through a variety of charitable works, retreats, Diocesan events and fund raising in school, in parishes and beyond. An example being the Year 12 involvement with an orphanage in South Africa, Bambisanani. Students fund-raise to travel to South Africa and once there they work in the school and orphanage.

Pupils speak highly of the opportunities for pupils to be actively involved in Catholic Life on a formal basis through the Faith in Action Group, The Global Warriors and more recently through the St Vincent De Paul Group, and on an informal basis through the many fundraising events organised. Retreats are arranged for all year groups. Pupils spoke of the spiritual growth they felt during retreat.

Pastoral support is a strength of the school. The lay chaplain has a role which includes pastoral support, she sees this role as seamless; it is a role appreciated by pupils and staff. Pupils are aware of what support opportunities and facilities the school offers. During this inspection the Catholic Care team were in school sensitively supporting staff and pupils at a difficult time.

School offers a well-planned Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme along with specialist taught Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). Pupils enjoy these lessons and appear confident in their own stage of physical, emotional and spiritual growth.

Pupils understand what it means to

expressing their pride in their school. They deeply value and respect the school's Catholic tradition. A large number of pupils are actively involved in their parishes. One parish has 25 altar servers who may be called on to serve at Mass in school. The school mission statement, 'We are a Catholic school & we are committed to providing a world class education, which is an effective expression of the educational mission of the school. However, the mission statement is well known only to lower school pupils while more senior pupils and students identify the mission of the school variously with the beatitudes, gospel values or a slogan about providing a world class education. Consequently, leaders need to ensure that the mission statement is well known to all staff and pupils. Staff are committed fully to the implementation of the mission statement.'

