



EAST ANGLIA DIOCESAN SCHOOLS' SERVICE

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Interim Monitoring Visit

St. Felix Catholic Primary School, Haverhill

29th March 2019

The school is a one and a half form entry school for pupils from 3 to 11 years situated in the market town of Haverhill in the west of Suffolk and serves St. Felix parish. There are 306 pupils on roll of which 56% pupils are Catholic. The percentage of Catholic teachers is 36% of which six have a Religious Education (RE) qualification. Within the 12% of pupils identified with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND), there are three pupils with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP). 44% of pupils have English as an additional language and pupils' backgrounds include Polish, English, Filipino, Lithuanian, German, Indian, Russian, Bulgarian and Portuguese. The school has had a number of staff changes over the last three years, a new head of school appointed in September 2018 and since the last RE inspection, an established teacher became the new RE leader. The school is part of Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

The interim monitoring visit timetable included a welcome, a meeting with the executive headteacher, head of school and RE leader; a whole school Collective Worship; an RE learning walk including observations of RE lessons in the majority of classes; a meeting with pupils from Y1 to Y6; scrutiny of pupils' RE workbooks with three levels of ability from each year group / mixed year group; a meeting with the parish priest who is the RE governor, and a feedback meeting with the executive headteacher, head of school and RE leader. (The areas to improve are in italics). The visit lasted 5 hours.

RE Denominational Inspection June 2016 Improvements:

Ensure that the quality of marking of pupils' work in all year group provides regular opportunities for pupils to consider further challenge and understanding related to the next steps of progress.

With the establishment of the marking policy now consistently used throughout the school which is colour coded, the pupils, especially in KS2, have opportunities provided by their teachers to respond back to challenging thoughts and questions, in order to further develop their knowledge and understanding. This target **has been embedded**. However, in light of national changes with the age-related standards and the introduction of the new diocesan 'I Can' statements for pupils which link the standards to the primary RE curriculum plan, **the inspector agrees with the school** that this target needs to be **further developed and embedded**. Pupils' self-evaluation to continue to be monitored with the use of the new I Can statements together with the marking through scrutiny of RE workbooks and verbal responses from pupils and for teachers to professionally judge impact of learning, to inform assessment of each pupil's greater attainment and progress in RE.

Offer further CPD (continual professional development) such as CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies) to all members of staff including support staff.

This target **has been embedded** with members of staff attending and completing inset in the DCRS (diocesan certificate of religious studies) which has supported their knowledge and teaching of RE.

Maintain pupils' involvement in planning, leading and further developing presentations within collective worship and prayer led activities, and encourage pupils to evaluate outcomes.

This target **has been embedded** with all pupils taking part in liturgies and the upper key stage 2 pupils having established their ministry team, to regularly lead and support collective worship which subsequently impacts on the Catholic life of the school.

Together with the inspector, two further targets have been identified by the RE leader and head of school and are as follows:-

Further develop and monitor the partnership with home and the wider community so the impact on the Catholic life of the school is tangible and inspiring for pupils and the whole school community.

Within school, further promote, offer and develop diverse community opportunities within collective worship, which is monitored and evaluated by governors through short feedback reports to feed back to the governing body.

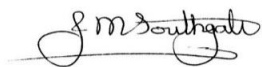
The inspector recommends that the SEF is adapted slightly to ensure that the Catholic Life of the school reflects the impact of actions taken, in relation to the criteria within the national guidelines (see diocesan handbook 2017) and that grading reflects the excellent practice in place.

Pupils' workbooks showed a great depth of thoughtful reflection and comparable links between the scriptures including Old and New Testament stories and to the world today, which should be shared as exemplars of pupils' RE knowledge and understanding. In lessons, teachers enthusiastically supported pupils in their learning and encouraged pupils to think the bigger picture and pupils had the opportunity to choose between differentiated challenging tasks to complete. Pupils are proud of their work and contributions to the life of the school and in their gaining of further knowledge and understanding.

The RE leader and RE governor together with the recently appointed head of school have worked tirelessly to move the school forward and their commitment to pupils' achievement, progress and involvement has successfully impacted on and inspired pupils to give of their best. The executive headteacher of Our Lady of Walsingham MAT strongly supports the vision of the school.

Feedback regarding the interim monitoring visit was that it had been useful to the school.

I would like to thank everyone at St. Felix school for such a warm and friendly welcome and to thank the pupils for their enthusiastic comments about their school.



Jan Southgate, Diocesan S48 Inspector