



St Joseph & St Bede Catholic Primary School

URN: 105336

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Salford

17–18 January 2024

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

1

Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

1

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

1

Collective worship (p.7)

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

1

The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference

Yes

The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop

Yes

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection

Fully

What the school does well

- Pupils truly understand and live the mission of their school to 'Dream, Believe, Achieve'.
- Relationships throughout the school are genuine and joyful.
- Pastoral care ensures pupils are happy, confident and know that they are valued as part of the St Joseph and St Bede's family.
- Leadership at all levels demonstrates clarity, vision and ambition.
- The religious education curriculum is expertly adapted to meet the needs of the whole community.

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- The behaviour and attitude of pupils is exemplary and embodies the Catholic life and mission of the school.

What the school needs to improve

- To review the quality of 'Big Questions' to further develop deeper thinking

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

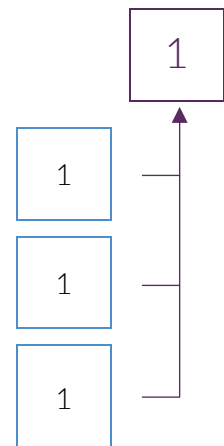
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school



St Joseph and St Bede Catholic Primary School is an excellent Catholic school where the mission to follow the example of Jesus as they 'Dream, Believe, Achieve' is known, celebrated and lived. Pupils relish the opportunity to bring this mission to fruition through their many and varied contributions to support those less fortunate than themselves. Pupils contribute to numerous charities including CAFOD and Bury Red Door. Pupils were also very excited about their support of 'Felix and Brenda' the children they sponsor in Africa. Pupils actively respond to Catholic social teaching by supporting those who are most vulnerable in school, in the local community and globally. They are happy, confident and know that they are highly valued members of the St Joseph and St Bede family. Pupils recognise and respond well to the challenge of caring for the common home and the Laudato Si' team have been busy collecting litter from the woods and finding additional ways to care for the hens, goats and rabbits on their school farm. Pupils have a highly developed sense of respect for those of other faiths and cultures as witnessed in their multi-faith projects. Pupils behave with dignity and respect, and this was clearly demonstrated when more than three hundred pupils participated in a woodland worship. Pupils value the contributions to the school provided by the G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) team and other worship groups.

The mission statement drives all aspects of school life, it is talked about and lived by both pupils and staff resulting in the whole school community being able to clearly articulate the inspiring mission of the school. It is regularly reviewed and powerfully supports the formation of the pupils at SJSB. The school goes above and beyond to offer a sense of welcome for all into their community. This is best exemplified by the bespoke educational and pastoral support afforded to the most vulnerable pupils. This is clearly a highly inclusive school where the image and likeness of Christ is recognised in all. Staff are exceptionally supportive and provide a truly

inclusive Catholic environment. Parents and pupils highly value the pastoral care provided by the school. One parent explained how the school organised the recycling of old uniform in the 'shed full of love' guaranteeing dignity for all of those who use and value it. School has worked incredibly hard to create an exceptional environment which reflects its pursuit for excellence. The dedicated worship space, The Croi and the outside woodland environment are highlights of the school. Staff display an outstanding commitment to the vision and mission of the school and consistently bear witness to it, offering a palpable spirit of welcome. Provision for chaplaincy is strong in supporting the mission of the school. The provision for relationships, sex and health education fully meets diocesan requirements.

Leaders and governors are passionately committed to growing the faith of the whole school community. The inspirational headteacher relentlessly drives the vision, mission and philosophy of St Joseph and St Bede's. Leaders support and actively promote the bishop's vision for the diocese and have recently joined the St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust. The school regularly offer itself to the service of others and their contribution is highly beneficial and valued. This is further evidence of the school's commitment to wider Catholic education. Leaders and governors work extremely hard to promote an effective partnership between the school and the parish. School has highly successful strategies for engaging with parents which are very much appreciated and as a result parents express their pride when talking about the Catholic life and mission of the school. One parent particularly enjoyed praying with her child when the travelling crib is brought home during Advent. Parents are regularly welcomed into school for *Stay and Pray* sessions or to join in a variety of opportunities to share in the Catholic life and mission of the school. Subject leaders have worked extremely hard to plan cross curricular links which are constantly referred to and perfectly exemplified in their *Awe and Wonder* books. Leaders and governors ensure regular monitoring and accurate self-evaluation systems result in leaders constantly striving for improvement to be the best that they can be. New staff speak of a highly effective system of induction.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

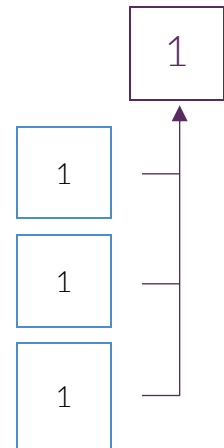
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for religious education



Pupils at SJSB’s are developing excellent knowledge and understanding. Pupils make good progress, from their starting points, by knowing and remembering more. This is because of links skilfully made by class teachers to prior learning. Pupils, including disadvantaged and pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, achieve well in all phases as a result of quality teaching. Pupils are religiously literate and are particularly aware of how their faith affects their everyday lives with well interpreted links to scriptures. Through carefully planned retrieval practice pupils can speak confidently about what they have learned. Pupils concentrate extremely well and present their learning independently in unique and creative ways. Pupils learning is often recorded electronically to allow for the inclusivity of all learners. Their art work is a particular strength. Pupils enjoy their learning and as a result their behaviour is exemplary with even the youngest children able to sustain concentration and engagement for long periods. The parish priest is often impressed by the incisive questions the pupils ask. Pupils receive clear feedback which helps them to understand how to improve. Religious education permeates the curriculum and as a result attainment is higher when compared to other core subjects.

Teachers have excellent subject knowledge and high expectations of all of their pupils. Staff skilfully question to ascertain understanding, provide challenge and make adaptations. In upper Key Stage 2 pupils confidently explored and made links between Jesus’ ministry and scripture from Isaiah. During lessons teachers regularly check for pupils’ understanding of new vocabulary. All learning observed followed a consistent lesson structure which resulted in reduced cognitive load and improved outcomes. SJSB is a dyslexia friendly school and provision in lessons is evident, reflecting the school’s drive for inclusivity. Reflection time is built into lessons allowing for pupils’ moral and spiritual development. Consequently, pupils display an impressive grasp on how they can positively impact upon the lives of others. Teachers link planning to their assessments so that pupils learn well. Relevant and specific feedback ensures pupils understand what they need to do to make progress. School has thoughtfully planned a

wide variety of ways for pupils to express themselves to meet the differing needs of all pupils. Excellent resources, including other adults, are used very effectively to optimise learning for all pupils.

School has designed an effective curriculum combining the *'Come and See'* programme with a variety of creative additions, ensuring that it is a faithful expression of the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*. The timetables provided show that the school is compliant, and that religious education is receiving at least 10% of available curriculum time. Religious education demonstrates clear parity with other core subjects. The school's work to enrich the curriculum is exceptional. The school takes pride in providing a wealth of varied enrichment activities to enhance the curriculum. Pupils learn through a progressive and well sequenced curriculum. The committed subject leader and headteacher have an inspiring vision for the teaching and learning of religious education which has had a significant impact on the school. Their strong vision and passion is used to inspire and support other Catholic schools in Bury and across the St Teresa of Calcutta Academy Trust. Leaders provide regular quality training which delivers impact and is appreciated by all the staff. Governors monitor the delivery and impact of religious education effectively. Self-evaluation is informed through regular monitoring, analysis and self-challenge resulting in effective strategic action which leads to outstanding outcomes.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

1

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

1

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

1

1

Prayer and liturgy are at the heart of SJSB as witnessed from the youngest to the oldest pupils. Opportunities for pupils to participate in prayer and liturgy are many and varied. Pupils respond extremely well with prayerful periods of quiet reflection, respectful listening and spontaneous prayers. Pupils sing with great happiness and enthusiasm. Pupils have an excellent understanding of the liturgical year and how it influences the prayer life of the school. They talk with great fondness about their woodland worships and the Stations of the Cross during Lent. Pupils are well prepared, making connections with ease, to undertake these ministries. Even the youngest children are confident in their role leading to an age-appropriate understanding of the variety of ways of praying that are part of the Catholic tradition. Pupils willingly and enthusiastically plan creative and engaging experiences of prayer and liturgy. One pupil group independently planned and delivered a joyful lunchtime liturgy for younger children. Pupils can reflect and articulate ways in which these experiences guide their thinking and inspire them into action. They are very proud of their response to the crisis in Ukraine and homelessness. Pupils are developing the capacity to evaluate these sessions.

Prayer and liturgy is embedded and is the core of the school with all life's joys and sorrows reflected. The Remembrance service touched the hearts of many and consequently helped some pupils to cope with their own recent bereavements. Traditional prayers are embedded with a well-established plan for progression. Teachers allow time for pupils to respond with their own spontaneous prayers. During the inspection pupils reflected upon the scripture of Matthew 7:7-12, 'Ask and it will be given to you', with many discerning requests for God's help. The use of scripture is a powerful tool used to drive and guide all aspects of school life. It is carefully chosen to ensure all can fully and actively participate. Well trained and skilful staff are models of exemplary practice especially witnessed in Early Years Foundation Stage and Key

Stage 1. The experience of prayer and liturgy is significantly enhanced by the creative use of the environment and resources. Inviting and well-planned spaces, both inside and out, are used imaginatively for whole school and more intimate prayer experiences. Parents appreciate how staff engage with them to promote the prayer life of the school.

The prayer and liturgy guidance documents written by leaders have been successful in providing pupils with a clear scaffold upon which to plan and deliver acts of worship. This progress is evident in worship sessions with incremental developments observed across each year group. Leaders and governors have planned the school calendar to reflect the key times in the liturgical year with opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist regularly provided for the pupils and their families. Leaders place the highest priority on inspirational professional development and as a result staff are highly skilled at facilitating prayer and liturgy. There is a focus on providing high quality professional development with recent training on scripture and worship resulting in some excellent improvements in staff confidence and standards. The strategic provision in the school budget is generous and reflects the commitment leaders and governors have in sustaining high quality prayer experiences for their school community. Pupils have access to a range of high-quality resources and often have the opportunity to share these with their families at home. The school respects that pupils of other faiths need space and time to pray and this has been well facilitated. Leaders' accurate evaluation and monitoring have led to the development of coaching triads to support school improvement. Pupils are regularly listened to and they take full advantage of these opportunities, especially during their hot chocolate time with the headteacher.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Joseph & St Bede Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	150176
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3513326
Full postal address of the school	St Joseph & St Bede Catholic Primary School, Danesmoor Drive, Bury, BL9 6ER
School phone number	01617643781
Headteacher	Jane Myerscough
Chair of Governors/Trustees	Claire McEntyre
School Website	www.sjsb.stoccat.org.uk
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	St Teresa of Calcutta CAT
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	N/A
Age-range of pupils	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	8 th December 2015
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

The inspection team

Helen McGrath Lead inspector

Mary Garvey Team inspector

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement