



DIOCESE OF LANCASTER EDUCATION SERVICE

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION REPORT
(Section 48)**

**Our Lady's Catholic High School,
Fulwood, Preston**

**DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION
REPORT (Section 48)**

on

**THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

School:	Our Lady's Catholic College
Address:	St. Anthony's Drive, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3SQ
Telephone Number:	01772 326900
Email Address:	admin@olchs.lancs.sch.uk
School URN:	119779
Headteacher:	Mr Nigel Ranson
Chair of Governors:	Mr Philip Rydeard
Lead Inspector:	Helen Seddon
Team Inspector:	John Young and Rev Michael Docherty
Date of Inspection:	23 rd and 24 th January 2018

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Our Lady's Catholic High School is an average sized 11-16 Catholic school serving the community of Preston. With a comprehensive intake the school serves a geographical area covering the north west of Preston, Garstang and some of the surrounding rural areas. The proportion of Catholic pupils and staff is higher than national averages for Catholic schools. The percentage of students from minority ethnic groups has risen in recent years but is below the national average. The percentage of disadvantaged students, supported by pupil premium, is lower than the national average and students come to Our Lady's with close to or slightly higher than national average Key Stage Two point score.

PUPILS	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
Number on roll	183	180	178	180	176	897
Catholics on roll	132	118	128	136	119	633
Other Christian denomination	22	25	8	12	14	81
Other faith background	16	18	21	12	21	88
No religious affiliation	13	19	21	20	22	95
No of learners from ethnic groups	42	50	54	34	53	233
Total on SEN Register	13	7	14	10	16	60
Total with EHC	1	1	3	2	3	10

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	3	Fixed term	43
Index of multiple deprivation	0.16			

PARISHES (SCHOOLS) SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Hill Chapel	30
Holy Family	25
Our Lady & St Edward's	97
Sacred Heart	56
Saint Anthony's	192
Saint Mary's – Lea Town	59
Saint Mary's & St. Andrew's	22
Saint Mary & Saint Michael's	24
St. Mary's Cloughton	5
St. Bernard's	90

TEACHING TIME FOR RE	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	5	5	4	5	5	24
% of teaching time	10%	10%	8%	10%	10%	9.6%
Proposed % of teaching time for 2018/19	10%	10%	8%	10%	10%	9.6%

TEACHING TIME FOR ENGLISH	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	7	6	6	7	7	33
% of teaching time	14%	12%	12%	14%	14%	13.2%

TEACHING TIME FOR MATHS	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
Total teaching time (Hours)	6	6	6	7	7	32
% of teaching time	12%	12%	12%	14%	14%	12.8%

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	52
Part-time teachers	11
Total full-time equivalent (FTE)	59.15
Classroom Support assistants	8
Percentage of Catholic teachers FTE	69%
Number of teachers teaching RE	6
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	8
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	2
Chaplaincy staffing	3

ORGANISATION	
Published admission number	180
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS3	28
Average class size KS4	28

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2016/17	Current financial year 2017/18	Next financial year 2018/19
Total expenditure on teaching and learning resources	239598	261642	Not known
RE Curriculum allowance from above	5619	5632	Not known
English Curriculum allowance from above	8928	8870	Not known
Total CPD budget	10000	10000	Not known
RE allocation for CPD	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

How the school has developed since the last inspection
<p>Since the last inspection Our Lady's Catholic High School has appointed a full time Lay Chaplain. This has resulted in the work of Chaplaincy improving and having a significant impact on the Catholic Life of the school. The governors have supported the refurbishment of the Chapel and created a Chaplaincy room.</p> <p>The Chaplain has developed Prayer and Liturgy at Our Lady's to be planned around the liturgical calendar so that students have a growing understanding of times of the Church's year.</p> <p>A great deal of time has been given to staff formation, including daily and residential retreats. This has been welcomed and appreciated by staff.</p> <p>There has been a significant increase in the amount of money raised for charities which demonstrates the school's commitment to serving the common good.</p>

RE DATA															
	RE					English					Maths				
	KS4				KS3	KS4				KS3	KS4			KS3	
	% Entry	A*-C	3L	4L	Yr 7-9 2L Prog	% Entry	9-4 A*-C	3L	4L	Yr 7-9 2L Prog	% Entry	9-4 A*-C	3L	4L	Yr 7-9 2L Prog
2017	99	80	79	48	NA	99	83			NA	99	76	█	█	NA
2016	99	85	86	62	NA	99	85	83	51	NA	99	82	83	42	NA
2015	99	85	88	63	NA	99	87	91	58	NA	99	78	68	29	NA

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

CATHOLIC LIFE

1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

KEY FINDINGS

Our Lady's is an outstanding Catholic school. Christ is at the centre of what the school does and Gospel values permeate the work of the school. Pupils, staff and parents are very proud to belong to this faith community.

The leadership of the school are totally committed to the Catholic mission of a high quality education. Staff and governors share the vision and determination of the Headteacher that each pupil should reach their full human potential and they are inspired by his authentic witness to Gospel values.

Pupils and staff are helped to grow in faith and are proud of their backgrounds and beliefs. The lay Chaplain is supported by a wider Chaplaincy team and they offer opportunities in which all pupils can be involved. Prayer and liturgy are central to the life of the school. Every pupil is involved in planning a form Mass once a year. Pupils spoke with enthusiasm about the recent mission week and showed real appreciation that some of the features of the week were continuing for example, 'Breakfast with God'.

The school is committed to faith in action and is active in supporting those in need locally and globally. Pupils told inspectors that they are encouraged to help people "less fortunate than us". The Cymfed Faith in Action Award has been recently introduced and the pupils involved felt it helped them link their faith to life outside school.

The quality of Religious Education is outstanding because pupils enjoy their lessons and attainment is high. Pupils make progress that is significantly above the national average.

Pupils value the opportunity for class discussions and, as seen during the inspection, they enjoy considering ethical issues and the relationship between faith and life. Pupils are challenged in lessons and their religious literacy is excellent. This is because the curriculum is well planned to ensure that all pupils are able to make progress. Pupils know how to improve their work because their teachers give them formative feedback and this has enabled pupils to become independent learners.

Leadership of Religious Education is outstanding. There are rigorous and effective monitoring and evaluation systems in place to improve pupil progress. The principal teacher reports regularly to the school leaders and governors are well informed about the planned improvements and progress towards them.

The school has implemented a Human Relationship and Sex Education policy and is beginning to embed this.

The school's capacity to improve is outstanding due to the vision and drive of the Headteacher and his leadership team.

WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

To improve further the school needs to:

- Improve the consistency of the quality of daily prayer by reviewing the Collective Worship Policy and sharing good practice effectively.
- Monitor more closely the quality of the Catholic Life of the school. This can be achieved by the governing body operating as a critical friend and providing robust challenge to school leaders.
- Secure correct curriculum time for Religious Education in Year 9.

PART A: CATHOLIC LIFE

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

1

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

1

2

1

The Catholic Life of Our Lady's Catholic High School is outstanding. School leaders are committed to the Church's mission in education and they enable all within the school community to learn and pray together in an atmosphere that is positive towards faith. Pupils make a significant contribution to the Catholic dimension of the school.

Pupils lead and take some responsibility for shaping the spiritual life of the school. They take advantage of the numerous spiritual opportunities provided by the school and are supported by a dedicated team of committed teachers. They are confident in their involvement in the liturgical life of the school and the vast majority participate with respect and reverence. When prayer is planned with care and attention to detail, and includes periods of reflective silence, pupils are able to respond well. During the inspection a form celebrated Mass which they had been involved in planning. These form Masses are planned throughout the year and involve all form groups, this has enabled the pupils to develop an appreciation of the Eucharist and all showed very high levels of reverence throughout.

Pupils are proud of their backgrounds and beliefs and have a strong sense of personal worth, whilst showing genuine openness to and acceptance of others. One pupil told us "No one is treated differently; we are all given the same opportunities to be the best version of ourselves". They treat others with high levels of respect and acknowledge that their behaviour always has consequences. They are also aware of the importance of forgiveness and it is clear that they are willing to apologise and confident that they can then, in their words 'start again'. They are alert to the needs of others and seek justice for all within and beyond the school community. Since the last inspection the school has raised significant levels of funding for local and national charities.

Staff and pupils are helped to grow in faith through an impressive enrichment programme. Throughout their time at Our Lady's pupils participate in retreats at Ladyewell Shrine and Castlerigg Manor, as well as engaging in numerous days focused on values and ethos. During the inspection Year 9 were involved in activities focused on the dignity of the person. Staff retreats are a particular feature of this school and, although voluntary, are well attended and appreciated. Every five years the school prepares for and holds a Mission Week -

pupils and staff speak with confidence about how much this is enjoyed. Pupils also expressed that they were delighted that some of their experiences from the week have now become part of the Our Lady's timetable, including Breakfast with God. This opportunity to sing hymns and say morning prayer in the restaurant was welcomed by many of the pupils with whom inspectors spoke.

Governors demonstrate a firm commitment to the mission of the Church, particularly in their support for school leadership and through funding significant projects, such as the refurbishment of the chapel, the appointment of a full time lay chaplain and the creation of a chaplaincy room. There is some evidence that governors monitor the educational provision through the RE link governor, but need to develop more robust monitoring of the Catholic Life of the school - particularly with regard to the quality of provision in prayer and liturgy.

Gospel values are at the heart of a culture of care and concern promoted by leaders and managers. There is a firm commitment to the spiritual and moral development of pupils and school leaders ensure that the prayer and liturgy of the Catholic Church are central to the life of the school, and are a key part of every school celebration.

The school calendar is planned around the liturgical seasons and feasts making them focal points in the school's life. This enables all in the school community to have a good understanding of the seasons and to engage with them. Leaders and managers encourage pupils and staff in prayer and support them in preparing and leading communal prayer. Further development is needed to ensure that the quality of daily form prayer is formally monitored and that the examples of excellent practice are shared with others.

The Chaplaincy has improved since the last inspection. The role of Chaplaincy is well distributed and a number of staff from across the school community are involved in planning and evaluating Chaplaincy events. The refurbishment of the chapel has provided a welcoming, sacred space at the heart of the school community. This is demonstrated by the fact the doors of the chapel are always open. In planning for the Mission Week a high proportion of students from each year group volunteered to be part of the preparation team, a large number of those are still wanting to be involved in Chaplaincy and, if given the opportunity, will make a significant contribution to the Catholic Life of the school during their time at Our Lady's.

Local priests are very supportive and regularly visit school to celebrate Mass and offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Good links are made with local parishes. For example a pupil in each parish spoke at Masses to tell the community about the Mission Week.

Parents are very supportive of the school, as demonstrated by the high return of parental questionnaires. The vast majority expressed that their child is happy at school. As one parent commented "I cannot thank the Headteacher and the whole school enough for what they have done in bringing up my daughter in a Catholic, caring, and respectful way".

PART B: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

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

1

1

2

Religious Education (RE) at Our Lady's is outstanding. Progress has been and remains impressive, since it is significantly above national standards. In 2017 78% made 3 or more levels of progress from the primary phase, while 80% of pupils achieved a grade C or above.

Pupils work hard in RE and enjoy the subject. They articulate their understanding of its place at the heart of Our Lady's curriculum and they value the high levels of challenge provided in the subject. Pupils exhibit engagement during lessons, enhanced by excellent behaviour; they have confidence in expressing their religious literacy both orally and in writing. They willingly ask deep questions and apply a range of skills in the course of their learning. When there are opportunities to show flair or imagination, these are willingly grasped.

Pupils take evident pride in the presentation of their written work. As a result of clear and constructive feedback they understand well what they need to do to further their learning. Consequently pupils are enabled to make sustained progress. The assessment programme and the curriculum are very well integrated, promoting cumulative gains in understanding and skills. Plenty of appropriate emphasis is placed on preparation for GCSE examinations. Once the new specification is embedded, RE lessons could benefit from further opportunities to enrich the learning experience.

Pupils said that they relish being able to debate and discuss in RE, and the way that this develops their skill in building arguments using evidence. They exhibit confidence in sharing their ideas and can support these using suitable sources of wisdom or authority. Pupils were happy to express their understanding of how religion can be lived out in action in their own lives and those of others. Pupils gain both understanding of the central truths of the Catholic faith and understanding of other world faiths.

The RE staff are skilled and knowledgeable specialists in their subject. Beyond their classrooms they bear witness to the faith in the many and varied aspects of dedication which they demonstrate throughout and beyond the school day.

Leaders and managers are thoroughly committed to the educational mission of the Church and its outworking through the Religious Education department. Through their Link Governor, the governors are well-informed of the work of the RE department and its beneficial impact on pupils. The Link Governor meets the

Principal Teacher throughout the year and gains feedback from her Pupil Voice days during the year. The Principal Teacher is held to account by senior leaders for the progress and development of the curriculum area, which is frequently and systematically monitored.

The provision of significant development time is well-used for collaborative planning and implementation. Curriculum Area Self Evaluation allows the department to develop its own improvement plan. Consequently, the department has a well-informed, clear and coherent view of what is to be done to secure further pupil progress. This is congruent with the entire school's vision. In particular the planning for the curriculum, driven currently by recent national changes, is effective and being fully implemented. The curriculum meets the requirements of the Curriculum Directory and is informed by *Fit for Mission? Schools*.

Time allocation remains slightly beneath the 10% requirement of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, because in Year 9 it is at 8%. This shortfall must be addressed.

The school provides for the RE department at its core even-handedly in comparison with English and Maths; there are five subject specialists.

The department has coped well with the introduction of the new GCSE specification and has adapted the syllabus for younger students to help them prepare for future success. The senior leadership of the school is supportive of the vision of the department and through regular monitoring and engagement ensure that that existing high standards are maintained.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Overall Effectiveness	1
Capacity for sustained improvement	1
Catholic Life	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders and managers promote and ensure provision for the Catholic Life of the school through monitoring and evaluation. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school. 	1
Religious Education	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of provision in Religious Education. 	2

	Pupil Outcomes	Leadership & Management	Provision	Overall
Catholic Life	1	2	1	1
Religious Education	1	1	2	1