

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School

URN: 138945

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Leeds

26–27 March 2025

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

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

2

Collective worship (p.7)

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

1

The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference

Yes

The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop

Yes

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

Fully

2

Compliance statement

- St. Benedict's is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education that are laid down by the Bishops' Conference.
- The school is compliant with all additional requirements of the Bishop of Leeds.
- The school has met all recommendations that were made in the previous inspection.

What the school does well

- The headteacher lives out the Gospel values and is a genuine example of Catholic leadership. He sets a strong example for others to follow and is well respected by all stakeholders.
- The Catholic life of St. Benedict's is outstanding and given the highest priority. This is a distinctly Catholic school.
- St Benedict's provides strong religious education lessons and good support for pupils with special educational needs.
- The school places a strong emphasis upon pupil leadership within prayer and liturgy. Pupils are actively encouraged to take the lead in planning and delivering both class and whole school worship.
- The school places a strong emphasis upon mental health and wellbeing. This is truly commendable and has a clear positive impact upon all stakeholders.

What the school needs to improve

- Provide regular challenge for the most able pupils and ensure they have opportunities to broaden their knowledge in religious education.
- Develop the role of the school's chaplaincy team in the delivery of voluntary prayer, for example before school and at lunch times.

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



Pupils at St. Benedict's benefit greatly from the Catholic life that is provided by the school: it is apparent that, as a result of the provision, they develop not only their faith but also morally and socially. Pupils grow in the school's three key virtues, faithfulness, courage and respect. They enjoy taking leadership roles through work as Junior Chaplains, Mini Vinnies and as members of the School Council. Pupils are given a range of opportunities to shape both the day-to-day life and the future of their school and the wider community: for example, pupils work with the Garforth Peace Project and have helped to establish England's first peace flame monument within their hometown. Pupils speak with confidence about the importance of such work and the positive impact that it has on the school and those around them. The school has embedded Catholic social teaching within its curriculum and, as a result, pupils are passionate about the environment and supporting those in need. Pupils have a keen sense of social justice and understand that they are part of a global community. Such outstanding provision ensures that pupils at St Benedict's develop into kind, caring and articulate young people with a deep sense of love and respect for all.

The school's provision for Catholic life is outstanding: this view is widely shared by parents. One parent commented 'St. Benedict's has excellent provision for Catholic life, the mission and ethos is lived out in all aspects of school life. All children are treated equally and respected as children made in the image and likeness of God. Every aspect of school life is based on Gospel values.' Senior leaders within the school make strong links with the local parish to further strengthen the Catholic life of the school. Each week two classes have the opportunity to take part in mass alongside parishioners. The parish priest is highly supportive of the school. He regularly visits to work with the pupils and provides a range of opportunities for their faith development. These

visits are well planned to enhance the Catholic life of the school. His enthusiasm and energy for this work is palpable. The school works hard to ensure that pupils know they are unique and made in the image and likeness of God. The school's provision for mental health and wellbeing is outstanding; their most recent focus for this was based upon 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself just as God knows you.

School leaders, governors and the Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust ensure that the Catholic life of St Benedict's is given the highest possible priority. School leaders closely monitor the impact of planned events and have robust systems in place to quality assure. This is supported by an able governing body who regularly visit the school to meet with leaders, speak to pupils and parents. Governors strike a healthy balance between support and critical evaluation which ensures the Catholic life of the school is continually improving. Leaders on all levels recognise the importance of staff training and professional development. All staff are encouraged to take part in high quality training that is offered by the diocese and nationally. As a result of this staff feel valued and flourish within their given roles. The headteacher is actively involved in delivering training to other diocesan schools and ensures that St Benedict's is outward facing. School leaders have worked hard to ensure that Catholic social teaching is well embedded across the school. As a result of careful planning and monitoring pupils are well placed to support the wider community and share their virtues with others. Leaders are open to feedback from all stakeholders and constantly strive for improvement.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

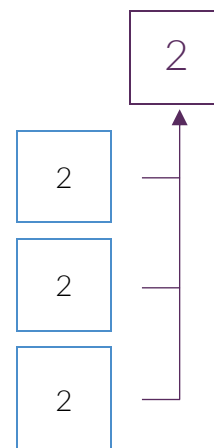
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

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 enjoy their religious education lessons at St Benedict's and learning deepens over time as they improve upon their ability to reflect and consider how what they have learned shapes religious life. Strong relationships between pupils and teachers ensure that a range of discussion takes place within lessons that further develops pupils' knowledge of the subject and the relevant vocabulary. Pupils, relative to their age and capacity, are religiously literate and engaged in their learning. Pupils generally show high levels of independence in their learning. However, the school's approach to challenging the most able and ensuring that their knowledge and understanding is broadened in all lessons is underdeveloped. During the inspection pupils in nursery and early years confidently ordered the key events of Holy Week and discussed why people were happy to see Jesus as He entered Nazareth. Teachers expertly examine scripture with pupils and have strong subject knowledge. In some classes feedback enhances learning and sets clear next steps: this is not yet consistent across the whole school. Pupils across the school make good progress over time and enjoy the content of their lessons: as a result, most achieve well, including the disadvantaged and those with additional needs who are very well supported.

Teachers across the school have a strong subject knowledge and plan engaging tasks that meet the needs of their pupils. The school has worked hard to ensure that the curriculum is well planned and resourced to meet the needs of their pupils and the demographic of the school. St Benedict's provides a particularly strong start for pupils in nursery and foundation stage, where expert teachers plan and provide both structured tasks and continuous provision that enhances pupils' understanding of religious education through meaningful discussion and purposeful play. The strongest teaching within the school is fast paced, challenging and ensures that pupils' understanding of subject matter is deepened. There are examples of outstanding teaching at St Benedict's, but this is not consistent yet across the school. Teachers skilfully adapt tasks to suit

the needs of pupils with additional needs. Adults who support pupils with special needs do so with sensitivity and careful guidance to enable them to engage with tasks and make progress. Attainment within religious education is strong and the school acts quickly to ensure that, where gaps in learning exist, they are quickly rectified.

School leaders and governors are passionate about the school's provision for religious education. The headteacher has worked as part of a pilot group to redesign planning and ensure that tasks presented to pupils in lessons are creative and open ended. The impact of this is beginning to show in workbooks and in pupil voice. Provision for the teaching of other faiths is good. However, opportunities for educational visits to a variety of places of worship are not yet in place. The subject lead for religious education is well respected by the staff and works hard to see that religious education is given the highest priority as a subject. School leaders are committed to providing staff with high quality training that is relevant to their role. Monitoring and evaluation of religious education takes place on a number of levels and is well planned and effectively fed back to teachers to ensure that there is a continuous cycle of improvement within the school. Moderation takes place both within the school and at trust level. Leaders are responsive to areas for improvement that are highlighted. Leaders have a well-planned curriculum for relationships and sex education. This curriculum meets diocesan requirements.

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

2

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

Pupils actively participate in the opportunities that they have for prayer. They confidently pray in a range of ways using traditional prayers, meditative prayers, lectio divina and have the opportunity to develop privately through prayer journalling. The pupils enjoy the opportunities that they have to sing and their joyful hymns enhance the prayer life of the school and wider community. All pupils at St Benedict's have a strong understanding of the Church's calendar: pupils knew that Holy Week was approaching and how they were preparing during the season of Lent. As the pupils journey through the school, their ability to plan and lead worship improves as they gain experience and confidence. Further opportunities for the chaplaincy team to benefit from planning and leading more spontaneous prayer across the school are not yet developed. Year 6 pupils are able to confidently lead worship based on the time that Jesus spent in the desert: pupils understand that we are all challenged by temptation and need self-control and spiritual strength to overcome challenges. In response to this, pupils can make meaningful links to the wellbeing work that they had done in personal social and health education and to the 'zones of regulation' work that takes place across the school.

The school's provision for collective worship is outstanding. Prayer is a central part of daily life at St Benedict's and reflects the rich Catholic tradition of the school. Staff actively and joyfully lead worship and pupils have the opportunity to immerse themselves in scripture. The school has a number of dedicated areas where pupils can pray together including a peaceful prayer garden. Strong parish links ensure that pupils are regularly given the opportunity to visit the parish church which adjoins the school. Pupils commented to inspectors that the parish was their spiritual home and they were always welcome there with their classmates and buddy classes during paired weekly visits. Parents and members of the wider community are provided with many opportunities to take part in collective worship that is led by the school. One parent

commented, 'We are humbled and impressed by the way our children are nurtured at St Benedict's, and have found as a family we have had our observance of the Christian Year enhanced by our invitation to and inclusion in a variety of prayer and worship liturgies and services.' The school and parish benefit greatly from working alongside the diocesan music department: pupils joyfully sing hymns in both English and Latin to enhance their worship. Staff are role models within the community and a number of parents commented that it is heartening to see them in church each week celebrating Mass with their own families and living out the virtues of the school. Pupils have access to their own personal bibles that they use to enhance their spirituality and knowledge of scripture; they treat them with tremendous care and respect.

The head teacher regularly leads whole school liturgy and sets an inspirational example that is followed by all. His strong leadership promotes high quality and well-planned collective worship across the school. The school lead for collective worship has carefully planned each week to ensure that pupils and teachers have access to a range of worship resources and that there is a good mix of provision from pupil led to adult led worship alongside opportunities for spontaneous prayer. This well organised and systematic approach is typical of the school's conscientious approach to collective worship. School governors carefully review and monitor the provision for collective worship and ensure that it is given a high priority and is well resourced.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Benedict's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	138945
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3833365
Full postal address of the school	St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Station Fields, Garforth, Leeds, LS25 1PS
School phone number	01132869819
Headteacher	John Woolley
Chair of governors	Cedric Duval
School Website	www.sbcps.bkcat.co.uk/
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	The Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Academy
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	November 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

The inspection team

Andrew Krlic

Madeleine Bannister

Lead

Team

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