

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Primary School

URN: 108030

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Leeds

08 July 2026 – 09 July 2026

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

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education RE

Collective worship (p.7)

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

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

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

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

1

1

1

1

Yes

Yes

Fully

What the school does well

- The school provides an outstanding education due to the committed and faithful service of the headteacher and the wider team of leaders and governors. This results in a faith-filled community where Christ is truly at the centre.
- Teachers' effective questioning in religious education lessons results in high-quality responses in which pupils articulate their knowledge and understanding well.
- Teachers' profound understanding of the impact of religious education, developed through the deep commitment of the school to provide thorough induction of new staff and ongoing professional and spiritual development, ensures that the children have the very best opportunities available to them.
- The inclusivity of Our Lady's is truly inspirational. Rooted in Gospel values, the school provides a warm and welcoming community where every individual is valued and treated with dignity and respect.

What the school needs to improve

- To provide opportunities for pupils to record , reflect upon, and celebrate their learning and faith journey in a wider variety of ways, recognising their achievements as valued members of the Catholic community.
- To further embed the new assessment and tracking system to ensure that pupil progress is accurately monitored, analysed and used effectively to inform teaching, support targeted interventions and raise outcomes for all learners.

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

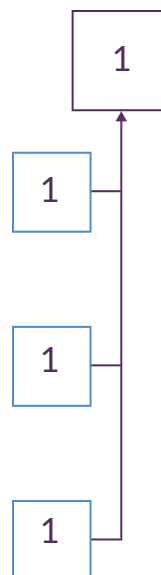
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

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



Christ is truly at the heart of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Primary School. Pupils are immensely proud to belong to the school and embrace its Catholic identity and mission with enthusiasm, joy, and commitment. They recognise that the strong partnership between staff, parents, and governors is firmly rooted in the school's mission and values. Pupils understand that they are called to live out the Gospel as disciples of Jesus and confidently apply Catholic social teaching in their everyday lives. For example, they organised a successful bun sale that raised funds to purchase four tents for a local homeless charity. Each class follows a specific Catholic social teaching principle and can clearly explain how their actions have made a positive difference to others. The school's mission statement, 'As a family of God, with Jesus, we Love, Learn and Enjoy,' is fully understood and evident in all aspects of school life. As a result, pupils enthusiastically engage with the many opportunities offered to them and show deep respect for people of different faiths and cultures, reflecting the school's inclusive ethos. Pupils highly value chaplaincy, describing it as welcoming, supportive and inclusive, providing opportunities for reflection, guidance, wellbeing and spiritual development.

Leaders, staff and governors are unwavering in their commitment to developing the school's Catholic life and mission. This mission inspires and guides the whole community. Catholic virtues are embedded throughout school life and extended beyond the school through charitable initiatives and social-action projects that positively impact the wider community. The learning and play environment visibly reflects the school's mission and pupils speak proudly of their school and its distinctive culture. Their confidence and enthusiasm demonstrate the dedication of staff, who ensure that Our Lady's remains a clear sign of

Christ's presence in the community. Chaplaincy is a highly valued strength of the school, making a significant contribution to its Catholic mission. A well-planned and creative programme provides rich opportunities for spiritual, moral and personal development, supporting pupils and staff in flourishing and discerning their unique vocation. Leaders and staff have created a nurturing and welcoming environment where behaviour is exemplary. Parents highly value this, with one describing the school as a 'haven on the estate.' The school's pastoral care is exceptional, providing significant support to families facing challenging circumstances, including bereavement. Relationships, sex and health education is carefully planned and delivered in full accordance with diocesan requirements.

Governors and leaders have a well-established process for monitoring and evaluating Catholic life and mission, which directly informs school improvement and actively engages the whole school community. Catholic life is central to Our Lady's and underpins all aspects of its work. Governors are regular visitors, providing both support and constructive challenge that contribute to the school's high standards. Leaders and governors actively embrace opportunities to deepen faith and strengthen long-standing parish links. The parish priest is a valued and regular presence in school, working closely with staff to support the faith journey of pupils and families. Staff are highly regarded for their commitment to preparing pupils for school and parish events. Sacramental preparation is carefully planned, helping pupils understand and appreciate these important moments in their faith journey while enriching learning beyond the core religious education curriculum. The headteacher's strong leadership has established the school as a beacon of excellence, extending its influence through collaboration within the St Anthony's Catholic Schools Partnership. Leaders are ambitious and rigorous, providing effective induction and clearly communicating their vision. Staff wellbeing is a priority, resulting in exceptional morale, commitment and retention. High-quality training ensures a rich Catholic curriculum that meets community needs. Governors promote Catholic social teaching through thoughtful resource allocation, while leaders demonstrate a deep commitment to human dignity and pastoral care. Staff particularly value the support they receive from leaders.

Religious education

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

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

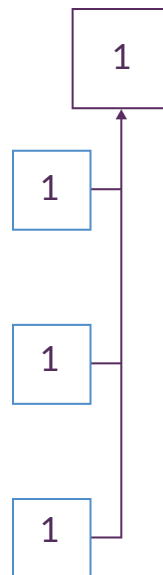
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

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 Our Lady's make consistently good or better progress in Religious Education, including disadvantaged pupils and those with additional needs. By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils develop a secure knowledge and understanding of the curriculum and are able to articulate their learning with confidence. They demonstrate a strong ability to reference and interpret Bible stories, making meaningful connections between scripture, Catholic teachings and their own daily lives. This enables them to apply their learning thoughtfully and reflect on how faith influences their actions and decisions. Pupils have a genuine love of religious education and approach their learning with enthusiasm, commitment and curiosity. They concentrate well in lessons and are eager to participate, readily asking and answering questions to deepen their understanding. As a result, engagement levels are consistently high and pupils strive to achieve their very best. Behaviour in lessons is exemplary. Pupils understand expectations, listen attentively to their teachers and show respect for the views and contributions of others. They value the calm and reflective atmosphere that characterises religious education lessons, appreciating opportunities for prayer and reflection. One pupil commented, 'It is like Jesus is here teaching us,' capturing the deep sense of spirituality experienced in lessons. The high status of religious education is evident throughout the school, symbolised by the lighting of a candle on each table at the beginning of every lesson, creating a reverent and prayerful learning environment.

Teachers at Our Lady's are highly committed and passionate religious educators who strive consistently to secure the best possible outcomes for every pupil. They benefit from a strong

collegiate culture, characterised by professional collaboration, mutual support and expert leadership from the Religious Education team. As a result, teaching is consistently effective and rooted in a shared vision for excellence. Teachers have high expectations of all pupils and make thoughtful, well-targeted adaptations to ensure that those with barriers to their learning can achieve success. Pupils receive an exceptionally strong foundation in religious education, which is developed progressively and coherently as they move through the school. Effective questioning is a notable strength. Teachers skilfully use prior learning, subject-specific vocabulary and high-level questioning to deepen understanding, consolidate knowledge and enable pupils to make strong progress over time. High-quality resources, alongside the valuable contribution of skilled support staff, maximise learning opportunities for all pupils. A strong commitment to evidence-informed pedagogy creates a positive climate for learning, while teachers' secure subject knowledge fosters pupils' confidence and engagement. There is a clear and purposeful focus on pupils' spiritual and moral development. Through carefully planned opportunities for reflection, pupils are encouraged to consider how religious education can shape their values, inform their decisions and guide the way they live their lives.

Leaders and governors ensure that the religious education curriculum is fully aligned with the *Religious Education Directory* and that whole-school policies, professional development opportunities, and resources are carefully planned to support its effective implementation. As a result, teaching is consistently strong, with examples of highly effective practice evident across the school. Religious education enjoys full parity with other core curriculum subjects and is given a prominent place within the life and mission of the school. Leaders and governors demonstrate a strong commitment to providing high-quality professional development, enabling staff to deepen both their subject knowledge and pedagogical expertise. They are ambitious for all pupils and continually seek opportunities to strengthen provision through engagement with best practice and current diocesan initiatives. A particular focus has been ensuring that all pupils, including those with additional needs, can access and succeed in religious education. This has led to thoughtful adaptations and inclusive approaches that support pupils in making strong progress. Effective partnerships with schools across the St Anthony's Catholic Schools Partnership, diocesan networks, and external agencies enrich curriculum provision and enhance pupils' engagement and enjoyment. Self-evaluation is rigorous, reflective, and accurately identifies strengths and areas for development. Leaders use this information strategically, resulting in well-targeted actions that are driving sustained improvements in outcomes year on year.

Collective worship

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

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

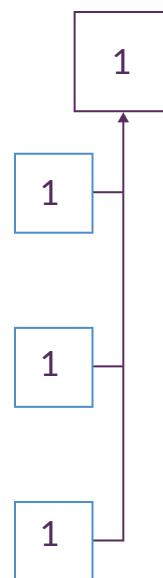
How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

Leadership

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



The experiences of prayer and liturgy provided by the school engage pupils deeply and consistently inspire their full, active and conscious participation. Pupils demonstrate a mature reverence during prayer and liturgical celebrations, reflecting thoughtfully in periods of silence and participating confidently in a variety of prayer experiences. Communal singing is a particular strength of the school's liturgical life and is valued greatly by pupils, who engage with enthusiasm and joy. Pupils have a well-developed understanding of the rich diversity of prayer within the Catholic tradition and can confidently describe different forms of prayer and their significance. Throughout the liturgical year, they experience a wide range of meaningful opportunities for prayer and worship that contribute significantly to their spiritual and liturgical formation. Pupils play an active role in planning, preparing and evaluating prayer and liturgical experiences. Working alongside staff, they contribute to Masses, class liturgies and other acts of worship. The Faith Leaders demonstrate confidence and commitment when planning and leading liturgies for younger pupils and willingly undertake ministries with enthusiasm. Leaders seek pupils' views on prayer through regular monitoring and evaluation, ensuring their voices influence provision. Pupils are able to make meaningful links between their prayer life and events in the wider world, responding with compassion by praying for those affected by conflict, injustice and hardship.

The provision of prayer and liturgy is exemplary and is clearly at the heart of the school's mission and daily life. A well-established and carefully planned rhythm of prayer runs throughout each day, faithfully reflecting the prayer life of the Church and helping to shape the spiritual development of all pupils and staff. High-quality liturgical celebrations, including

regular Mass, are integral to the life of the school and are prepared with great care, reverence and attention to detail by both adults and pupils. Scripture is central to all worship and is selected thoughtfully to reflect the liturgical year. It is presented in ways that are meaningful and accessible to pupils of all ages, enabling them to engage deeply with the word of God through reflection, prayer and discussion. The adapted weekly liturgy, led by the Religious Education leader, ensures that every pupil, including those with additional needs, is able to participate fully and benefit from the same rich opportunities for spiritual growth and development. Prayerful and creative use of space further enhances worship. Classrooms, prayer stations and the prayer garden are maintained with great care and provide inviting environments for prayer and reflection. Pupils take considerable pride in preparing these spaces, which also honour and remember past members of the school community.

Leaders and governors are highly effective and deeply committed to ensuring that prayer and liturgy are at the heart of school life. Leaders place a strong emphasis on creating meaningful opportunities for prayer and liturgy, ensuring that these are carefully planned, well-resourced and skilfully led by both staff and pupils. This commitment is evident in the consistent practice seen across the school and in the confidence with which staff support pupils in preparing and leading prayer. Leaders and governors have developed a clear and comprehensive strategy for building pupils' skills in participation and leadership as they progress through the school, enabling them to engage with increasing confidence and maturity. Staff benefit from high-quality, ongoing formation, which results in a shared understanding of the purpose and expectations of liturgy and ensures consistently high standards in prayer and liturgy. Well-established policies for prayer and liturgy are in place, are readily accessible to staff, and effectively underpin practice throughout the school. Leaders actively seek and value pupil voice, with pupils regularly reflecting on their experiences of prayer and liturgy and providing thoughtful feedback that helps shape future planning.

Information about the school

Full name of school	Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	108030
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3833376
Full postal address of the school	Pigeon Cote Road, Leeds, LS14 1EP
School phone number	0113 2329031
Headteacher or Head of School	Mrs Stephanie Flaherty
Chair of Governors	Mrs Margaret Barnes
School Website	www.ourladys.org
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	Non Selective
Age-range of pupils	3 - 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	21 June 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

The Inspection Team

Angela Spencer

Lead

Dominic Williams

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