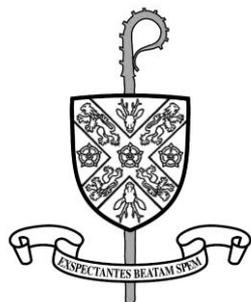


# Diocese of Middlesbrough



## Diocesan Schools Service

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08 July 2015

Mr Kevin Macklam  
Headteacher  
St Benedict's RC Primary School  
Back Lane  
Ampleforth  
YORK  
YO62 4DE

Dear Mr Macklam

### Section 48 Interim Review visit to St Benedict's RC Primary School

On behalf of the Diocese of Middlesbrough I carried out an Interim Review visit to your school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The purpose of the visit was to review that progress since the last S48 Inspection is and remains good.

The focus of the visit centred round the recommendations made in the previous S48 report (January 2013).

- Continue to lead, encourage and support all staff (teaching and support) and pupils in embedding the recently introduced Religious Education Scheme 'Come and See' into day to day classroom life.
- In line with the above, continue to embed rigorous systems of monitoring and evaluation, including target setting and moderated assessments of pupil Religious Education work, to ensure the accuracy of staff judgements of pupil work based on the new Religious Education scheme.
- Develop the use of 'I can' statements throughout the school and provide opportunities for greater pupil involvement in self-assessment using the 'I can' statements.
- Provide more opportunities for all pupils, particularly younger pupils, to develop the skills they need to plan, prepare and lead collective worship.

### Evidence

During the visit I examined a wide range of evidence, including

- "Drop in" to Religious Education lessons in all year groups from Foundation Stage through to Year 6
- "Drop in" to Year 5 Godly Play session
- Tour of the school including the outdoor learning environment, sacred spaces and displays within each classroom, displays throughout the school
- Discussion with individual pupils in class
- Welcome meeting with Fr Philip
- Scrutiny of pupils' books across the age range, including scrutiny of the school development plan, pupil tracking, samples of moderated work
- Interview with Headteacher and Religious Education co-ordinator.

### Main findings

St Benedict's is a good Catholic primary school with many outstanding features that has maintained and strengthened its effectiveness since the last S48 inspection. The school's Catholic ethos permeates all

aspects of school life. The children treat each other and the adults who work with them, with the utmost respect. They are very proud of their school and are keen to share their knowledge and achievements. Religious Education provides many and varied opportunities to enrich all aspects of pupils' learning, in particular in art, music and literacy. The outdoor learning environment is also rich in opportunities and together with a programme of activity days and school trips further enhance and support the Come and See curriculum.

The school has successfully addressed the recommendations in the previous S48 inspection report.

The Come and See programme is embedded throughout the school. The Religious education co-ordinator is pro-active in ensuring that the teaching and support staff have the necessary skills, knowledge and resources to enable them to provide teaching and learning opportunities of the highest quality. Staff are involved in termly moderation meetings, new topics are discussed in advance of planning and Religious Education is on the agenda for every staff meeting. A greater use of multi-media within the Come and See curriculum supports and enhances pupil engagement and the quality of learning. Class Big Books have been developed to evidence and celebrate the Religious Education curriculum in school. The children's excellent knowledge of Scripture linked to Come and See is further enhanced by the highly effective delivery of Godly Play and the meaningful way in which the children participate, as evidenced during my visit. The parish priest, who is also a school governor, is a regular visitor to the school, where he offers support for aspects of Come and See, in particular through leading Rosary sessions in Class 4 and discussing his parish role with Classes 2 and 3.

The practice of whole school moderation of children's work is well embedded and staff are increasingly confident in making secure and accurate judgements when levelling pupils' work. The school continues to develop effective strategies for assessing pupil progress in lessons. At the end of each topic pupils complete an assessment sheet, what I did well, what I can remember and what I would like to find out more about. The tracking of pupil progress is updated and analysed termly and annual data is monitored to aid provision. The Catholic Nature sub-committee of the Governing Body have regular meetings throughout the year to receive updates and review progress in Religious Education.

The school is currently in transition from pupils using 'I can' statements to adopting the 'Can I' format in their written work. Marking is being developed as part of whole school marking policy so as to have a similar marking process across all subjects.

There are regular opportunities for all children to take part in Collective Worship. The older children are skilled at planning, preparing and leading Acts of Worship throughout the liturgical year. The younger children, encouraged and guided by the class teachers and the older pupils, take an increasingly active role in Acts of Worship.

#### **Further action recommended**

- Embed the use of 'Can I' statements, including the use of driver words, in pupils' written work so that pupils know the next steps in learning and what they need to do to achieve their targets
- Further embed the school's marking policy in Religious Education so that teachers' comments are targeted at improving pupils' work and ensuring that pupils have time to respond to the teachers' comments
- Continue to develop the skills of planning, preparing and leading Collective Worship in all classes

Thank you for your hospitality during my visit. Your school is truly "A school full of Christian joy".

I am copying this letter to Kevin Duffy, Director of Schools, Theresa Laverick, Religious Education Adviser and Adrian O'Shea, Chair of Governors.

Yours sincerely

*Theresa Rogerson*

Theresa Rogerson  
**Diocesan S48 Inspector**