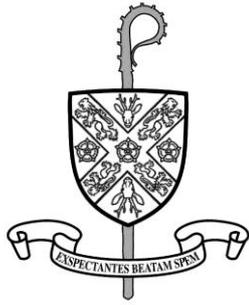


# Diocese of Middlesbrough



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28 June 2016

Mrs C Walker  
Sacred Heart Primary  
Ayresome Street  
Middlesbrough  
TS1 4NP

Dear Mrs Walker,

## **Interim Review Visit to Sacred Heart RC Primary Middlesbrough.**

I write to confirm the main findings of the Review visit carried out on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

The Interim Review visit was carried out to verify that the school maintains its previous grading and to discuss the progress made against the recommendations from the Denominational Inspection carried out in November 2013. I am delighted to inform you that based on the limited evidence from the visit, Sacred Heart Primary is maintaining its previous outstanding grading and has made progress against the recommendations from the previous inspection which were:

- continue to support the Religious Education leader in monitoring and evaluating standards in Religious Education;
- develop a positive relationship with the new Parish Priest so that the excellent work in the school can be extended to the Parish;
- continue with the already outstanding work in the provision for all groups within the school.

## **Evidence**

Since the last full inspection there have been a number of changes at Sacred Heart. The school is now part of the St Hilda's Catholic Multi Academy Trust. The proportion of baptised Catholic pupils has reduced to 68%. The proportion of pupils from other Christian denominations has grown to 12%. The proportion of pupils from other faiths has risen to 14% and the proportion of pupils with no religious affiliation has dropped to 6%. The school's context reflects the rapidly changing educational landscape within the Diocese and the mobile nature of the catchment area.

There have been changes to staffing due to 3 teachers being on long-term sick leave and 4 on maternity leave. Even with the given changes the percentage of Catholic teachers remains stable at 60%.

Before and during the visit, the following documentation was used:

- the previous Denominational Inspection report;
- the last Ofsted report;
- the RE leader's data file and minutes
- the school's Diocesan Self-Evaluation Document;
- samples of pupils' books from all classes;
- school website;
- REQM award documentation.

Additionally, I attended a whole school assembly, was able to spend a brief time in RE lessons in each year group and talked to pupils. I also spoke to a small group of pupils separately who shared their experiences of taking part in assemblies and liturgies. I spoke to the Vice Chair of Governors who highlighted the key role the Governors played in monitoring the provision for Catholic education and the Catholic life of the school. Discussion took place at intervals throughout the afternoon with the headteacher and subject leader, both separately and together.

## **Main Findings**

### **Continue to support the Religious Education Leader in monitoring and evaluating standards in Religious Education:**

The Subject Leader regularly monitors the teaching of RE and outcomes for pupils. The high levels of support received by the Subject Leader in her role to monitor and evaluate standards in RE ensures she is very effective. The Subject Leader took on a new class in February due to staff long-term sickness and has been supported in this by the Headteacher and other colleagues, to enable her to continue to monitor and evaluate standards.

Common to the evaluation programme are; individual work scrutiny; joint scrutiny; reporting data to SLT and Governors; whole staff scrutiny of data; Diocesan moderation days. Evidence of all of this was seen. A scrutiny of books showed that teachers can clearly identify points of progress in children's work. This enables them to plan effectively for next steps.

### **Develop a positive working relationship with the new Parish Priest so that the excellent work in the school can be extended to the Parish:**

The Headteacher and Deputy met with the Parish Priest after he was appointed to provide a link between Parish and school. Pupils attend Mass weekly. One of the parishoners comes into school to run the Mini-Vinnies and parishoners and Priests are always invited into school for events and liturgies throughout the year. The Choir master from The Sacred Heart church is a Governor and frequently comes into school to sing with the pupils.

Within the context of the local Parish the school takes every opportunity to ensure that the pupils have the widest possible range of church contacts and spiritual experiences.

### **Continue with the already outstanding work in the provision for all groups within the school:**

In order to continue their outstanding practice, Sacred Heart has responded to the changes in staffing demands quickly and efficiently. They have kept parents informed of changes and have worked hard to support each other in order to maintain the best possible outcomes for their pupils. They continue to plan effectively and attend moderation meetings at cluster level.

Their new status as part of The St Hilda's Multi Academy Trust is proving beneficial as staff are able to access and share CPD. Staff and pupils cited their involvement with the MAT as

positive, one example being that pupils were able to spend time with others from the Trust developing their Mission Statement and academy banner.

Further actions recommended:

- Continue supporting the Religious Education leader as roles regarding Chaplaincy are clarified.
- Continue developing a working relationship with the Parish Priest so that the outstanding work in school can be extended into the Parish

It was a great pleasure to spend time with the pupils and staff at The Sacred Heart. Thank you for your warm welcome. My brief time in school provided me with evidence that a clear Catholic ethos is present and flourishing at The Sacred Heart. The beautiful displays and sacred spaces are a credit to the whole school.

Please pass on my thanks to all concerned.

This letter will be copied to: Kevin Duffy, Director of Schools; Theresa Laverick, RE Advisor; Peggy Swinhoe, Co-ordinator of Inspections and Anne Hood, Chair of Governors.

Your sincerely,

*Meg Baines*

Meg Baines  
**Diocesan Denominational Inspector**