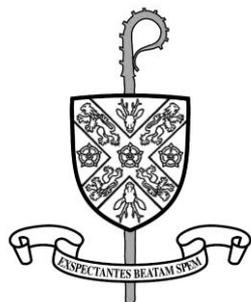


Diocese of Middlesbrough



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28 April 2016

Mrs N Jamalizadeh
St Margaret Clitherow Primary Academy
St Margaet's Grove
South Bank
Middlesbrough
TS6 6TA

Dear Mrs Jamalizadeh

Denominational Inspection Interim Review

**Saint Margaret Clitherow Academy
Part of Saint Oswald Catholic Academy Trust**

Date of Visit: Monday 21st March 2016

On behalf of Middlesbrough Diocese I carried out a Denominational Interim Review Inspection on the morning of Monday 21st March 2016. The purpose of the visit was to verify the progress that St. Margaret Clitherow has made, and particularly against the recommendations of the last Denominational Inspection in October 2013. I write to confirm the Interim Review findings.

Evidence

During the visit a meeting was held with yourself, the Headteacher and the Religious Education Subject Leader, Mrs Nestor. Discussion took place around teaching and learning of R.E. assessment, pupil progress and moderation of R.E. I also accompanied you and conducted a learning walk with drop-in sessions to R.E lessons to all classes from Foundation Stage to Y5. Year 6 were unavailable as they were on an educational visit out of school.

I also viewed a number of documents

- Mission Statement
- School Improvement Plan
- R.E. Action plan and calendar of events
- Pupils' R.E books

- Tracking and assessment records
- R.E. Subject Leader's file
- Weekly Newsletters

Context

St Margaret Clitherow converted to Academy status in April 2014. Saint Margaret Clitherow is a larger than average primary school with 310 pupils, situated in South Bank area of Middlesbrough and serving the parish of St Andrew's, St Anne's and St Peter's. The percentage of Catholic pupils is below average with 57%. There have been several changes and improvements for the benefit of the school and community in recent years and the school building is spacious.

Main Findings

St. Margaret Clitherow has successfully addressed all the recommendations from its last Denominational Inspection. This is reflected in the school's Religious Education teaching, Catholic Life and Worship. The school has also maintained and further developed the many strengths identified in its last Inspection, sustaining the high quality it demonstrated in 2013.

'Jesus is at the heart of everything we do' is the motto at St. Margaret Clitherow. The school's Catholic ethos permeates all aspects of school life. Through rigorous self-evaluation there is a shared ownership and responsibility for providing the best possible Catholic Education.

The school is relentless in maintaining and strengthening its effectiveness since the last Inspection. Saint Margaret Clitherow's catholicity and spirituality is radiant and vibrant from entering the school grounds and within every area of the school building. Religious Education displays throughout the school are highly impressive and linked to the Liturgical year, Year of Mercy and the Come and See programme. There is an eagerness by all staff to raise the standards of teaching and learning of R.E. throughout the school. The Come and See primary Religious Education programme is fully implemented in every classroom and is allowing pupils to reflect and deepen their spirituality. A variety of teaching methods was noted with appropriate use of technology and with good use of quality resources. Systems for monitoring and evaluating the teaching of Religious Education have been revised and implemented. This is having a real impact and helping to improve outcomes for pupils. The quality and quantity of work in pupils' books is appropriate. Moderation of pupil's work with other schools in the Catholic Cluster has taken place and follows the school's own internal moderation.

The Local Management Board are also supportive and reassuringly assisting with the work of the Headteacher. Governors receive reports of the Catholic Life of the school and are well informed.

There have been beneficial developments in networking with other Catholic primary schools and a sharing of moderation and resources. Links with the parish are strong and developing including using the parish church to reach out to the parish community for liturgical celebrations. Pupils are very proud of their school and various groups such as the Mini Vinnies and the Missionaries contribute well to the Catholic life of the school.

Further actions required

The recommendations from the visit would be to

- enhance further the Catholic Life of the school on the school's website in order to promote and celebrate the wide range of religious events the school participates in.

- ensure the Religious Education Subject Leader's file and evidence is up to date and current of the academic year. Produce a separate R.E. action plan that can be monitored and progress reported to SLT.
- ensure a consistency of approach by providing more opportunities for pupils to respond from teacher's marking in order that work improves.

Thank you so much for your hospitality during my visit. I am copying this letter to Kevin Duffy, Director of schools, Theresa Laverick, RE Adviser and Mrs Jill Millar, Chair of Governors.

Yours sincerely

Monita Metcalfe

Denominational Inspector