



Diocesan Education Service,
Don Bosco House,
Coventry Road,
Coleshill,
B46 3EA

October 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

Section 48 (Diocesan) Inspection of Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School, October 2014

I am writing this letter to share with you the findings of the diocesan inspection of your children's school. Diocesan inspection now explores in detail the school's own view of itself as expressed in its self-evaluation. For this reason, much of the report is more technical than used to be the case. You are still entitled to have a copy of the full report should you want one and it will be available on the school website or by request from the school office.

The school judges itself to be outstanding in its Catholic life and religious education. There are many outstanding aspects of its work in RE and Catholic life, but the inspection occurred at a point when the improvements had not yet had time to settle down and reveal the extent of their impact on pupils' learning. Behaviour was seen to be excellent and pupils feel very positive about being in the school, where they are well supported, cared for and safe. They benefit greatly from opportunities to participate in prayer and worship, as well as faith in action through charity work. Sixth form students are developing qualities of leadership in the Catholic life of the school. Spiritual and moral development is very apparent and a feature of the work of each department. The religious studies faculty works very hard to enable pupils to progress well and teachers monitor their own work well and plan effectively for improvement. Pupils enjoy lessons because teachers teach them very well. They quickly learn how to think about life's big questions and to present their points of view. They rapidly develop knowledge principally of the Catholic faith, as well as of other faiths, and they participate well in lessons. There has been a very pleasing rise in examination results to meet diocesan averages. The faculty has now moved to a new system of assessing pupils' work rather than the levels which were used previously.

The headteacher, leadership team, governors and staff who have the responsibility for the Catholic life and religious studies are highly committed to improvement. We are asking them to make sure that all the pupils understand the new system of assessment and that their work is marked in the same way in each RE class with a greater focus for some pupils on knowing how to improve. We also recommend that there is an overall plan for the development of the Catholic life of the school to include checks on progress. In addition we recommend that the school implements its plans for sixth form Core RE as well as the new course for sex and relationship education.

We would like to thank staff and governors, and the pupils especially, for their contribution to the inspection and wish them well for the future.

Yours sincerely

Janet Mellor (Mrs)
Diocesan Inspector