

## Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for St Martin De Porres Catholic Primary School

URN: 142264

Carried out on behalf of the Right Rev. David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton on:

Date: 14-15 June 2023

Overall effectiveness The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school.....	1
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.....	1
Religious education (p.5) The quality of curriculum religious education.....	1
Collective worship (p.7) The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.....	1
The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection	Fully

### Summary of key findings

#### What the school does well

- The Mission statement of the school is lived out fully and is bearing fruit in abundance within pupils, staff and the community.
- All pupils experience a richness of religious education which is, creative, innovative and nourished by the holy scriptures. This is reflective in the faith formation of the pupils.
- Through prayer at this school, pupils come to know God and flourish.
- The Catholic vision of the headteacher is an embodiment of servant leadership.
- The pastoral commitment of the school has created a family where support and love thrive.

What the school needs to improve:

- To create space for pupils to ask incisive questions in order to foster curiosity and them finding their own answers to questions of faith and knowledge.
- To ensure that Catholic life and mission is preserved and harnessed in effective strategies during this coming transition period.
- To share best practice in prayer and liturgy within the school and across the wider Catholic community.

## 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:.....

1

### Pupil outcomes

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

1

### Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school .....

1

### Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school .....

1



The Mission statement, 'Working together in the light of the Lord,' is very much alive in St Martin de Porres Catholic School, every day. The mission lies at the heart of the school community and is known, lived, and experienced by the pupils and endorsed by governors, staff, and parents. All pupils are encouraged to grow in, understand, and embrace the Catholic faith. Faith ambassadors and prayer leaders lead with great confidence emulating their love of God and service to others. Pupils' active participation significantly enhances the Catholic life of the school. Pupils are keenly aware of their responsibility to care for the earth and look after God's creation because of wide-ranging initiatives and activities such as the forest of promises which adorns a corridor showcasing everyone's commitment and responsibility for this. They embrace opportunities to help others in the local community and beyond and are respectful of everyone's individuality because they understand everyone is part of God's family and everyone is loved by Him.

There is a strong sense of vocation and belonging amongst staff. They wholeheartedly support leaders in nurturing a community where the teachings of Jesus are put into practical action. The environment speaks of the faith of the community. The whole school is a sacred space. There is development of faith that is both inward and outward looking. This is carefully shown in the support of various charities. Catholic social teaching is responded to with action and that is facilitated by the school. Staff also support one another and model the values inherent in the mission statement. A strong sense of community and culture runs through the school at all levels. Staff and parents are overwhelmingly proud and supportive of the school. As one staff member said, 'Working at the school has helped me to develop my spirituality. We are given plenty of help with our understanding of the RE curriculum. It is a great community to work in and there is always a positive vibe.' The school provides excellent pastoral care for pupils who know they are known and loved by God.

Leaders and governors are deeply committed to ensuring the school's uniquely Catholic character is upheld and continually developed. Every member of staff is a leader here, because the senior leadership and religious education team are exemplary and inspirational role models. The link governor's approach is both rigorous and evaluative and integral to the self-evaluation system. Seamless support from parents and parish, with relationships being purposefully nurtured, greatly enriches the Catholic life of the school. The integrity and inspiration of the headteacher is integral to the community and seen as precious by all. All pupils and staff new to the community are supported by effective induction, which is on-going and bespoke to their individual needs. There is a boldness of vision to take account of the pupils in the school community whose circumstances have made them vulnerable, through child centred leadership. An example of this is the send hub and the work of the pastoral team. Continuing professional development is carefully considered against the needs of the school and the Catholic community. There is a clear evidence-based approach to this. Leaders' and governors' ongoing evaluation of the school's Catholic life and mission is detailed, accurate and effective.

## Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade:.....

1

### Pupil outcomes

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education.....

1

### Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education.....

1

### Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor, and evaluate the provision for religious education.....

1



Pupils thoroughly enjoy their lessons at St Martin de Porres. They enjoy a varied and rich experience of Religious Education, from Godly Play to engaging with scripture and deep discussions. This allows a deep understanding of our shared faith, to recognise its relevance for them and to turn it outwards towards the world and their daily lives. In a lesson reflecting on the message of the Beatitudes, pupils gave insightful answers, genuine reflection, conviction and commitment from pupils to live as Christ asks us to. The pupils are highly engaged learners who can readily self assess. Pupils talk confidently about their learning, using specialist vocabulary accurately and confidently, linking it to everyday life. This has led to pupils being religiously literate. Religious education books show great pride and ambition in both presentation and the content of their work. These are certainly special books. A depth of spiritual and moral development was seen in the responses to searching questions. An example of this was in year six, where there were discussions around healing and those that do not experience healing. Responses showed a sophistication in thinking and reflective processes. Attainment in religious education is strong with achievement at times being much higher than other core subjects at the end of key stages. Pupils' progress in religious education is rapid and sustained from the time they join the school and outcomes for all groups of pupils are strong, which reflects the inclusive culture of the school.

Time and space is thoughtfully planned in the scheme of learning to allow pupils to reflect on each topic and their own lives. This allows pupils to link religious education, prayer and liturgy to their behaviour and action, through how they respond to the needs of others. In lessons observed, pupils had a heightened sense of excitement when starting learning activities due to a great variety and innovation of tasks. Consistently high expectations raise the ambition of the pupils. Feedback in learning seen in the books is exemplary. The use of feedback stamps as a means of deepening learning and invoking a further response, is established practice across the school. Pupils enjoy

having these reflection questions and recognise how they support them to make progress in religious education. Examples of enhanced pedagogical and subject knowledge is evident in practice as well as staff who have taken full advantage of excellent continuing professional development. This supports high quality provision.

Leaders ensure that the curriculum meets the requirements of the *Religious Education Directory*. The religious education team and senior leaders have an inspiring vision and are dedicated to improving and sustaining the excellent quality of religious education. Leaders have a clear understanding of servant leadership, which ensures a strength in relationships with staff to promote development. The opportunities leaders provide for continuing professional development effectively develops practice in the classroom as well as subject knowledge. There is a clear openness to sharing and collaboration, which staff are very appreciative of. Leaders systematically undertake detailed monitoring, which leads to well-targeted improvements. Staff are provided with helpful feedback, contributing to the school's outstanding outcomes. Leaders and governors evaluate the impact of this feedback to improve the quality of the school's provision even further.

## Collective worship

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

Collective worship key judgement grade:.....

1

### Pupil outcomes

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

1

### Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school .....

1

### Leadership

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

1

St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School is blessed with a rich prayer life. Prayer and liturgy are inclusive, multi-sensory experiences that enable all pupils and staff to participate fully and actively. Liturgies and prayers are frequently led by pupils, who do so with confidence, understanding and skill. It is clear that this is all-inclusive. Pupils benefit from the use of music to create atmosphere and to promote joyful communal worship. There were stunning examples of this in terms of spontaneity in word, song and dance. It is exceptional to have witnessed how pupils pray with each other in times of need. The selflessness in praying for others, in pupils so young, shows such maturity in spirituality, which will be lasting. The pupils have a devotion to their patron St Martin de Porres and reflect on him for inspiration aided by the many physical reminders.

The rhythm of prayer is carefully planned to punctuate each day, week and year in accordance with the liturgical pattern of the church. The centrality of prayer caters for a wide range of significant moments of joy, sorrow and celebration. The school proclaims scripture with conviction so that pupils and staff have time and space to reflect and learn from it. This was seen to great effect in prayer and liturgy in both key stages, where guided meditation was set to music with remarkable creativity within an inclusive setting. Masses and whole school prayer and liturgy, contemporary music, video, and traditional hymns all form part of the rich variety of experiences provided by the school. The school community is sensitive to the needs of all, by creating prayer spaces in varying tone. Excellent examples of this were seen with the ribbon tree, prayer room and reflective garden. The building is marked by the presence of God. All staff actively participate, contribute and model the prayer life provision in the school.

The leadership approach to prayer and liturgy at St Martin de Porres is a beacon of excellent

practice, which could be shared with others. The school does not work in isolation but is a conduit for the Catholic life of the parish, thus an effective and supportive relationship exists to foster Catholic faith. This strategic approach is completed by collaboration with the families of pupils by means of carefully considered communication, invitations and participation in the prayer life of the school. Governors play a pivotal role in self evaluation and are tenacious in their monitoring and support for strategic leadership. There is a strategic approach to monitoring and evaluation that leads to continuing improvement and sharing of best practice. Moving forward, the prayer and liturgy policy requires further reflection and adaptation to ensure that it does justice to all that the school does in practice.



## Information about the school

Full name of school	St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	142264
Full postal address of the school	Pastures Way, Luton
School phone number	01582 617600
Name of head teacher or principal	Nicola Morgan
Chair of governing board	Jane Crow
School Website	<a href="https://www.stmartindeporresluton.co.uk">https://www.stmartindeporresluton.co.uk</a>
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	St Thomas Catholic Academy Trust
Type of school	Primary
School category	Academy
Age-range of pupils	3-11
Trustees	Diocese of Northampton
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	October 2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

## The inspection team

Kirstie Yuen	Lead inspector
Peter Fahy	Team inspector
Bernadette Grimley	Team inspector

## 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