

**Catholic Diocese of Northampton**  
**Interim Monitoring Visit 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017**  
**Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary School, Slough [URN 110035]**

Since the last Section 48 inspections of Our Lady of Peace Infants and Junior Schools, the two schools have merged (April 2016) to form a large primary school and nursery. At this point the merger of the schools is in its early stages and the two are not yet fully integrated. The headteacher was formally headteacher of the Infant school. There is a new deputy headteacher and new leadership team and significant other staff changes. The RE coordinator is also new to her role and is currently undertaking this role on a temporary basis. The headteacher and senior leadership team are working hard to raise standards and improve the quality of teaching. Improvements are clearly evident. Due to the recent merger, some areas identified for improvement in the previous inspection reports have not been fully addressed or are no longer applicable. Those that still apply form part of this year's school improvement plan. The school's capacity to sustain improvement is good.

The current self-evaluation form [SEF-RE] is largely focused on the infant school and therefore requires broadening to encompass information and figures that fully reflect present circumstances. The new mission statement "With Christ in our hearts together we grow" is known by all and prominently displayed around the school. The headteacher and deputy headteacher have a clear vision for the school and are driving to make the Our Lady of Peace the best it can be.

A great strength of the school is the quality of the relationships between staff and pupils. There is a strong sense of belonging where the children are nurtured. The pupils respond well to this and as a consequence are confident and happy. The "Faith Ambassadors" (Yr 6 pupils) plan and lead prayer groups and assemblies. The displays in the classrooms reflect the current RE topics and the liturgical calendar. The outside prayer garden provides an additional space for reflection and prayer. Plans for a new grotto and Stations of the Cross will further enhance these opportunities. The chaplaincy team is made up of staff, the RE governor and parish priest. They meet regularly to plan and evaluate the school's provision. The impact of their work is evident in the quality of prayer and worship across the school.

Pupil behaviour across the school is outstanding. During the learning walk all pupils were highly engaged in their learning. RE is regarded as a core subject and the quality and quantity of work in pupils' books reflects this. Work is regularly scrutinised and progress over time is also clearly evident. Their books also demonstrate most pupil's good understanding of RE and are generally beautifully presented. The quality of marking is good and provides feedback for pupil improvement. The teaching of RE and assessment have benefitted from the support of the diocesan advisor. Planning is monitored by the RE Coordinator.

Assessments are carried out each half term and data is produced to track pupils. There are plans in place for further improvements to ensure data is used more effectively to impact on planning, teaching and pupil progress. The headteacher and SLT are clearly dedicated and committed to further raising standards.

**Further areas for improvement might include**

- establish a regular programme of monitoring so the school has an accurate picture of the quality of teaching in RE
- continue with plans to develop the school environment to further enhance the Catholic life of the school
- continue the implementation of strategies bringing the two former schools together as one.

The inspector wishes to thank the staff and pupils for the welcome and hospitality during the visit.

**Rosemarie Jones on behalf of the Diocese of Northampton**