



DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH

INSPECTION REPORT

St John the Baptist RC Primary School

Milton Lane,
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DfE Number: 878/3603

URN: 140761

Headteacher: Mrs E Hamilton

Chair of Governors: Ms L Upton

This report to the Bishop of the Diocese under Canon 806 of the Code of Canon Law is also the report to the governors of the school on religious education. For Catholic maintained schools, the report also fulfils the requirements of Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Date of inspection: 25th May 2022

Date of previous inspection: June 2015

Reporting Inspector: Mr J Skelton

Additional Inspector: Mr P Cotte

In this report the word 'school' shall mean V.A. schools/colleges/academies/special schools

Description of school

St John the Baptist's RC Primary School Dartmouth is a smaller than average setting of 81 pupils. It is a mixed sex school with 55.6% boys and 44.4% girls. It has a higher than national average number of pupils with SEND at 28.4%. The school consists of three mixed age classes with EYFS/Year1, Years 2 & 3, and Years 4, 5 & 6 taught together.

Overall effectiveness of this Catholic school (summary statement)

Grade Good

This is a Good school because:

- The caring Catholic nature of the school is visible and tangible. All members of the community are respectful and caring towards one another. It is a happy, joyous, safe place for the children.
- Pupils act with reverence and are keen to participate in collective worship. They sing joyfully, reflect in silence and join in community prayer appropriately and with confidence. Children are regularly involved in the preparation and delivery of liturgies.
- Pupils understand that the school community is committed to following the teaching and example of Jesus as expressed in the Gospels and in the social teaching of the Church. As a result pupils develop in virtue, accepting their personal responsibility to care for our common home, pursue the common good and serve those in need.
- Leaders, staff and governors are committed to the Church's mission in education and ensure that Christ and Catholic teaching are at the heart of the school.
- Leaders plan the curriculum to provide sufficient opportunities for learners to progress sequentially through the RE subject content. Catholic virtues, values and social teaching are interwoven throughout the wider curriculum.
- Pupils appear to enjoy their learning and approach their lessons with interest and enthusiasm. As a consequence, behaviour in lessons is good because most pupils enjoy Religious Education and are engaged.

The capacity of the school community to improve and develop is Good

- The school leadership team, Governors and Diocesan RE and Catholic Life adviser are all working closely together to continually improve the RE provision for all pupils, staff and parents. Their unified and committed approach means that the school is always striving to ensure that it is the best it can be.

What the school should do to improve further

- Governors need to hone their understanding of assessment data and in particular how the data from St John the Baptist school performs, in comparison to similar schools both in the diocese and further afield. A good understanding of comparing RE assessment data with other core subjects in the school would also be beneficial.
- Class teachers would benefit from developing their subject knowledge further, to allow for more robust questioning to assist the depth of learning, particular for 'Greater Depth' pupils.
- The school has shown that it understands the areas for development and has identified some areas for development. It would benefit from documenting these more formally with time scales, improvement, accountabilities and documented follow-up.