

# Inspection of Notre Dame du Rosaire Catholic Primary School

Burnt Lane, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1HL

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Inspection dates: 15 and 16 March 2023

The quality of education	<b>Good</b>
Behaviour and attitudes	<b>Good</b>
Personal development and welfare	<b>Excellent</b>
Leadership and management	<b>Good</b>
Early years provision	<b>Good</b>

## **What is it like to attend this school?**

This school epitomises inclusion. Everyone is proud of who they are and who everyone else is. Everyone is treated as special. The 'Golden Values' are the core of making this happen. Pupils, of all ages, talk about feeling respected and valued. They are confident that they have a voice and that it will be listened to.

Pupils treat each other, as adults treat them. They are kind, compassionate and respectful. When they do fall out, they usually manage to resolve their differences by themselves. If needed, they know that an adult will help. Issues rarely progress as far as bullying. If this does happen, it is taken seriously.

Staff expect pupils to behave well and achieve high standards. This is what happens. There is very little disruption to lessons. Pupils generally work very hard. They throw themselves into the wider aspects of school life. They thrive on the wide, rich set of clubs, trips and other experiences provided. For example, pupils get very excited about the residential trips to other islands. As they get older, pupils take on responsibility with pride. They enjoy being librarians, house captains, or serving on the school council or 'Laudate Si' committee, among other things.

## **What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?**

The school's work exudes moral purpose. Leaders aim to send pupils out from the school as effective and principled contributors to the world. To that end, they provide a coherent programme for developing pupils' character. The curriculum, which includes a wide-ranging programme of activities, prepares pupils very well for life in the Bailiwick and the wider world.

The overarching factor in the success of this school is the culture created by senior leaders. It is driven by ambition, respect, hard work, care, compassion, and the belief in every pupil. Pupils, staff and parents feel valued and listened to.

To achieve their vision, leaders have crafted a curriculum tailored to the pupils at Notre Dame du Rosaire. It matches, and in some respects exceeds, the requirements of the Bailiwick curriculum. For example, the history gives pupils an exceptionally rich understanding of local history.

The curriculum clearly defines sequences of knowledge that pupils will learn in each subject. This starts from Reception and continues through to the end of Year 6. Along the way, pupils learn in mixed-aged classes. Leaders have thought carefully about how pupils in each year will build their understanding in these circumstances.

The curriculum is highly inclusive. Teachers adapt approaches to make sure that pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) follow the curriculum

well. Pupils praise the quality of support they receive and acknowledge what it has helped them to achieve. In the same way, the high proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language achieve well.

However, leaders do not assure themselves fully that pupils are securely learning all that the curriculum intends. While pupils understand the factual content of subjects well, they are less confident about some of the subject-specific knowledge that they need to know. For example, older pupils do not understand controls and variables in a science experiment. This is because teachers' use of assessment is underdeveloped in some subjects.

Pupils' work does not always reflect the depth of what they have learned. Furthermore, teachers do not insist that pupils routinely work to the standard they expect. For example, they do not ensure that pupils present work neatly or include capital letters and full stops when they write.

Pupils' behaviour has a positive effect on how successfully they learn right from the start. Children in the reception classes learn how to listen when others are speaking. They share, take turns, and follow instructions. As they get older, pupils understand that everyone has a right to learn. They know that they are responsible for behaving in a way that makes this possible.

Leaders have invested much time in training staff to teach the curriculum well. Many teachers have recently left the school and many have recently joined. Several are at an early stage in their career. Leaders have worked hard to train such staff quickly. As a result, they are prepared well for the early stages of their career.

## **Safeguarding**

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective

The school's culture of care and compassion sets the tone for its approach to safeguarding pupils. The highly-vigilant staff are well trained to spot concerns. They record even the most minor sign that something may be wrong. Leaders are swift to follow up such reports and tenacious in securing the right help for children and families.

Through the curriculum, pupils learn to identify risks beyond school. The strong personal development programme teaches pupils how to spot and protect themselves from the potential dangers they might encounter, such as those posed when they are online.

## **What does the school need to do to improve?**

- There are inconsistencies in how well some aspects of the curriculum are taught and assessed. In addition, teachers do not routinely expect pupils to produce work that is of a high standard. This is because leaders have not assured themselves that all of their expectations of teachers are carried out. Leaders need to make sure that what they expect is happening is evident in practice.

## School details

<b>Inspection number</b>	10210213
<b>Type of school</b>	Primary School
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	4-11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	247
<b>Appropriate authority</b>	The States of Guernsey
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mary Robertshaw
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.notredame.sch.gg/">https://www.notredame.sch.gg/</a>
<b>Date of previous Ofsted inspection</b>	Not previously inspected by Ofsted

## Information about this school

- Notre Dame Du Rosaire is a one-and-a-half-form entry voluntary primary school providing education for Roman Catholic children. The school operates on two sites, which are around one third of a mile apart.
- The school uses no alternative provision. All pupils are educated full time on one of the two sites.
- The headteacher has been in post since September 2019.
- The staffing of the school has undergone considerable change. Four new senior leaders took up their roles in September 2022. Three new teachers joined the school at that time.

## Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this inspection under section 35 of the Guernsey Education Law 1970.

- Inspectors met with the headteacher, other senior staff and spoke with two representatives from the Education Office.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: English, mathematics, science and history. For each deep dive, inspectors discussed the curriculum with subject leaders, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work.
- Inspectors inspected safeguarding by looking at the single central record of staff and volunteers, meeting with the senior child protection officer, speaking to staff and pupils and scrutinising documents relating to child protection.

- Inspectors evaluated pupils' behaviour and provision for personal development and welfare by observing conduct in lessons and around the school, scrutinising records and other documentation, talking to pupils, staff and parents and considering the responses to online surveys of parents, staff and pupils' views.

### **Inspection team**

Sandy Hayes, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

Dale Burr

His Majesty's Inspector

Paul Williams

His Majesty's Inspector

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