

**Catholic Diocese of Northampton**  
**Interim Monitoring Visit**  
**29 November 2018**

**St Louis Catholic Primary School [URN 110480]**

Since the last Section 48 inspection in October 2015 St Louis School has undergone an expansion, becoming a two-form entry school. The growth in size has brought change in both the environmental space and staffing structures. The headteacher, supported by the leadership team, ensures that during this transitional time all activities are underpinned by the school's strong Catholic foundation driven by the Mission Statement to ensure: "Ut Sint Unum – That we may be one". The senior leadership team has addressed all areas from the last inspection thoroughly and continues to monitor these as assessment practice evolves nationally. Excellent leadership means the school has the capacity to maintain its outstanding grade.

This is a school that knows itself well. The headteacher has conducted a thorough analysis of the school's effectiveness. The SEF-RE is detailed and accurately reflects the school's current position. It correctly identifies new areas for development that emerge for this growing school. Driven by a great determination to ensure that the children of St Louis receive a high quality Catholic education, the passionate headteacher, ably assisted by the enthusiastic deputy and assistant headteacher, make sure that the development of the Catholic Life of the school is at the forefront of their work. The school provides clear guidance and support to those members of staff who are new, so that the teaching of Religious Education and the development of the Catholic Life of the school have a very high priority.

St Louis has a vibrant and engaging learning environment. This is apparent both in the classrooms and in and around the school itself, where focal points and displays provide opportunities to reflect, pray and celebrate its Catholic character. This exceptional presentation within school is a testimony to high expectations which value achievement and promote aspiration. Pupils participate in Collective Worship with genuine enthusiasm which is reflected in the quality of singing and in the contemplative use of silence.

Pupils enjoy Religious Education; they are attentive, enthusiastic and respond thoughtfully. A variety of teaching strategies was observed and opportunities for cross-curricular links between Religious Education and other curriculum areas were also noted. The books seen were well presented and marked with thinking points for challenge. The two subject leaders have a clear overview of the school's position and are able to direct support as required to maintain the high standards and promote accelerated progress where needed.

Further areas for improvement should include:

- continue to work with new staff to support planning and teaching and learning.

The diocesan reviewer wishes to thank members of staff and children for the warm welcome and hospitality throughout the visit.

**Kirstie Yuen on behalf of Northampton Diocese**