



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

Name of School: St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

LA: Barking and Dagenham. URN: 101235

Inspection Date: 15th June 2011

Reporting Inspectors: Ms. Colette Dawson & Mr. Anthony Castle

This Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of School: Primary
School Category: Voluntary Aided
Age range of pupils: 3 – 11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 237
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous Inspection: May 2007

School Address:
The Broadway
Barking, Essex, IG11 7AR
Tel. No. 020 8270 6474
Email: ebunn@stjobardaglea.org.uk
Chair of Governors: Mr. Simon Bremner
Headteacher: Mrs Emlin Bunn

Introduction:

The Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education (Schools) Act 2005 by inspectors appointed by the Diocesan Bishop at the request of the Governing Body of the School.

The Inspectors acknowledge and are appreciative of the full support, co-operation and courtesy they enjoyed from Governors, Headteacher, Staff and Pupils of the School both before and during the Inspection. The Inspectors wish to express their gratitude to all concerned.

The focus of the Section 48 Inspection was:

- Classroom Religious Education
- The Catholic nature of the School through;
 1. Worship
 2. Links with the Catholic and wider community
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

The Section 48 Report

**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,
The Broadway,
Barking,
Essex,
IG11 7AR**

Head Teacher: Mrs. Emlin Bunn

Date of Inspection: 15th June 2011

Description of the School:

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is situated in Barking, Essex and is under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Brentwood. The school serves the parish of St Mary and St Ethelburga. Some pupils attend from the parishes of St Peter's and St Thomas More, Dagenham. St Joseph's is one of the oldest schools in the Brentwood Diocese. It was originally founded in 1859. St Joseph's is a smaller than average primary school with a Nursery. It serves a socially deprived area with approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of pupils coming from an ethnic minority background. All but one of the pupils are baptised Catholics.

Record of Evidence Base:

Two Inspectors were in the School for the equivalent of two inspection days.

- The study of pre-inspection documentation including the Self-Evaluation Form/ Denominational Provision (SEF/DP).
- The observation of complete lessons.
- Scrutiny of pupils' work.
- Meetings with the Head Teacher, the Deputy Head teacher, the Religious Education (RE) Co-ordinator, a foundation Governor and the School Council.
- Participation in a Key Stage Two Assembly. .
- Observations of R.E. Displays in the Class rooms and around the school.

What the School does well:

St Joseph's is a good Catholic School which displays several outstanding features. It has the potential to become outstanding. It is firmly committed to developing its Catholic identity under the inspirational and strong leadership of its Head Teacher who has a vision for the future for the school. She is well supported by her Deputy, committed Governors, highly motivated Staff and Pupils.

Religious Education (R.E.) is an area of high focus in the school. The school uses 'Here I Am' programme of study across all Key Stages.

The overall quality of teaching and learning in R. E. is good or outstanding. Lessons are well planned and learning objectives are stated, explained and revisited. In the lessons observed, pupils were on task, engaged, highly motivated, challenged and enjoying their R.E. Behaviour is very good. Pupils were enthusiastic and purposeful and work well together. Relationships and class management are recognised strengths of the school. The use of Information, Communication Technology (ICT) is outstanding.

Assessment in R.E. is consistent in all year groups. It is systematic, rigorous and informative. There is a clear assessment focus for each of the topics which gives excellent evidence of knowledge and understanding. Positive feedback is given to the pupils and this enables them to make significant progress. There is some evidence of 'Next Step Marking' but this needs to be more consistent so that pupils are aware of how they can progress to the next level.

The leadership and management of R.E. by the R.E. Co-ordinator are excellent She is very committed and experienced. R.E. is a very well-resourced subject area. Her leadership drives the assessment procedures used by all the teachers, she monitors R.E. lessons with the Head teacher and is very supportive of all staff, teachers and teacher assistants.

The School meets both the national and diocesan requirements for the allocation of curriculum time for taught R.E.

Collective Worship, liturgical celebrations, the celebration of major Saints' feast days, and the school's links with the local parish, are all strengths of St. Joseph's School. The liturgical seasons, especially those of Advent and Christmas and Lent and Easter, are high points in the School's calendar. The parish priest is very generous with his time and there are regular Masses in the school. The Assembly for Key Stage Two pupils was outstanding.

St. Joseph's School promotes an outstanding and tangible Catholic ethos. This is subscribed to by all the stakeholders – Governors, the Head teacher, staff, pupils and their parents. The School provides outstanding opportunities for the pupils to develop a strong sense of community through activities which engender feelings of loyalty and belonging. The School continues to develop strong links with other schools in the Diocese and the Deanery. The emphasis on community cohesion is very good and has the potential to become outstanding.

Displays and artefacts in R.E. in the classrooms and around the School, are of outstanding quality. The 'Prayer Focus' in the classrooms needs to be further developed.

St. Joseph's School values its links with parents with every effort being made to improve and maintain communication with parents as their children progress through the school. Parents / Carers receive a weekly newsletter and a termly R.E. news sheet to inform parents and engage them with the '**Here I Am**' topics. The governors of the school are very dedicated, hardworking and supportive of everything the school does. The Leadership by the Chair of Governors and school governance in general are major strengths of the school.

Pupils are given every opportunity to become responsible citizens. This is evident in their concern for each other and for those who are in need. This is particularly evidenced by the generous fundraising for the charities that the School supports. The older pupils take on a variety of responsible roles within the school community.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is an excellent strength of the School. There is a Sex and Relationship (SRE) policy in place and the school plans to use the Diocesan recommended programme, a 'Journey in Love.'

What needs to be improved?

There are no specific areas requiring improvement other than those mentioned in the report in addition to ensuring that the areas highlighted by the Section 48 Self Evaluation Form continue to be addressed.

Overall, St. Joseph's Primary School is a good school with several outstanding features. It displays many strengths and has the potential to become an outstanding school. It prepares its pupils so that they transfer to their Secondary Schools as happy, well-adjusted young people who are a credit to themselves, their parents and their school. The school owes much of its success to the strong and visionary leadership of the Head teacher and her committed staff and to the valued support and expertise of her governors.