



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Name of School: La Salette Catholic Primary School

Local Authority: Havering

Unique Reference Number: 102330

Inspection Date: 2 December 2011

Reporting Inspectors: Dr Michael Sutherland-Harper and
Mrs Maureen Cosgrave

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: 4 - 11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 214
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous inspection: 21.02.2007

School Address:
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Rainham, Essex
RM13 8SP
Tel. No. 01708 555554
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Chair of Governors: Fr Mariusz Fura, MS
Headteacher: Mrs Anna Fletcher

Introduction:

The Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education (Schools) Act 2005 by two 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 the 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

La Salette Catholic Primary School
Dunedin Road
Rainham
Essex
RM13 8SP

Head Teacher: **Mrs Anna Fletcher**

Date of Inspection: **2 December 2011**

Description of the School:

La Salette Catholic Primary School is a voluntary aided Catholic school situated in the London Borough of Havering and in the diocese of Brentwood. The school is a smaller than average sized primary school. The school serves the Catholic parish of Our Lady of La Salette but also has a minority of children from surrounding parishes in Purfleet, Aveley, Hornchurch and Dagenham.

Record of Evidence Base:

Two Diocesan 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 seven lessons.
 - Participation in an assembly.
 - Scrutiny of pupils' written work.
 - Meetings with the Headteacher who is also the Head of Religious Education (R.E.), the Parish Priest who is the Chair of Governors and R.E. link governor, and the School Council.
- Observations of R.E. displays in the classrooms and around the school.

What the School does well:

Our Lady of La Salette Catholic Primary School is an outstanding Catholic school. Parents and carers whom the inspectors met at the start of their visit were unanimous in their praise for the school as a 'very supportive community.' The notion of everyone belonging permeates the school; there is a clear sense that the school has embraced its changing intake and the local community which, together with the adjacent parish church, is as one. The headteacher propounds a clear vision of the school as a place where 'everyone come through loved and cared for and receives an education that prepares them for life.' The school is a cohesive learning community. For example, the morning assembly dealt with the theme of how we can prepare ourselves for Advent, not just physically but also 'inside our heart.' This theme was picked up in every class observed during the inspection, most notably in an outstanding Year 5 Religious Education lesson. Having discussed questions which the pupils felt the shepherds might have asked at Bethlehem such as how this baby could save the world, the teacher used art and Biblical reference to underline how the shepherds' gifts of their 'love, faith and trust in God' prepared them to accept the gift of Christ.

The school has recently been largely rebuilt. Staff and pupils alike are proud of their school. The work in classrooms, exemplary behaviour and focused pupil-created displays reflect this pride. Nor is this a complacent community. The pupils are almost uniformly articulate children, used to being heard and knowing that they will be listened to and valued. The school is very well led by a focused headteacher who has developed rigorous monitoring, well-targeted planning and self challenge as a school. In doing so, she has carefully involved senior leaders, staff, pupils, parishioners, parents and carers and governors in a thorough process. The governing body have high levels of expertise and commitment. They are well organized and thorough under the prayerful and reflective leadership of the well-regarded parish priest. Governors are well informed as a result of constant interaction with the school, including the after-school bazaar on the day of the

inspection. They offer high levels of professional challenge, including in the teaching of Religious Education, to ensure that pupils are given the best possible grounding.

Religious Education (R.E.) is at the heart of the school's work. The R.E. curriculum is based on the 'Here I Am' Religious Education programme of study, recommended by the Bishop of the Diocese, and which is fully implemented. Excellent teacher use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) enhances delivery of the R.E. curriculum and helps to engage pupils with their learning. Attainment is above average and knowledge and understanding of religion and the ability to reflect on it are clear in all year groups. Most groups of pupils make at least good progress and some make outstanding progress. In an excellent Year 6 lesson, pupils made rapid progress in response to challenging questions like 'Is it better to be a child or an adult?' while showing the greatest respect and tolerance for the views of others.

Overall, the quality of teaching and learning in R.E. is outstanding. Lessons are closely planned and delivered with the use of examples relating both to the world the children know around them and to other cultures, eras and subjects. As a result, teaching is highly effective in enthusing pupils. Teachers and support staff work closely together and all are focused on consistently ensuring that the care and welfare of their charges is of the highest quality. High quality resources, including uniformly excellent use of electronic technologies, are used to deliver the curriculum but there is also a clear emphasis on the practical, as shown by the excellent modelling of letter formation in a Year 1 lesson. The curriculum is enriched through imaginative approaches like the writing of special 'thank you' gift cards to adults who have helped the school community, including builders and dinner ladies, so that everyone is uniformly valued. Learning objectives are always clearly stated and teachers check that these are fully understood. Exercise books contain a careful mixture of praise and detailed guidance on the way to take work forward. Behaviour in class is exemplary and it is very apparent that pupils have high expectations of each other.

The Headteacher is also R.E. Co-ordinator and this reinforces the role of religious education at the heart of the school. The school meets both the national and diocesan requirements for the allocation of curriculum time for taught R.E.

All aspects of spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding are outstanding. Pupils have a well-developed sense of right and wrong. Older pupils regard it as an absolute duty to look after younger ones and are rigorous in their efforts. Relationships throughout the community are excellent. The many cultures represented in the community co-exist harmoniously. There are strong local links as well as work with another national school in a different part of Essex. Funds are raised for global communities. The ethos of the school community is underpinned by the faith values of the original La Salette community in France. Prayers are offered throughout the day and were reinforced during the inspection by wonderful singing in harmony of the advent hymn.

Pupil contributions are outstanding, not just in responses in class but also in leading and taking responsibility for shaping activities in and outside of the school. During the

assembly, the efforts of the school to encourage children were apparent through celebration of those who had a birthday this week and opportunities for others to share personal triumphs in achieving the Brownie promise and athletics awards. Children were ready to come to the front and were proud but modest about their achievements.

What needs to be improved?

- **Develop opportunities for pupils to take the lead in lessons and increase opportunities for independent work in R.E. to ensure that lessons always provide an equal balance of teacher- and pupil-led work.**

The Inspectors endorse the areas identified by the school for improvement in the Section 48 Self-Evaluation Form.

La Salette Catholic Primary School displays an outstanding Catholic ethos. Every member of the school community shares and is implementing a common school vision, aimed at always reaching the highest standards. The school is an outstanding Catholic school with an outstanding capacity for sustained improvement. As one parent stated, 'My child went to secondary school and had no trouble at all standing alone and finding his way forward.'