



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

**Name of School: St Mary's Hare Park Primary School and
Nursery**

LEA: Havering URN: 102357

Inspection Dates: 21st January 2010

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

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

Type of School: Primary and Nursery
School Category: Independent
Age range of pupils: 2 - 11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 169
Appropriate Authority: St Mary's Hare Park Trust
Date of previous Inspection: March 2000

School Address:
South Drive, Gidea Park,
Romford, Essex, RM2 6HH
Tel. No. 01708 761220
Fax No. 01708 761220
Chair of Trustees: Mr. K. Petty
Headteacher: Mrs. K Karwacinski

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 Trustees of the School.

The Inspectors acknowledge and are appreciative of the full support, co-operation and courtesy they enjoyed from the 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 Mary's Hare Park Primary School and Nursery,
South Drive,
Gidea Park, Romford,
Essex,
RM2 6HH**

Head Teacher: Mrs. K Karwacinski

Date of Inspection: 21st January 2010

Description of the School:

St Mary's Hare Park Primary School and Nursery is an Independent Catholic school situated in the County of Essex and under the Trusteeship of the St Mary's Hare Park Trust. It is a small but vibrant and successful primary school. Prior to its present status the school was founded by the Sisters of Mercy who no longer live on site but maintain strong links with the school. The school is distinctive in its Christian and Catholic ethos but celebrates its wide and diverse cultural and religious community which includes a number of Hindu and Muslim families. The Staff have also been recruited from a multi-cultural/multi-faith background.

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 R.E Coordinator, the Charity Coordinator and the School Council.
- Participation in two Assemblies.
- Observations of R.E. Displays in the Class rooms and around the school.

What the School does well:

St Mary's Hare Park is an outstanding School which displays many strengths. It is firmly committed to developing its Catholic identity under the inspirational and outstanding leadership of its Head Teacher who is very well supported by her Deputy and Leadership team, committed Trustees, highly motivated Staff, Pupils and the Priest from the Parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest.

Religious Education (R.E.) is an area of high focus in the school. The **'Here I Am'** programme, recommended by the Bishop of the Diocese, is fully implemented. The 'Before You Begin' element of the process is securely embedded at the beginning of each topic. They clearly understand the **'Here I Am'** process and use it effectively to provide a high quality and stimulating curriculum. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is used effectively to enhance the quality of lessons.

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

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 **'Here I Am'** topics which gives excellent evidence of **'Relate'** knowledge and understanding. Positive feedback is given to the pupils and this enables them to make progress.

The leadership and management of R.E. by the R.E. Co-ordinator is excellent, she is well supported by the Head teacher. Her leadership drives the assessment procedures used by all the teachers, she monitors R.E. lessons 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 Mary's Hare Park School. The two assemblies that the inspectors attended were outstanding. The liturgical seasons, especially those of Advent and Christmas and Lent and Easter, are high points in the School's calendar.

St Mary's Hare Park School promotes an outstanding and tangible Catholic ethos. This is subscribed to by all the stakeholders – Trustees, the Head Teacher and her leadership team, 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 Deanery and beyond. The emphasis on community cohesion is an outstanding strength of the school.

Displays and artefacts in R.E. and the 'Prayer Focus', in the classrooms and around the School, are outstanding.

St Mary's Hare Park Primary School and Nursery values links with parents with every effort being made to improve and maintain communication with parents as their children progress through the school. There is a proactive Parents' and Teachers' Association which is dedicated to providing enjoyable social and fundraising events. The Trustees of the school are very dedicated, hardworking and supportive of everything the school does.

Pupils are given every opportunity to become responsible citizens. St Mary's Hare Park School participates in the Annual Diocesan Citizenship Awards which takes place in the Summer term. This is evident in their concern for each other and for those who are in need. This is particularly evidenced by the work and role of the School Council and 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 another outstanding strength of the School. This was recognised by its recent Ofsted report and the section 48 inspectors wholeheartedly support this judgement.

What needs to be improved:

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

Overall, St Mary's Hare Park Primary School and Nursery is an outstanding School which displays many strengths. 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 inspirational and committed leadership of the Headteacher and her leadership team and to the valued support and expertise of her staff and trustees.