



## **DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**



### **Inspection Report**

**Name of School: St Winefride's Catholic Primary School**

**School no.(DfES): 316/3508 URN: 102774**

**Inspection Date: 4th December 2009**

**Reporting Inspectors: Miss 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: 322  
Local Authority: Newham  
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body

School Address:  
Church Road,  
Manor Park,  
London E12 6HB  
Tel. no. 020 8478 0510  
Fax no. 020 85146612  
Chair of Governors: Mr Tony Fernandes  
Headteacher: Mr Paul Underwood

### **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, Parish Priest, 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 Winefride's Catholic Primary,  
Church Road,  
Manor Park,  
London E12 6HB  
Essex CM8 1DX**

**Head Teacher: Mr Paul Underwood**

**Date of Inspection: 4th December 2009**

### **Description of the School:**

St Winefride's is a Voluntary Aided Catholic school situated in the London Borough of Newham under the Trusteeship of the Diocese of Brentwood. It is a one and half form entry school with a nursery, located adjacent to the parish church of St Stephen. It serves the parish of St Stephen and St Nicholas, Manor Park. The school is one of the oldest in the Diocese of Brentwood, celebrating its centenary in, and throughout, 2009/10. St Winefride's is a very popular school and oversubscribed, with 322 pupils, 100% of whom are Catholics. The School is located in the ward of Little Ilford which is classed as an area of high deprivation. The majority of pupils are of Black African and Caribbean background and the remainder are mostly Eastern European background or of Asian minority ethnic heritage. A well above average number of pupils speak English as an additional language.

### **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 5 lessons.
- Scrutiny of pupils' work.
- Meetings with the Head Teacher, the Deputy Head Teacher, the RE Co-ordinator, the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors, the Parish Priest, AHT/ SENCO, Learning Mentor, and members of the School Council.
- Participation in a whole School act of collective worship (Achievement Assembly), two Prayer Services, with the parish priest, and a Bible Group.
- Observation of R.E. Displays in the Class rooms and around the School.

### **What the School does well:**

St Winefride's continues to be an outstanding Catholic School which displays numerous strengths. It is very firmly committed to developing its Catholic identity under the inspirational and outstanding leadership of its Head Teacher, who is well supported by his hard-working leadership team, experienced and dedicated

Governors, generous and enthusiastic parish priest and highly motivated and committed staff.

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 well resourced, fully implemented and supported throughout the School by outstanding displays. The 'Before You Begin' element of the process is securely embedded at the beginning of each topic. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is used effectively to enhance the quality of lessons.

The overall quality of teaching and learning in R.E. ranges from good to outstanding. Lessons are well planned with many different teaching styles employed. In the lessons observed the pupils were on task, engaged, highly motivated, and enjoying their R.E. Behaviour, throughout the School, is outstanding. Pupils are enthusiastic, purposeful and work well together. They display a mature familiarity with RE vocabulary. Unique to St Winefride's there is an effective method of rewarding or sanctioning pupils' behaviour and achievement which includes the use of a 'reflection zone'; with a greater emphasis on rewards, partly through the introduction of a weekly games room. The weekly Achievement Assembly, conducted in the parish church, is most effective and permits parents, and parishioners, to be part of the celebration of achievement.

Assessment in R.E. is consistent in all year groups. The R.E. co-ordinator has worked hard to develop methods and forms of assessment that are tailor-made for the School. She is developing Assessment Tracker to identify and pursue individual pupil needs and progress. The leadership and management of R.E. by the Subject Co-ordinator is excellent. She monitors lessons and is very supportive of all staff, teachers and teacher assistants. Good links have been developed, and are developing, between R.E.. the liturgical life of the school, Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education. The Diocesan developmental programme *A Journey in Love* is well bedded into the annual provision of the School.

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 feast days and the School's links with the parish are all strengths of St Winefride's. Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and Holy Communion illustrates the strong links between parish and school with many teachers assisting as catechists and the school facilities being used for parents' meetings. (Five members of staff are Eucharistic Ministers in the parish). There is a voluntary Mass, in the parish church, every Wednesday, which is well attended by pupils and parents. The Mass is prepared by each class in turn. The R.E. provision is further enhanced by the introduction of Bible Reading and Reflection groups. Prayer is high on the school's agenda and each class-room has a prayer focus table with appropriate artefacts.

The recently revisited Mission Statement is Christocentric and more child-friendly in expression. It is proving an excellent focus for pupils and staff.

The experienced Chair and Vice-Chair of Governors are enthusiastic and totally dedicated to the School. The outstanding and tangible Catholic ethos of the School, often commented on by outside visitors, like the local MP and Cabinet minister, Stephen Timms, underpins everything the School does. This is subscribed to by all the stakeholders; not only the governors, Head teacher and his staff, but also the parents who demonstrate a high regard and appreciation of the school. They played a leading role in the recent Centenary celebrations; have formed their own choir and enjoy the weekly coffee mornings in the school hall. They benefit from a lively and informative weekly newsletter. The parents play no small part in the School's fund-raising, for the King Solomon School in Ghana, the Royal British Legion, FOSW and CAFOD. For the latter, earlier in the year, the School raised an astonishing and record-breaking £8,000.

The elected members of the School Council made clear and articulate reports of their generous service to the community. They are proud of their achievements and equally proud of their School. They explained how many children are involved in service to the school community through Peer Mediators, Play Leaders and Monitors. The Council shared their appreciation of the many extra curricular clubs and activities on offer, principally, Fencing, Dance, Salsa, Latin, Choir, Craft Club, Puzzle Club, ICT Club and Sports Club. The Choir have performed at the Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican and the Brentwood Centre.

The evidence of community cohesion and the School's involvement in the life of the local community abound. The inspectors agree wholeheartedly with the Section 5 Ofsted report(2009) that commented 'the school has a clear policy to promote community cohesion and pupils' contributions to community cohesion are outstanding'. There is no doubt that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is an outstanding strength of the School.

### **What needs to be improved:**

The inspectors endorse the few areas identified for improvement in the Self-Evaluation Form.

Overall, St. Winefride's Primary School continues to be an outstanding Catholic School which displays numerous 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 enlightened and committed leadership of the Head teacher and his Leadership Team and to the valued support of the parish priest and the expertise of his staff and governors.