



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD

Denominational (S48) Inspection Report

Name of School: St Augustine's Catholic Primary School
Local Authority: Redbridge
Inspection Date: 10th October 2018
Reporting Inspector: Pamela Brannigan

This Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 and 2011.

Type of School: Primary with Nursery
School Category: VA
Age range of pupils: 3 – 11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 462
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous inspection: October 2013

School Address:
Cranbrook Road
Barkingside
Ilford
IG2 6RG

Tel. No. 0208 5543453
Headteacher: Mr Pius Olorunfe-Oju
Chair of Governors: Mrs Brenda McEwen

Information about the school

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is two form entry with nursery situated in the Local Authority of Redbridge and part of the Diocese of Brentwood. The school serves the parishes of St Augustine's, Barkingside; St John Vianney, Clayhall; St John the Baptist, Ilford and The Assumption, Hainault. There are currently 437 pupils aged 3 - 11 on roll as well as 25 in the nursery on a part time basis. The majority of pupils are from a wide range of ethnic minority backgrounds with 58% speaking English as an additional language. 91% of pupils are Catholics with the remainder coming from other Christian denominations, other faiths or none. 63% of the teachers are Catholics and six have the CCRS or similar qualification. The proportion of pupils with special needs is around the national average. The school provides extended services to support families and pupils with a wide range of activities including breakfast and after school clubs. The school is a member of Redbridge Education Partnership and works closely with two teacher training organisations.

Key grades for inspection

1: Outstanding 2: Good 3: Requires improvement 4: Inadequate

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Grade 1

St Augustine's is an outstanding school with leadership which is highly effective in promoting its Catholic life. Prayer and Collective Worship are an integral part of the school's daily life and central to the spiritual and moral development of pupils. Outcomes for pupils are very good with provision for all abilities and needs. Members of the senior leadership team offer good support to new and less experienced teachers. The newly appointed subject leader, along with the parish priest from St Augustine's Barkingside, who is the link governor for Religious Education, monitor teaching and learning effectively leading to good and improving standards of attainment. Parents praise the school, the way their children are supported in their faith journey and the approachability of staff.

What the school should do to improve further:

- Continue to develop assessment and moderation in line with diocesan recommendations.
- Continue to give pupils additional opportunities to plan and lead Collective Worship.

CATHOLIC LIFE

Grade 1

At St Augustine's, pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school to a very great extent. School leaders ensure pupils have opportunities to take on responsibilities to develop the Catholic character of the school through membership of the school council, as house captains and as prefects. Pupils spoken to have a strong sense of belonging to a Catholic community and value the ethos of the school and the many opportunities they have to contribute to its Catholic life through service to the school. They understand that all pupils share responsibility for caring for each other and can link this to Christ's command to 'Love one another as I have loved you'. Pupils are also given opportunities to help the wider community through visits to the local care home, carol singing and charitable fund raising. They are invited to identify charities they wish to support and in recent years these have included Brentwood Catholic Children's Society, Redbridge Night Shelter and Redbridge Refugee Association.

Provision for the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. The school's mission statement, 'Following Jesus, our school family shows love and respect for one another and the world around us', is central to its work. All members of the community are familiar with it and staff are fully committed to its implementation across the curriculum and the wider life of the school. A wide range of assemblies and

Collective Worship are part of the school's provision and each class has the opportunity to attend Mass with the parish community on a weekly basis. Many parents join their children on these occasions giving a strong sense of home, school, parish community links. Newly appointed 'Liturgical Leaders' read bidding prayers and lead singing at Mass and other pupils act as altar servers. All staff promote high standards of behaviour and are excellent role models for pupils. Pastoral care includes meeting the needs of staff as well as pupils and aims to promote the Catholic life of the school. A range of staff members spoken to said they were well supported in their work and offered additional training when appropriate. They said they were included in all aspects of the Catholic life of the school and communication is very good. The Religious Education curriculum is delivered through the 'Come and See' programme and is enhanced by the 'Journey in Love' scheme. A counsellor from Brentwood Catholic Children's Services provides support for children and families dealing with stressful situations including bereavement and emotional difficulties.

Leaders and governors are most effective in promoting the Catholic life of the school. This is demonstrated by the way self-evaluation and the school improvement plan are explicitly focused on Catholic life and aim to enhance current provision. Leaders monitor and evaluate provision and outcomes in order to plan future improvements. Continuing professional development is offered to all staff and is engaging, well planned and effective. Recently, the new subject leader along with her predecessor attended diocesan courses linked to the new framework and assessment. Leaders provide models of good practice by demonstration lessons and support in planning and assessment. Governors make a highly significant contribution to Catholic life by their commitment and involvement in school activities. The local parish priest who is the link governor for Religious Education, assists in monitoring and acts as an additional teaching resource. He works collaboratively with the Headteacher and subject leader to ensure the Church's mission in education permeates the life of the school.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grade 2

Religious Education at St Augustine's is good and improving. Most pupils achieve well and enjoy their learning. They make good progress - some from a low starting point - and behaviour for learning is excellent. In lessons, pupils are actively engaged and keen to contribute to discussions. They enjoy a range of activities and say they like Religious Education. They are religiously literate and can think ethically and theologically. Pupils are encouraged to respond to marking and feedback as well as evaluating their own work. This is leading to well-motivated pupils who strive to do their best and achieve well. Workbooks are well presented and show coverage of the curriculum and a range of activities. By the end of Key Stage 2, standards in Religious Education meet and sometimes exceed diocesan expectations.

The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education is good. Teachers consistently plan lessons linked to pupils' current assessments which enables good progress to occur. A variety of teaching styles ensure all pupils engage fully with lessons. Tasks are differentiated to enable all pupils to achieve well. The curriculum is delivered in creative ways including art, music and information technology. Good quality resources, including class sets of bibles, are used effectively to engage interest and enable pupils to become familiar with Scripture. Developmental marking points the way to further improvement and teachers new to Catholic schools are well supported. All teachers are encouraged to undertake the CCRS course and six have this qualification. In-service training linked to Religious Education is leading to teachers with very good subject knowledge. Teaching assistants are used well to support individuals and groups of pupils. The subject leader is currently refining the assessment process in line with diocesan guidelines.

School leaders and governors ensure that the Religious Education curriculum meets the requirements of the Bishops' Conference and at least 10% of curriculum time is devoted to the subject. The headteacher along with senior leadership and the subject leader ensure that well targeted planning is effective in raising attainment across the school. Religious education has full parity with other core curriculum subjects, including provision for professional development and resourcing. The new subject

leader supported by her predecessor and the headteacher has a clear vision for teaching and learning and has put in place a rigorous system for monitoring and evaluation which is leading to good outcomes for all groups of pupils. The link governor ensures the whole governing body is aware of developments in Religious Education and monitors pupils' work books every term. Parents are kept informed of the content of the Religious Education curriculum through a termly newsletter which outlines the topics for the term including religious events and Holy Days of Obligation. Parents also receive guidance on Religious Education homework which is designed to encourage discussion and reflection.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Grade 1

Pupils respond whole-heartedly to Collective Worship at St Augustine's whether at Mass, in class or during assemblies. Collective Worship occurs regularly through the week from the Monday morning 'Gospel Assembly' led by the Headteacher through class-based liturgies which include pupils' own prayers and a Friday celebration assembly. During the inspection, a Key Stage 1 hymn practice included references to October as the month of the Rosary which is being introduced as a lunchtime devotion. The Key Stage 2 'Gospel Assembly' led by the Headteacher and Liturgy Leaders, focused on Jesus welcoming the children. Pupils were invited to identify groups who, like children, need God's help in today's society and responded with sensitivity and understanding. Singing was excellent. Pupils are given opportunities to participate at Mass by reading bidding prayers and acting as altar servers. However, pupils would benefit from additional opportunities to plan and lead Collective Worship in their classrooms.

Collective Worship at St Augustine's is central to the life of the school and has a clear message and direction. Prayer is included in every celebration and staff have a good understanding of the Church's liturgical year, which is reflected in assemblies and in classroom prayer tables. The feast days of the four house saints are celebrated in assemblies leading to an understanding of the beliefs and values of the Church. Pupils are reflective and act with reverence during Collective Worship. Parents are kept informed of Collective Worship and the Catholic life of the school through weekly newsletters where key messages of Sunday's Gospel and their relevance to the school community are explored. Parents are frequently invited to Masses and other celebrations. The newsletter also includes a prayer for the week which is used at school in Collective Worship. Services of reconciliation are part of Collective Worship during Lent and pupils also visit St Augustine's church for 'Stations of the Cross'.

Leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship by giving a high priority to the planning of quality and delivery of liturgies and assemblies. They ensure all staff are given guidance on liturgical formation and the planning of Collective Worship. Leaders are visible and committed role models for the whole school community and have an extensive understanding of the Church's liturgical year with its seasons and feasts. School leaders and governors, including the local parish priest, regularly review Collective Worship as part of their self-evaluation processes.