



## **DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**



### **Inspection Report**

**Name of School: Our Lady of Lourdes**

**LEA: Redbridge**

**Inspection Date: 7th July 2015**

**Reporting Inspector: Pamela Brannigan**

**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: 460**  
**Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body**  
**Date of previous inspection: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

**School Address:**  
**Chestnut Drive**  
**Wanstead**  
**London**  
**E11 2TA**

**Tel. No. 020 8989 9521**  
**Headteacher: Mr E. Cottle**  
**Chair of Governors: Dr G. Elgin**

## **Information about the school**

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School with nursery is a voluntary aided school in the London borough of Wanstead and part of the diocese of Brentwood. It serves the parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes Wanstead and St Anne Line South Woodford. There are currently 460 pupils aged 3-11 on roll. The proportion of Catholic pupils is almost 100%. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds with a small number coming from a range of ethnic minority groups. A small number of pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs is below the national average as is the number of pupils who receive the pupil premium.

### **Key grades for inspection**

1: Outstanding    2: Good    3: Satisfactory    4: Unsatisfactory

## **Overall effectiveness of this Catholic school**

**Grade 2**

Our Lady of Lourdes is a good school with a strong Catholic ethos. The school has put in place very good provision for prayer and collective worship. Outcomes for pupils are good and the capacity for sustained improvement is also good. Opportunities for spiritual and moral development are interwoven through religious education, prayer and an understanding of what it means to be part of a Catholic community. Senior leaders show a strong commitment to the Catholic life of the school as well as teaching, learning, assessment and monitoring. Pastoral care is very good and shared by all members of the school community. Parish links are very good with pupils from the school leading a family mass each month. Relationships are good and pupils feel well cared for and appreciate opportunities given to be involved in many aspects of school life. Parents welcome the Catholicity of the school and appreciate the good communication with staff as well as the wide range of extra-curricular activities available for pupils. Pupils' standards of attainment are in line with diocesan expectations.

## **The school's capacity for sustained improvement**

**Grade 2**

The school has a good capacity for sustained improvement. Since the last inspection in 2006 the school has adopted the 'Come and See' programme which together with the implementation of the agreed understanding of levels of attainment in religious education has informed lesson planning. Staff inset linked to assessment is leading to sustained improvement. Marking is positive and in some year groups enables pupils to identify next steps in their learning. The subject leader is experienced and works hard to support colleagues. The school gives a high profile to religious education and has put in place strategies to share good practice.

The senior leadership team have a clear vision for the Catholicity of the school and the central place of prayer, worship and religious education. Senior leaders give all staff opportunities to extend their knowledge and improve their skills through meetings and attendance at diocesan led training. Governors know the school well and are well placed to fulfil their role in relation to the school's Catholic foundation. The Chair of governors is also the link governor for religious education and is closely involved with all aspects of school life. Governors have attended staff training for the religious education programme as well as supporting links with both parishes.

The current leadership has a good capacity to maintain effectiveness. The new headteacher is working with colleagues to put in place strategies to raise achievement and improve teaching. Systems are being put in place to develop and strengthen initiatives which lead to good outcomes for all pupils. The subject leader is experienced and has attended diocesan training linked to the 'Com and See' religious education scheme which she has disseminated to colleagues.

## What the school should do to improve further

- Develop in-school moderation of levels of attainment to increase staff confidence in accurate assessment.
- Ensure that marking of work across the school enables pupils to identify the next steps in their learning.
- Ensure that the religious education curriculum is fully covered in every year group.
- Purchase sets of bibles for Key Stage 2 to ensure pupils have easy access to and familiarity with scripture.
- Provide additional opportunities for pupils to plan and lead collective worship

## Outcomes for pupils

### Grade 2

Attainment and progress in religious education are good. Lessons observed during the inspection were mostly good and pupils worked with interest and commitment. Pupils spoken to said they enjoy their religious education lessons and appreciate the wide range of tasks involved. They are eager to participate in activities and work well together whether in groups or pairs. They have a good knowledge of the Catholic faith appropriate to their age and are able to integrate religious ideas into their own lives. Most workbooks are well presented although in some year groups there is insufficient coverage of the curriculum. Although marking is generally positive, in some year groups pupils are not told how to improve their work. 'Next steps' marking should be extended over all of Key Stages 1 and 2. However, there is evidence of good progress made by all groups. Standards of attainment are in line with diocesan expectations.

Pupils make a good contribution to the Catholic life of the school. They respond very well to opportunities to understand the needs of others in school and the wider community. They are keen to take on responsibilities including playground friends, 'Guardian Angels,' 'Early Years Shepherds and as school ambassadors. Several local, national and international charities are supported throughout the year including Christian Kitchen, Macmillan Cancer Care, Christian Aid and Cafod. The parish youth co-ordinator runs a 'Cafod Club' where issues of social justice and care for the environment are discussed with Key Stage 2 pupils who then lead an assembly on the themes each term. Pupils show respect for adults and each other. Behaviour is very good and pupils value the sense of community and belonging created within the school.

Prayer and worship are central to school life. Pupils respond very positively to opportunities to develop their faith journey. They are eager to take part in assemblies and class acts of worship. They have an understanding of the liturgical year, its seasons and celebrations. Pupils are developing the ability to pray in different ways and at different times. They use scripture, the traditional prayers of the church, meditation and their own prayers, examples of which were seen during the inspection. The parish youth co-ordinator supervises the school chapel which is available for Key Stage 2 pupils during Friday lunchtimes for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by a short prayer service. In May and October the Rosary is said and other devotions including the Stations of the Cross are included throughout the year. On Wednesdays there is a staff liturgy before school which pupils are invited to attend. Each class has an attractive prayer focus as well as display board for pupils' work which reflects the current topic being studied. Older pupils are able to apply aspects of Jesus' life and teaching to their own lives and understand that a sense of service is part of being a member of a Catholic community.

Pastoral care is very good and given a high priority by staff and governors who work closely together to promote the spiritual development of pupils and the Catholic life of the community. Pupils feel safe, well cared for and know where to go when they need support. For some years Our Lady of Lourdes school has been part of the UNICEF's 'Right Respecting Schools' movement where pupils are given a clear understanding of the responsibilities which go along with those rights. Pupils value being in a friendly environment where they are listened to and encouraged to help each other. Parents value the care given to their children, the quality of education and the approachability of staff.

The headteacher supported by senior staff demonstrates leadership of the school through the way he promotes the provision for its Catholic life. He has an understanding of the school's areas for development which he is eager to share with staff. Governors support him in this and are committed to providing the best possible environment for the pupils. The development of Catholic life is seen as central to all that happens and gospel values underpin all decision making. There is a strong commitment both to improve in all aspects of education and to provide high quality care and support for pupils. Together the headteacher and leadership team have a good knowledge of areas for development in religious education.

Senior leaders monitor religious education by means of lesson observations, work scrutiny and joint planning which is followed by feedback to individual teachers. There is currently an emphasis on planning and assessment as the school consolidates the implementation of the 'Come and See' religious education programme and the updated Curriculum Directory. The school is putting in place strategies to give further challenge to the ablest children. Many teaching assistants play a key role in the school but are not usually included in planning. Most teachers have good subject knowledge and five of them have the CCRS qualification.

Governors are closely involved with the school and have a good understanding of strengths and areas for development. They are well informed through the headteacher's report, meetings with subject leaders and frequent visits. They have a wide range of expertise and are well placed to challenge and support effectively. The governing body includes members of both parishes who help to ensure strong links are maintained. They are fully committed to the Church's mission in education.

Leaders ensure that the school is a welcoming community where everyone is respected and valued. Diversity is celebrated and pupils are taught to respect other faiths which are well taught. Pupils are given good opportunities to develop a sense of service and show compassion for others through charitable fund raising and involvement in the local community. Opportunities for spiritual development ensure that pupils are able to reflect on their own lives and experiences. Links with Our Lady of Lourdes parish are very good and the parish Youth Worker leads the Cafod group as well as supporting classroom religious education. Parents are invited to many school events and are kept well informed about their children's welfare and progress. They appreciate the good level of contact with the school.

**Provision****Grade 2**

The quality of teaching and learning in religious education is good. During the inspection most lessons observed were good. They are planned with clear learning intentions and an interesting range of activities. The school has made a major investment in resources and pupils benefit from the wide range of activities involved. Additional sets of bibles in Key Stage 2 classes would give pupils greater familiarity with scripture. In the classes observed pupils worked well and made good progress. Teachers respond well to pupils' comments and take opportunities to develop understanding. Higher order questioning was a feature of some lessons observed. At its best, marking is positive, interactive and includes suggestions of ways to improve. Assessment, planning and tracking supports the learning and progress of all groups of pupils.

The quality of the religious education curriculum is good. At least 10% of curriculum time is devoted to religious education. The religious education programme 'Come and See' has been in place for a year and is currently being embedded. The headteacher gives religious education a central place in the life of the school and this is demonstrated by the budget devoted to it and the current level of resources. Religious education displays around the school emphasise the centrality of faith to the work of the community. The curriculum enables pupils to become aware of their responsibility for each other and their environment. It contributes very well to their spiritual and moral development. The support given to families through a wide range of extra curricular activities gives a strong sense of community to the school. There is every indication that current standards are likely to be maintained or improved.

Provision for prayer and worship at Our Lady of Lourdes is very good. Assemblies and liturgies are well planned and contribute to pupils' spiritual development. They often include visual presentations, bible readings drama, singing and music. Pupils are involved in collective worship in their classrooms and are given opportunities for personal reflection. There are currently plans to give pupils greater opportunities to plan and lead worship. Each classroom has a prayer focus with religious artefacts and display boards which include children's work. Masses and age appropriate liturgies are celebrated in school throughout the year. There is a chapel in a shared parish building available for parents, pupils and classes. The priest from Our Lady of Lourdes parish supports the school through masses, liturgies and acts as chaplain on an informal basis. Masses take place in school although pupils visit the church to develop their knowledge of Catholic traditions. Parish links are very good with many pupils acting as altar servers.

The inspector would like to express her thanks and appreciation to all members of the school community for their welcome and openness during the inspection.