



## **DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**



### **Inspection Report**

**Name of School: St John Payne Catholic Comprehensive School**

**Local Authority: Essex**

**Unique Reference Number: 115238**

**Inspection Date: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

**Reporting Inspectors: Mr Derek Kelly and Mgr George Stokes**

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

Type of School: Comprehensive  
School Category: Voluntary Aided  
Age range of pupils: 11 - 18  
Gender of pupils: Mixed  
Number on roll: 1142  
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body  
Date of previous inspection: February 2010

School Address:  
Patching Hall Lane  
Chelmsford  
Essex CM1 4BS  
Tel. No. 01245 256030  
Fax No. 01245 352337  
Chair of Governors: Alistair Whipps  
Headteacher: Antony Schular

**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 the Governors, Headteacher, Staff and Students 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 John Payne Catholic Comprehensive School  
Patching Hall Lane  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM1 4BS**

**Head Teacher:                    Antony Schular**

**Date of Inspection:            13<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

**Description of the School:**

St John Payne is a Voluntary Aided Catholic Comprehensive School situated in Chelmsford in the County of Essex and serves the Mid-Essex Deanery of the Diocese of Brentwood. It is a larger-than-average mixed, comprehensive, specialist technology and leadership partner school. The school has Investors in People status.

### **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 six complete lessons.
- Participation in a Year 7 Assembly.
- Scrutiny of students' work.
- Meetings with the Headteacher, Head of Religious Education (R.E.), Chair of Governors, Chaplain and the School Council.
- Observations of R.E. displays in the classrooms and around the school.

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

St John Payne School is an outstanding Catholic school and is focused on further developing its Catholic identity, as stated in the Mission Statement; ‘...each member of the community is afforded every opportunity to realise his or her full potential, which is to be a true imitator of Jesus Christ who himself said: “Love one another as I have loved you.” The Catholic life of the school is promoted extremely effectively under the excellent leadership of its committed Headteacher, who is very well supported by the Senior Leadership Team, the Head of Religious Studies, the Chaplain, Governors, Staff, Students and Deanery Priests.

Religious Education is an area of high focus in the school. The R.E. curriculum is based on the ICONS programme of study in Key Stage 3, which is well modified to meet students' needs. Planning and monitoring systems successfully ensure comprehensive coverage of the R.E. curriculum. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is used very effectively to enhance the R.E. curriculum.

Overall, the quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. The majority of lessons observed were outstanding with none less than good. The lessons engaged students through a wide range of challenging learning activities, which included opportunities for students to develop their understanding and knowledge through peer discussion, group problem-solving activities using drama and independent study. Expectations are set that students contribute significantly to their own learning. Lessons are well planned, with appropriate opportunities for peer and self-assessment, which informs students of how well they have achieved. The Head of Religious Studies and the Senior Leadership Team has a continuing focus on developing assessment to enhance learning for students. Behaviour in classes and throughout the school is excellent.

The school meets both the national and diocesan requirements for the allocation of curriculum time for taught R.E. of 10% at Key Stages 3 and 4.

The very effective displays and resources in the classrooms and around the school fully support the students' learning.

St John Payne School displays an outstanding Catholic ethos. Students value, appreciate and benefit enormously from the Catholic life and ethos of the school and, in a wide variety of ways, make an impressive contribution to it. The students' generous response to the needs of others beyond the school, coupled with their willingness to accept and value difference, makes a valuable contribution to the tolerance and harmony of the whole community. Many take part in the enrichment activities, which include, peer mentoring, Debating Society, E-Merge and Justice and Peace groups led by an impressive team of Chaplaincy prefects. Volunteering for Columbus School is a strength. Others are involved in fund raising for a variety of charities including CAFOD through the inception of the Lenten Challenge by the school and the Haiti Appeal. Outreach to the more vulnerable includes volunteering for the HCPT Pilgrimage Trust, donating to Operation Christmas Child and Harvest for the Hungry. The School Council is active and students feel their voice is heard in the school.

The provision for and response to collective worship and prayer life is excellent, animated by an inspiring chaplaincy team. Students are prayerful, reverent and willing participants in the spiritual and liturgical life of the school. The weekly Mass during lunch break is well supported and is prepared by each Form in turn. The Eucharist is at the centre of this community. Prayer is a regular part of daily life, in R.E. lessons, assemblies and at the beginning of staff meetings.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the students is outstanding. The Religious Education curriculum makes a significant contribution to the students' spiritual and moral development. Generous outreach to the local community, as well as response to global needs through the many charities the school supports is an impressive living out of the values of the Gospel. The provision for community cohesion is exemplary because it is rooted in an openness and welcome to all, which is at the heart of this school and one of its real strengths. Relationship education is dealt with sensitively and clearly, consistent with the teaching of the Church within the school's comprehensive Personal, Social & Health Education curriculum and Citizenship programme. The school is represented at the annual Catholic Schools Citizenship Awards ceremony at Brentwood Cathedral to acknowledge and celebrate the students' commitment to helping others.

The active St John Payne Parent Teacher Association organises a variety of fund raising and social events, in order to build community. The school values links with parents and carers, which it promotes through regular newsletters, consultation evenings and online reporting providing access to students' assessment records. The Governors of the school are very dedicated, hardworking and supportive of everything the school does.

**What needs to be improved?**

- To continue to develop Assessment For Learning to improve performance in all Key Stages as stated in the S48 Self-Evaluation Form.

The Inspectors endorse all the areas identified by the school for improvement in the Section 48 Self-Evaluation Form which they judge as accurate.

Overall, St John Payne School is an outstanding Catholic school. The school's capacity for sustained improvement is outstanding. A strong Catholic ethos permeates the life of the school. As a community the school is outward facing and shows care and concern for the communities to which it is linked.