



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

Name of School: St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

LEA: Essex. URN:115295

Inspection Dates: 20th May 2011

Reporting Inspectors: Ms. Colette Dawson and Mr. Derek Kelly

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: 4 - 11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 397
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous Inspection: March 2007

School Address:
Burney Drive
Loughton Essex IG10 2DY
Tel. No. 020 850 86315
Email: admin@st-johnfisher.essex.sch.uk
Chair of Governors: Mr. Paul Harold
Head teacher: Mrs. Jacqui Richards

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, Head teacher, 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 John Fisher Catholic Primary School,
Burney Drive
Loughton
Essex
IG10 2DY**

Head teacher: Mrs Jacqui Richards

Date of Inspection: 20th May 2011

Description of the School:

St John Fisher Primary School is a voluntary aided Catholic school situated in the County of Essex and under the Trusteeship of the Diocese of Brentwood. It is a larger than average sized school located in an area of increased social deprivation on the borders of London and Essex. The school was founded by the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, the Chigwell Sisters. The present building was opened in 1996. The school serves the parishes of Debden, Loughton and further afield, Epping, Waltham Abbey and southwest Ongar.

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 lessons.
- Scrutiny of pupils' work.
- Meetings with the Head teacher who is also the Religious Education Subject Leader, the Deputy Head teacher, three of the Governors, and the School Council, and a telephone conversation with the parish priest of St Edmund of Canterbury, Loughton.
- Participation in a whole school assembly
- Observations of R.E. Displays in the Class rooms and around the school.

What the School does well:

St John Fisher is an outstanding Catholic 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 Governors, highly motivated Staff, Pupils and the Priests from the parishes.

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. The staff clearly understand the **'Here I Am'** process and use it effectively to provide a high quality and stimulating curriculum. Each R.E. topic is linked to other areas of the curriculum and this is an outstanding strength of St John Fisher School. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is used effectively to enhance the quality of lessons.

The overall quality of teaching and learning in R. E. is outstanding. Lessons are well planned and learning objectives are stated, explained and revisited. In 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. Subject Leader who is the Head teacher is outstanding, she is very well supported by the Deputy 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. She

conducts pupil interviews which give evidence that the children are engaging with their R.E. and are enthusiastic about their work.

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 parishes, are all strengths of St John Fisher School. In the course of the Inspection the inspectors participated in a vibrant whole school assembly. The liturgical seasons, especially those of Advent and Christmas and Lent and Easter, are high points in the School's calendar.

St John Fisher School promotes an outstanding and tangible Catholic ethos. This is subscribed to by all the stakeholders – Governors, 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 another outstanding strength of the school.

Displays and artefacts in R.E. in the classrooms and around the school are excellent.

St John Fisher Primary School 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 weekly newsletter and a termly letter to parents informing them of the '**Here I Am**' topics to be covered during the term. There is a proactive Parent, Teachers Association which is dedicated to providing enjoyable social and fundraising events. The governors of the school are very dedicated, hardworking and supportive of everything the school does. The Leadership by the Chair of Governors and school governance in general are both outstanding and major strengths of the school.

Pupils are given every opportunity to become responsible citizens. 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 an 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?

The areas requiring improvement are those highlighted by the Section 48 Self Evaluation Form.

Overall, St John Fisher Primary School is an outstanding Catholic 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 strong and committed leadership of the Head teacher and her Leadership Team and to the valued support and expertise of her staff and governors.