



Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for
**Our Lady Of Grace Catholic Infant and Nursery
 School**

URN: 146721

Carried out on behalf of the Title. **Cardinal Vincent Nichols**, Archbishop of Westminster on:

Date: 25 - 26 May 2023

Overall effectiveness The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school.....	1
Catholic life and mission (p.3) How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.....	1
Religious education (p.5) The quality of curriculum religious education.....	1
Collective worship (p.7) The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.....	1
The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference	✓
The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop	✓
The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection	Fully

Summary of key findings

What the school does well

- All the members of Our Lady of Grace School community joyfully live out their mission 'we are learning to grow and love like Jesus'.
- There is a focus on providing a wide range of creative opportunities in the teaching of religious education and this enhances pupils' enjoyment of the subject.
- Relationships throughout the school are based on the highest levels of care and respect.
- Pupils respond reverently to prayer and worship, using the messages from prayer sessions to guide their day-to-day actions.

- The newly appointed RE leader is committed to ensuring high standards in RE and shows a passion for this subject.

What the school needs to improve:

- Encourage pupil confidence and independence when leading acts of worship.
- Ensure planning is consistently linked to pupils' current knowledge and understanding in RE lessons, so they all are being stretched and challenged.
- Prepare for the implementation of the new *Religious Education Directory* in time for 2025.

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade:.....	1
Pupil outcomes The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school	1
Provision The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school	1
Leadership How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school	1

Catholic life and mission at Our Lady of Grace Infants is outstanding. Pupils, parents, staff and governors speak of Our Lady of Grace as a community which they are proud to belong to. All members of this community embrace the mission of the school – ‘we are learning to grow and love like Jesus’ - living this out on a daily basis. The school shows a commitment to responding to the needs of others, led by their group of Mini Vinnies. Such examples include fundraising for Jeans for Genes Day, Macmillan Coffee Morning, The Catholic Children’s Society and donating books to children in need in Ghana. These initiatives show how the community proactively seeks opportunities to help the less fortunate. Pupils can explain why they are taking part in these fundraising initiatives and are able to clearly articulate the theology that underpins their actions. The Mini Vinnies talk enthusiastically about their ‘buddy bench’ and how they use this to help others in their school community; they referred to how they are ‘stewards like the Good Samaritan’. Pupils respond to the Catholic Social Teaching principles and this was evident through both RE lessons and prayer sessions, even with the youngest children in the nursery.

There is a lived sense of community at Our Lady of Grace Infants and this is evident in the strong quality of relationships. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the Catholic life of the school and happily contribute to this. One parent commented that, ‘the school provides a warm, inclusive and supportive environment for my children to learn and grow. My children feel happy and safe at school and they care about their friends and their environment, as well as the morals they learn both at home and school.’ The staff feel privileged to be a part of this community and this is shown in the high levels of care they show for one another and the pupils. ‘The Catholic life is woven throughout all that we do’ commented one staff member, and this thread continually came through in both conversations and staff surveys. The school has recently developed a garden space, ‘the happy garden’, and uses several outdoor spaces for prayer and reflection opportunities, helping to promote and celebrate its

Catholic nature. The website, with the use of QR codes, is very well utilised and gives parents and the wider community the opportunity to celebrate the Catholic life of the school.

The head teacher and senior leaders, including the RE lead share a vision for ensuring that the Catholic life is central to this community. They are well supported by a committed governing body who fully support the school in its core mission. The parish priest from St Mary and St Andrew supports the school very well by leading liturgies and Masses throughout the year; he regularly spends time in the school. New staff are supported and provided with high quality professional development opportunities; staff are encouraged and supported to complete the CCRS qualification. The RE lead is new to the role and passionate about ensuring the pupils are immersed in the Catholic faith. The whole school reflects the vision of the leadership team. The school and parish work extremely well together and have a deep partnership which further builds on the Catholic life of the school community. Pupil leadership has been very well developed over recent years and they have a clear vision of their role which they say is 'to make the world a better place.'

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade:.....

1

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education.....

1

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education.....

2

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor, and evaluate the provision for religious education.....

1



Pupils have a secure knowledge and understanding of their faith; they can discuss their learning and are confident in sharing what they have learnt in lessons. Staff provide a rich and varied range of creative opportunities to engage pupils in this subject including art, drama and music. Additional adults are used effectively to support pupils' learning. In lessons, pupils demonstrate effective use of prior knowledge when making links between religious ideas. Pupils speak positively about RE, are actively engaged in their learning and aware of how to use what they learn in their lessons within everyday life. They make good progress across the school from their starting points. They are actively engaged in their learning and are aware of how to use what they learn in their lessons within everyday life. The youngest children receive a secure start to their school life in a happy, nurturing and stimulating environment that develops their religious understanding and vocabulary. Pupils are very well informed about the traditions and customs of both the Catholic faith and others.

Staff are enthusiastic about teaching RE and ensure it is given the highest priority; they value this subject and work hard to create a positive climate for learning. They are very well supported through the RE lead, senior leaders and excellent training opportunities. The use of art and creative approaches to support religious education is a strength of the school. Teacher questioning in lessons was good and the best examples provided pupils with opportunities to deepen their learning. In most lessons, planning was linked to pupils' current understanding in RE and this led to high levels of engagement and progress. The development of pupils' spiritual and moral development in lessons was evident with pupils being given time to reflect and think about their learning in RE. Marking and feedback to pupils has recently been improved and some good examples are evident in books. This now needs to be applied more consistently across the school.

The leadership team at Our Lady of Grace has a strong commitment to promoting high quality religious education. The RE lead has recently taken over the role and shows a comprehensive understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development alongside a passion for this subject. Carefully planned continuous professional development ensures that all staff are fully able to support pupils and deliver quality religious education lessons. These opportunities are not only provided within school, but through partnerships with the other schools in their Trust as well as with the Diocese. Staff speak of the excellent support they are given from senior leaders. Governors and the parish priest are committed to the school and know it well. They regularly conduct RE link visits, sharing the subject leader's passion in ensuring the highest quality religious education for all pupils. They provide challenge where needed to ensure improvements are made.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.

Collective worship key judgement grade:.....

1

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

1

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

1

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

1

Prayer and Liturgy are a central part of school life at Our Lady of Grace Infant School. There are many opportunities for pupils, staff and parents to engage in prayer and liturgy and to celebrate Mass. The liturgical year is joyfully celebrated and pupils have a strong understanding of the liturgical calendar. Pupils respond confidently in prayer sessions. Singing is an integral part of prayer and liturgy and pupils sing enthusiastically and beautifully. Scripture is used frequently in worship to help pupils better understand their mission and how to live their faith. Pupils use and understand a variety of types of prayer, such as meditation, silence and reflection time, as well as standard prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition. Liturgical prayer bags are shared to encourage family prayer at home, strengthening links with parents. Pupils participate fully in prayer sessions and are now ready to take on more of a lead role.

A range of creative worship experiences are offered to pupils. Prayer leaders are chosen on a rotational basis and provide pupils with opportunities to plan and help organise worship and prayer sessions. The prayer and liturgy experience for pupils shapes the choices they make and inspires them 'to follow in the footsteps of Jesus', a phrase articulated by several children. Parents attend and participate in class liturgies throughout the year. One parent commented, 'how joyful and emotional I felt in the Year 1 Pentecost liturgy; I loved every bit of it as a Muslim. My favourite part was the prayer.' This inclusive approach to prayer is evident throughout the school. Parents are proud of the prayer life of the school, with one parent commenting, 'Prayer is woven into all elements of school life. This encourages the children to learn morals and values and is demonstrated by the love and respect that the children show to each other and the staff.' Pupils are confident to put their faith into action through the mission they learn about in prayer and liturgy sessions. One child stated that 'we should help others no matter who they are and not expect anything in return; we should not boast about it as God knows.' The school uses spaces for prayer

very well, including the outdoor classroom, the happy garden and the shared open spaces each year group has.

The prayer and liturgy policy has recently been updated and provides clear guidance for staff. There is a 'progression in prayer' document that each year group follows. The RE lead and senior leaders ensure the school prayer and liturgy calendar reflects significant dates in the liturgical year. The parish priest is a regular visitor to the school and supports staff in developing their understanding of prayer and how to lead liturgy. He also helps to facilitate a range of prayer and worship opportunities throughout the year, including a Mass for each of the class saints. The strong links between school and parish mean that no opportunity to work together is missed. Leaders and governors, some of whom are members of the parish, have excellent knowledge of the needs of the community and work hard to ensure these are met. Governors prioritise the resourcing of prayer and liturgy when allocating budgets and the parish has recently contributed to resources to support the prayer life.

Information about the school

Full name of school	Our Lady of Grace Infant and Nursery School
School unique reference number (URN)	146721
Full postal address of the school	Dollis Hill Avenue, Dollis Hill NW2 6EU
School phone number	02084506757
Name of head teacher or principal	Philomena Bourne
Chair of governing board	Mary Ann Cooper
School Website	https://www.ologinfants.brent.sch.uk
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	All Saints Trust
Type of school	Infant
School category	Voluntary Aided
Age-range of pupils	3-7
Trustees	Click or tap here to enter text.
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	October 2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	1

The inspection team

Robina Maher	Lead inspector
Tracey Peters	Team inspector

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement