

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

The Limes Avenue, New Southgate, London N11 1RD



Date of inspection by Westminster Diocese: 3 February 2017

Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

A. Classroom religious education is good

- The school provides a well-planned and broad and balanced curriculum in religious education.
- The behaviour of pupils both in lessons and around the school is of the very highest standard and parents should be very proud of this.
- The religious education co-ordinator provides good leadership of the subject and has introduced some good new tracking and assessment systems.
- Teaching is at least good in all classes seen with some aspects of outstanding teaching also evident.
- New technologies are being well used in the school to enhance creativity and aid research.
- Teaching assistants and support staff are well deployed and help pupils of all abilities in their learning.
- Pupils get a good start to their school life in the Reception class in a bright, well maintained and attractive environment both indoors and outside.
- The leadership and management of classroom religious education strives to ensure that staff are well supported in teaching the subject.

Classroom religious education is not yet outstanding because

- Achievement of pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 is not high enough in comparison to other core subjects and requires improvement.

B. The Catholic life of the school is good

- The head, governors and all staff share a common vision and ambition for developing the Catholic life of the school.
- The school is a very well maintained and clearly Catholic learning environment. Classrooms are well laid out with prayer corners and there are some high quality displays of pupils work right across the school.
- Prayer and worship is a strength of the school and there are a wide range of liturgies provided across all key stages.
- Partnership with the diocese is good; the diocese provides very effective support to the school. Links are especially strong with parents.
- The work the school does around the Common Good is judged to be outstanding. Pupils' understanding of both the theology and knowledge that underpins this work is of a very high standard.
- Pupils all know and are proud to sing the school's Mission Statement.
- Governors are very keen to support and develop all aspects of the Catholic life of the school.

The Catholic life of the school is not yet outstanding because

- The school needs to extend further the opportunities for pupil led prayer, worship and liturgy.

A. Classroom Religious Education

What has improved since the last inspection?

The school has introduced a new religious education (RE) curriculum for the pupils and also ensured plentiful training opportunities for staff to implement this work and policy. Scripture is being well used in all classes to further enhance learning.

The content of classroom religious education is good

The school has a comprehensive RE curriculum that is linked to the Religious Education Curriculum Directory and is enhanced by additional RE resources. There is an annual programme in place to teach the pupils about other faiths such as Judaism. Planning seen was thorough and helped in delivering some high quality teaching. The school effectively utilises new technology such as laptops and cloud based learning to support creativity in the teaching of RE. The school also uses the 'Big Question' to allow pupils to respond and show progress in their understanding and learning.

Pupil achievement in religious education requires improvement

There has been a declining trend in achievement in RE at Key Stage 2 for the last three years and this requires improvement. For example last year 47% of pupils did not reach the required level in Year 6. Standards in RE are not currently comparable to the high standards in core subjects such as English and Maths and this needs addressing. The school has recently made some strong appointments to teaching posts in the school and this should lead to a rise in outcomes for pupils. The school has introduced a baseline entry system for pupils in the early years and also now has a comprehensive monitoring and tracking system for RE. The RE co-ordinator is leading on this and provides good support for other staff to develop their subject knowledge. Books are neat and generally well presented and the use of scripture is evident in most classes. Pupil's work is regularly assessed and is marked in accordance with school policy. The school has robust systems in place to moderate the standards of pupils work and ensure accuracy of judgements.

The quality of teaching is good

The quality of teaching seen in the school ranged from good to outstanding with no weak teaching observed in any class. Pupils get a good start in the Reception class in an attractive and well set out environment both indoors and outside. In one class seen there was excellent use being made of ICT to engage pupils in their learning. Pupils were able to do research and then write their own 'Prayers of Petition' which were of a high standard. Teaching assistants and support staff are effectively deployed to support the learning of pupils with differing abilities including those with special educational needs and disabilities. Teaching by the end of Key Stage 2 was of a high standard and this should impact quite quickly on overall achievement. A scrutiny of pupils' books showed generally good coverage of the curriculum and extensive feedback from teachers on how to improve work. In some classes there was an over reliance on worksheets and a lack of opportunity for extended writing. Pupils had positive attitudes to RE and were eager to respond to some good questions posed by teachers. Several lessons seen also provided a good level of challenge for the more able pupils. Behaviour in lessons and indeed all around the school was exemplary and of the very highest standard. Parents should be justifiably proud of their children's behaviour in this school.

The effectiveness of leadership and management in promoting religious education is good

The subject is being well led by an enthusiastic and experienced RE co-ordinator. She provides good support to all staff in developing their subject knowledge. Her work on introducing assessment systems is commendable and should lead to higher standards in the near future. The headteacher does challenge any underperformance of staff and is keen for the subject to have a high profile in the school. The governors do set performance targets related to both religious education and to the Catholic life of the school. They do however need to provide more challenge to the leadership of the school around the standards of pupil achievement, progress and outcomes.

What should the school do to develop further in classroom religious education?

- Raise the standards of pupil achievement at Key Stage 2.
- Develop further the new tracking and monitoring system in the school.

B. The Catholic life of the school

What has improved since the last inspection?

There have been a large number of developments since the previous inspection. These include allowing pupils to begin to plan and lead their own acts of worship in the classroom. The school has also developed the use of traditional prayers throughout the whole school. The school has also established a Marian grotto in the junior playground. This is being well used for whole school celebrations and feast days.

The place of religious education as the core of the curriculum

is good

There is 10% of curriculum time devoted to RE in every class. A generous budget is allocated to the subject every year and the school is well resourced and located in an attractive and tidy building. The school is clearly very committed to the teaching of Catholic religious education and this is evident from discussions with governors and the senior leadership team. In-service training opportunities are plentiful and induction procedures for new staff are rigorous.

The experience of Catholic worship – prayer and liturgy – for the whole school community

is good

Prayer and worship are central to the Catholic life of Our Lady of Lourdes. This is a strength of the school and is judged to be good. Pupils are provided with a range of opportunities for daily prayer and the school has a planned calendar of liturgies including celebration of the Eucharist at different times of the year. Pupils now have the chance to plan and participate in their own liturgies and acts of worship. The school is aware of the needs and traditions of other cultures and faiths. The traditional prayers of the church are taught from an early age and prayer is an intrinsic part of daily life. Pupils are provided with plentiful opportunities both collectively and individually for spiritual development. Some good quality contemplative class liturgies were seen during this inspection. There is a Marian grotto outside for prayer and quiet reflection and this is used at various times of the year.

The contribution to the Common Good – service and social justice

is outstanding

This aspect of school life is judged to be outstanding. This became clear following lesson observations and especially from a discussion with pupils. The teaching in lessons frequently linked to the theme of the Common Good in meaningful ways and pupils were highly articulate in expressing their thoughts and ideas. They equally had a very strong and secure knowledge of the theology underpinning this key area. Pupils are given ample opportunities to be of service around the school and are eager to participate in helping others. Examples range from head boy and girl, to monitors, to playground buddies and School Council. There are many more ways pupil can help and this is highly developed within the school. A wide and diverse range of charities are also supported by the school such as Mary's Meals, CAFOD and the London Air Ambulance. The school band and choir perform locally in the community and also in the local church. Pupils spoke warmly about a "Peace Flower" system used in the playground to resolve disputes and other issues that concern them. In class pupils link the theology of the Common Good very well to the lives and works of famous people and also to scripture from the New Testament. This is highly effective practice and is judged to be outstanding.

The partnership with parents, school and parish, and collaboration as an integral part of the diocese through its relationship with the diocesan Bishop and those acting on his behalf**is good**

The school is very committed to the diocese and participates fully in all in-service training and work moderation exercises. Staff and governors have taken part in diocesan training and shared this with other colleagues. The diocesan RE adviser is a regular and frequent visitor to the school and provides valuable support and insight into such areas as assessment and standards. The headteacher attends all local deanery meetings and the school is linked closely to neighbouring Catholic schools. The school has a strong commitment to close partnership with parents and has just received Leading Parent Partnership Awards (LPPA) reaccreditation for its work in this area. Parents are invited in to school masses and plays at Easter and Christmas and at other times of the year. A survey of parents was broadly positive about most aspects of the life and work of the school. The school has good links with the local church and is always looking to even further strengthen these ties. Home, school and parish links are fostered by the whole community.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management in promoting the Catholic life of the school**is good**

The RE co-ordinator strives tirelessly to promote the Catholic life of the school. The school Mission Statement is known and proudly sung by all pupils in the school and is at the heart and soul of this school. Self-evaluation is generally accurate and the school has devised good plans for even greater ways to promote the Catholic life of the school. Some of the overall judgements made require a greater sense of objectivity and perspective. There is a very strong commitment exhibited by the head, the governors and all staff to enhancing all aspects of Catholic education. Governors in particular are very keen to see this community prosper in its overall Catholic life. The behaviour of the pupils at all times is of the very highest standards and this reflects very well on the leadership and management displayed by members of staff in this school.

What should the school do to develop further the Catholic life of the school?

- To introduce pupil chaplains so that children are given more responsibility in leading and preparing liturgies and enhancing prayer opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Information about this school

- The school is a one form entry Catholic Primary school in the locality of New Southgate.
- The school serves the parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate.
- The proportion of pupils who are baptised Catholic is 97%.
- The proportion of pupils who are from other Christian denominations is 1% and from other faiths is 2%.
- The percentage of Catholic teachers in the school is 90%.
- The number of teachers with a Catholic qualification is 3.
- There are 13% of pupils in the school with special educational needs or disabilities of whom 3 have statements of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)/ Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP).
- The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups is well above average.
- The number of pupils speaking English as an Additional Language is below average
- There is a below average rate of families claiming free school meals.
- 32 pupils receive the Pupil Premium (15%).

Department for Education Number	308 / 3504
Unique Reference Number	102040
Local Authority	Enfield

Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary Aided
Age range of pupils	4-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on roll	208
The appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mrs Mary Sutton
Headteacher	Mr Declan Meehan
Telephone number	020 8361 0767
Website	www.ololschool.enfield.sch.uk
Email address	office@school.enfield.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	27 th February 2012
Grade from previous inspection:	Outstanding

Information about this inspection

This inspection was carried out (i) under the requirements of the Canon 806 and (ii) in accordance with the Framework for Diocesan Inspections 2015 approved by the Archbishop of Westminster and (iii) under section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

- The inspectors would like to thank the governors, headteacher, staff, pupils and parents for their co-operation over the conduct of the inspection.
- During the inspection 8 lessons or part lessons were observed.
- The inspectors attended 1 assembly and 2 of acts of worship.
- Meetings were held with school staff, pupils and governors.
- Other evidence was gathered from contacts with parents through a questionnaire, scrutiny of a sample of pupils' work, observation of pupils in and out of lessons and examination of school documents.

Inspection Grades

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires improvement
- Causing concern

Inspection Team

The inspectors are appointed by the Archbishop.

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