



## Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for **Holy Family Catholic Primary School**

URN: 137569

Carried out on behalf of the Most Rev. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster on:

Date: 18-19 May 2023

|                                                                                                                                                                           |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Overall effectiveness<br>The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school.....                                                                            | <b>1</b>                            |
| Catholic life and mission (p.3)<br>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)<br>The quality of curriculum religious education.....                                                                                           | 1                                   |
| Collective worship (p.7)<br>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                                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop                                                                                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection                                                                                            | Fully                               |

### Summary of key findings

#### What the school does well

- Holy Family is an outstanding Catholic school, valued by all members of its community who are committed to living their mission of 'Achieving excellence for the glory of God'.
- Pupils are actively engaged in supporting those in need. They recognise their mission is to serve others and pledge 'We don't walk by'. The Holy Family community does this with ease, joy and pride.
- Pupils are religiously literate and have exemplary behaviours and attitudes towards their religious education.
- Pupils respond reverently to prayer and worship, using the liturgical year and messages in assemblies to guide their day-to-day actions.

- Engagement with families is strong and parents have a huge appreciation for the ways the school nurtures the faith, education and spiritual life within this thriving Catholic community.

What the school needs to improve:

- Create further opportunities for pupils to offer and experience moments of wonder and awe in collective worship.
- Teachers should ensure pupils have a clear understanding of how to improve their own work and enable all pupils to fully articulate how they have made progress.
- Teachers to create further opportunities to enable pupils to think critically and learn independently, allowing them to discuss and represent their thoughts and opinions in creative ways.

## 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



All school community members embrace and strive to live out the mission, 'Achieving personal excellence for the glory of God'. Pupils articulate well how much they feel valued and cared for at Holy Family, recognising and showing respect for their own personal dignity and that of others. Some pupils make excellent links to Catholic Social Teaching when discussing the dignity of the human person uniquely created by God. Pupils are keen to share the many opportunities they have to celebrate their own achievements and the achievements of others, including through the school website and the 'Living like Jesus' award. Holy Family pupils understand and take a leading role in responding to the demands of Catholic Social Teaching, working hard to raise funds and/or awareness for The Catholic Children's Society, The Passage, Irish Chaplaincy and visiting residents in a local care home among many others. Pupils value the range of leadership roles available (Pupil Chaplains, Eco group, Social Justice Group and Mini Vinnies) and proactively seek opportunities to effect change. They take pride in the fact that at Holy Family, 'We don't walk by'. All pupils can understand and articulate how Jesus has called them to serve. They are proud to be part of the Holy Family community and proud of the difference they are making.

There is a strong sense of community and welcome at Holy Family where pupils of all faiths and none are highly valued. Through 'One World Weeks' and the whole school curriculum, other cultures and religions are celebrated. This was reflected in the well-received parent survey where one parent commented, 'Although we are not Catholic, we value and appreciate the positive impact the Catholic opportunities have on the development of our children.' Pupils with additional needs are given regular opportunities to engage in all aspects of school life and are supported well by additional adults. The school environment is outstanding in promoting the Catholic life and mission and contributes positively to the formation of all members of the school community. High quality

displays and statues, pupil and parent religious artwork, Beatitude mosaics and a newly re-situated prayer garden celebrate the school's beliefs. The strong quality of relationships between families, children, staff and governors results in a fully inclusive environment where both staff and pupils are nurtured and celebrated. The provision of R(S)HE meets statutory and diocesan requirements.

The governors, head teacher, SLT and RE leads have a strong commitment and determination to 'achieve excellence' in all aspects of day-to-day life at Holy Family. Staff show love and care for each other and all pupils, bearing witness to the school's commitment to enabling all to flourish. Governors are passionate, pro-active and involved. All leaders can clearly articulate the Catholic life and mission of Holy Family and are themselves inspirational witnesses to the Gospel. The RE leads are passionate and committed to ensuring the Holy Family community are immersed in their Catholic faith. One parent shared that they felt 'proud to send my children to a school where their faith is encouraged'. New staff are well-supported, and all staff have access to high quality professional development opportunities. A staff member stated, 'I enjoy being surrounded by my faith in all that I do in work'. The parish priest has been involved in growing Holy Family Catholic School since the beginning and continues to support all areas of Catholicity through developing staff knowledge, and through delivering the sacramental programme and age-appropriate liturgies.

## 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



Inspectors visited every class and talked to a wide range of pupils. Pupil behaviour is exemplary and this, alongside their excellent attitudes to learning, leads to outstanding outcomes in religious education. Pupils' religious literacy is excellent and they can speak confidently about key concepts using subject specific vocabulary both in written outcomes and in discussions. The excellent knowledge pupils are developing exemplifies the learning required by the Religious Education Curriculum Directory. They are able to draw upon prior learning to aid their understanding of new concepts. Pupils are well informed about the traditions and customs of others, not only from within the Catholic community but also about those of other faiths. All classes are actively engaged in their learning and are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. Pupils speak proudly and confidently about their learning in religious education which enables them to reflect spiritually and to think ethically and theologically. They also make relevant and appropriate liturgical links when planning collective worship opportunities. Pupils are able to work both collaboratively with their peers and independently to achieve success, although inspectors noted that further opportunities to work independently would benefit all. Art is used well to support religious education outcomes and is evident throughout the school.

Teachers are committed to and value RE lessons; they create a positive climate for learning which leads to excellent behaviour from pupils. The most effective teaching included questioning that encouraged pupils to extend their thinking and reflect on other points of view. This was seen in the Year 2 lessons when discussing virtues in the lives of St Mother Teresa, Pope Francis and St Peter. Pupils were asked to discuss, rank and debate, and did so with confidence and respect for each other. Pupils were challenged with some high quality questioning in Year 6 with pupils being asked to make contemporary connections with the experience of Jesus' disciples at the Ascension. Teachers now need to include more opportunities to enable pupils to think critically and learn

independently in a variety of creative ways. Fewer scaffolded lessons will also encourage pupils to be more independent and original in reaching their outcomes. Catholic Social Teaching principles are woven into the existing topics. Staff are enthusiastic about teaching religious education and ensure that it is given the highest priority. Moving forward, leaders recognise the importance of purposeful marking and feedback, as seen in Year 4 books, and now need to ensure all pupils have a clear understanding of how to improve their work and how to fully articulate how they have made progress.

The leadership team at Holy Family has a strong commitment to promoting high quality religious education. Teaching is observed, books are subject to regular scrutiny and planning is collaborative which ensures good support is given where needed; there is a sense of common purpose. Teachers are well-supported through planning sessions with the RE leads, parish priest, diocesan training and external consultants, and this results in strong staff subject knowledge. Staff speak enthusiastically about the excellent support they are given by the RE leadership team to enhance the teaching of RE. One staff member said, 'Staff here are supported well by the leadership team and work incredibly hard to ensure that everybody, staff and pupils, achieve excellence in all that they do'. Leaders have forged excellent links with outside agencies and external speakers to promote teaching and learning and to provide enrichment across the curriculum including RE. Governors and the parish priest are committed to the school and want to do the best for pupils and their families. They have high expectations, allocate a generous budget and support strategies currently in place to maintain high standards in religious education.

## 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

Liturgy and prayer are central to life at Holy Family and valued by all. From a young age, pupils behave reverently and respectfully. They have a clear understanding of the elements of prayer and liturgy and experience a range of worship experiences including Rosary prayer groups, May Processions, Lectio Divina, silent reflection and whole school liturgies. They confidently reflect on their own experience of prayer and liturgy and can make appropriate links to the school's mission. Scripture is used effectively throughout the school and is linked to the liturgical year which in turn enables pupils to choose appropriate Bible passages in their class and shared worship. All pupils respect and take part in the collective worship opportunities at Holy Family and are rightly proud of their inclusive approach to pupils from different faith backgrounds and none. Music and singing are integral to worship and pupils sing with joy and enthusiasm. Pupils are very able to plan, prepare and deliver their own collective worship sessions but introducing more time for awe and wonder and less on comprehension and class evaluation will allow these moments to be more personal and reflective. Pupils were eager to share their experiences of having Mary Bags during the month of May which they said helps to encourage family prayer time at home. One parent shared that the school's prayer life 'helped our child to grow more mature in his faith and helped him to start to develop an interest in thinking about how to live a good and moral life for God and for other people.'

Worship forms the heart of every school celebration and praying together is part of the daily experience for all pupils and staff. The school environment and quality resources promote this rich prayer life. A central point for prayer and reflection can be found in each classroom, throughout the school common areas and in the outside areas which includes a new prayer garden where pupils know they can come to be quiet, reflect or to share class worship. Pupil prayers are collected into class books and displayed on prayer tables. The chaplaincy team help lead this area although all

pupils and staff are called upon to use their gifts and talents to enhance the school's prayer life. Pupils regularly play their instruments for class worship to enhance the celebration and atmosphere. Prayer and worship at home ideas are available for families via the school website and are related to the liturgical calendar. Overwhelmingly, the parents and carers who responded to the survey and those the inspectors spoke to, feel welcome to participate in worship and liturgy at Holy Family.

Leaders and governors have a clear vision for building up the skills of pupils to prepare prayer and liturgy and to develop and nurture whole school collective worship. A prayer and worship policy has been created giving clear guidance for the school community. Leaders ensure the school calendar reflects significant dates in the liturgical year and pupils are provided with regular opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist. Pupils experience a wide range of prayer that is part of the Catholic tradition. The parish priest works with the school to facilitate a range of prayer and worship opportunities including Reconciliation for older children and question and answer sessions in the church on topics including sources, signs and symbols. Governors have ensured a budget that will help to enhance liturgy. Iconography, artifacts and music are used well to enhance worship across the school. As a result of outstanding leadership in collective worship, pupils clearly articulate how much they enjoy being a member of Holy Family and the importance of prayer in their lives: 'At Holy Family we spend time with God every day - to talk to and to listen to Him. It makes me feel closer to Him. I will always remember what I have been taught here.'



## Information about the school

|                                                |                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Full name of school                            | Holy Family Catholic Primary School                                        |
| School unique reference number (URN)           | 137569                                                                     |
| Full postal address of the school              | Vale Lane, West Acton W3 0DY                                               |
| School phone number                            | 0208 992 3980                                                              |
| Name of head teacher or principal              | Thomas Doherty                                                             |
| Chair of governing board                       | Fiona Beazer                                                               |
| School Website                                 | <a href="http://www.holyfamilyealing.co.uk">www.holyfamilyealing.co.uk</a> |
| Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable) | Click or tap here to enter text.                                           |
| Type of school                                 | Primary                                                                    |
| School category                                | Voluntary aided                                                            |
| Age-range of pupils                            | 4-11                                                                       |
| Trustees                                       | Diocese of Westminster                                                     |
| Gender of pupils                               | Mixed                                                                      |
| Date of last denominational inspection         | July 2016                                                                  |
| Previous denominational inspection grade       | Outstanding                                                                |

## The inspection team

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Mo O'Donoghue | Lead inspector   |
| Mary Ainger   | Team inspector   |
| Katie Linnane | Team inspector   |
| Angela O'Hara | Shadow 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 |