



Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for
St Scholastica's Catholic Primary School

URN: 100274

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

Date: 22 – 23 June 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

- The leadership team, led by the visionary head teacher, joyfully live out the mission 'Living, Loving and Learning through Christ'.
- Relationships throughout the school are based on the highest levels of care and respect.
- Engagement with parents is strong and they feel part of this thriving community, which is a safe, inclusive and welcoming space for pupils.
- Pupils' attitudes to their learning in RE are strong and they are eager to further develop their faith.

- Pupils are actively engaged in supporting those in need, recognising that their mission is to serve others, and understanding that ‘we are a Catholic school, we learn through Jesus and follow in his footsteps’.

What the school needs to improve:

- Pupils to take a lead role in decision making as they put their faith into action.
- Share outstanding practice in teaching and learning in RE to ensure consistency across all year groups.
- Further develop progression in the school's prayer life.

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 St Scholastica's is outstanding. All members of the school community embrace and strive to live out the mission 'Living, Loving and Learning through Christ'. One pupil stated, 'we live out our mission statement not only in school, but also at home and outside of school'. The school responds to the needs of others locally, nationally and globally, by supporting organisations such as CAFOD, The Catholic Children's Society, St Joseph's Hospice and their local foodbank. Pupils can confidently articulate the theology that underpins their actions. They can link these actions to scripture and to the school's 'Super Skills' (motivation, determination, respect, aspiration, independence and resilience). Pupil groups such as the Paplins, the Green Team and the Well-being committee have a strong understanding of why they lead initiatives across the school. They shared that they have a responsibility to care for their common home and are able to confidently articulate how they have acted upon this belief, such as writing to their local council about litter issues, planting fruit and vegetables and recycling more. One pupil stated, 'at the moment people are not treating this planet very well and are using up limited resources'. Pupils are very proud to be part of the St Scholastica's and proud of the difference they are making in the community.

There is a lived sense of community at St Scholastica's. Staff feel privileged to be a part of this community and this is evident through the high levels of care they show for one another and the pupils. The Paplins spoke enthusiastically about how they lead lunchtime activities with younger children in line with the liturgical year, for example by creating Advent wreaths and making Advent promises. One parent commented that 'Catholicism is embedded into the day-to-day routine for my son – starting with prayers but also in the general approach to teaching, learning and the whole feel of the school community.' St Scholastica's is very inclusive and pupils with additional needs are given

regular opportunities to engage in all aspects of school life and are well supported by the additional adults. The school celebrates diversity and has worked hard to ensure that the RE curriculum is reflective and representative of their local community. Displays around the school are vibrant and engaging and reflect the distinctive Catholic nature of the school. The colourful murals include scripture and create a warm and welcoming environment for all. St Scholastica's is described by the parish priest as being an 'authentic, happy place and a jewel in the local community'. The provision of R(S)HE is strong and meets all the statutory and diocesan guidelines.

Entering St Scholastica's, it is immediately apparent that this is a Catholic school. The head teacher and senior leaders, including the RE lead, share a commitment to ensuring that the Catholic life is central to the community. They are well supported by the governing body. The parish priest from St Scholastica's supports the school very well by leading Masses and liturgies throughout the year. Senior leaders and parish priest have a reciprocal and supportive relationship, both being highly ambitious for the school's future development. Staff show love and care for each other and all pupils, bearing witness to the school's commitment to enable all to flourish. One staff member stated, 'it is clear that Christ is at the very core of everything we do; the school's mission is abundantly evident.' Pupil leadership has been very well developed over recent years and they understand their responsibility to care for others, recognising that, 'by doing this we are following God'.

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

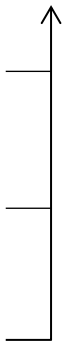
The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education.....

2

Leadership

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

1



Pupil behaviour is excellent at St Scholastica's and this, alongside positive attitudes to learning, leads to outstanding outcomes in religious education. Pupils make strong progress from their starting points. Religious literacy is strong - they can speak confidently about key concepts using subject specific vocabulary. Pupils are able to draw upon prior learning to aid their understanding of new concepts; these links lead to high levels of understanding within RE lessons. Pupils are encouraged to work collaboratively in lessons, and they enjoy learning with and from one another. They can apply what they have learned from scripture to how they should act or respond in their lives today; one child stated, 'the story of the Good Samaritan teaches me to help anybody, regardless of their race or religion.' Another shared that 'reconciliation helps me to build bridges and examine my conscience.' Staff provide a rich and varied range of creative opportunities to engage pupils in RE lessons including art, drama, music and computing. Pupils are well informed about the traditions and customs of others, not only from within the Catholic community but also those of other faiths.

Staff are enthusiastic about teaching RE and ensure it is given the highest priority. They are well supported through the RE lead and utilise diocesan resources to improve their subject knowledge. RE is also prioritised within the school budget. The most effective teaching included questioning that encouraged deeper thinking and links to pupils' faith. This was seen in a Year 4 lesson when discussing the rites within the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lessons are appropriately scaffolded to ensure all pupils achieve. Marking and feedback has been improved and pupils were articulate about how this helps them to learn and make progress. One child commented, 'sometimes we get extension questions which challenge us.' The development of pupils' spiritual and moral understanding in lessons is a focus, and pupils in some year groups are being given time to reflect and think more about their learning in this subject. RE lessons are sequential; progression is good both within each lesson and across a unit of work.

The leadership team at St Scholastica's, led by the exemplary head teacher, has a strong commitment to promoting a high quality religious education for all. The RE lead, who has taken over the role this year, shows a comprehensive understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development alongside a passion for the subject. Monitoring systems are strong and lead to improvement where they are needed. Teachers are well supported through planning sessions with the RE lead and through diocesan training such as the Foundation Stones programme. They speak enthusiastically about the excellent support they are given and the responsiveness of the RE lead. One staff member said, 'this is a supportive primary school with religious education at the core of all we do.' Governors and the parish priest are committed to the school and know it well. A generous budget is allocated to this subject area.

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

2

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 St Scholastica's and valued by all members of this community. Pupils use and understand a variety of prayer and worship experiences, such as the Examen, meditation, silence and reflection time as well as the standard prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition. They confidently reflect on their own experience of prayer and can make appropriate links to the school's mission. Singing is an integral part of worship at St Scholastica's and pupils sing with joy and enthusiasm. Pupils articulate that they use prayer as a way of supporting those in need, for example by leading a prayer service for those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. One pupil commented, 'when we write our bidding prayers, we pray for those who are in need'. Pupils are confident, reverent and respectful in prayer sessions. One parent shared that they feel 'the children have learnt both at home and in school that prayer is the key; that we have to pray at all times, in all situations.' Pupil prayer journals are valued by pupils, staff and parents.

St Scholastica's provides numerous opportunities for planned prayer and liturgy and there is a daily pattern of prayer across all year groups. This year the school has regularly attended Mass in the parish church as links between the school and parish have strengthened. The Paplins lead the younger children in prayer activities, giving spiritual support and reflection time where needed. The school, home and parish work closely together to support the prayer life of pupils. Parents are invited into school for assemblies. One parent commented, 'my child can actually lead prayers at home which is really lovely to see.' Pupils also help prepare for school Masses, creating their own bidding prayers and choosing readings and hymns. They are able to plan, prepare and deliver class collective worship sessions, however, introducing more progression throughout year groups will ensure stronger faith development. The school has recently upgraded their outdoor prayer garden and pupils will enjoy using this more in the future.

The head teacher is an inspirational role model and leads assemblies with passion, showing her commitment to Christ being at the centre of St Scholastica's. A child in upper Key Stage 2 stated, 'our headteacher encourages us to reflect in our weekly Gospel assemblies; I feel peaceful because I know God is all around us'. Leaders and governors share this vision. Staff training around collective worship, led by the RE lead, has enabled prayer to become an integral part of each class, led by pupils. The parish priest works with the school to facilitate a range of prayer and worship opportunities, such as exposition, the rosary and Reconciliation for the older children. Pupils experience a wide range of prayer that is part of the Catholic tradition. They often attend a weekday parish Mass. As a result of outstanding leadership in collective worship, pupils clearly articulate the importance of prayer in their lives and how this helps them to grow in their faith.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Scholastica's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	100274
Full postal address of the school	Kenninghall Road, London, E5 8BS
School phone number	0208 985 3466
Name of head teacher or principal	Sandra Brierley
Chair of governing board	Royer Vidal
School Website	https://www.st-scholasticas.com
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	3-11
Trustees	Westminster Diocese
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	November 2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

The inspection team

Robina Maher	Lead inspector
Christine Curtis	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