



## Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

URN: 101143

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

Date: 22-23 March 2023

<b>Overall effectiveness</b> The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school.....	<b>1</b>
<b>Catholic life and mission (p.3)</b> How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.....	1
<b>Religious education (p.5)</b> The quality of curriculum religious education.....	1
<b>Collective worship (p.7)</b> 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

- Pupils are excellent ambassadors for St Vincent's: welcoming, enthusiastic and articulate. They demonstrate a thirst and resilience for learning and have excellent attitudes towards their Catholic faith and living their mission that 'Together through Christ we grow and learn'.
- The quality, strength and warmth of the relationships of all members of the school community, including families, parish and governors, is outstanding and the school creates a tangible sense of unity and mutual respect. Parents value the work of the school and have a huge appreciation for the ways in which the school nurtures the faith, education and spiritual life within this thriving Catholic community.

- Pupils are actively engaged in supporting those in need. They recognise that their mission is to serve others and understand their responsibility to follow in Jesus' footsteps. The St Vincent's family do this willingly with joy and pride.
- Pupils take part in a wide range of prayer and liturgy opportunities with reverence, awe and respect.
- Pupils are developing excellent knowledge and can speak fluently about what they have learned in religious education, using subject-specific vocabulary.

#### What the school needs to improve:

- Ensure teachers have a shared understanding of monitoring and assessment procedures which allows all teachers to track progress effectively for all learners.
- All pupils to become more independent when planning and leading acts of worship.
- Further embed Catholic Social Teaching into the religious education curriculum and in the day-to-day Catholic life of the school.

## 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:**.....

### Pupil outcomes

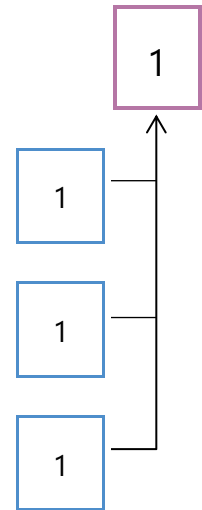
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school .....

### Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school .....

### Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school .....



Catholic life and mission at St Vincent's is outstanding. Pupils, parents, staff, parish and governors all speak of St Vincent's as a family which they are proud to belong to and eager to talk about. Pupils show strong relationships with staff and with each other. The school's support for charities such as St Mungo's, WWF, Great Ormond Street Hospital, local food banks and The Catholic Children's Society show a commitment to responding to the demands of Catholic Social Teaching in supporting those locally, nationally and globally, proactively seeking opportunities to help those less fortunate than themselves. Pupils can clearly explain why they are taking part in these fundraising initiatives and are able to articulate well the theology underpinning their actions. The enthusiastic and articulate pupil chaplaincy team value their role in promoting Catholic life and are on hand for others if needed, including visiting the spirituality area on the roof during lunchtimes. Pupils said that praying with the pupil chaplaincy team was very special and 'helps us to become closer to Jesus'.

There is a lived sense of community at St Vincent's, evident in the strong quality of relationships, resulting in an inclusive environment where pupils and staff flourish and are celebrated. Pupils engage positively with the Wednesday Word and parents speak of how this brings their families together to learn and share ideas about their faith. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the Catholic life of the school and agree its centrality. One parent commented that 'the school provides a very safe, caring and nurturing environment for our children and we feel very lucky to be part of the St Vincent's family.' Staff embrace opportunities to support one another and are proud of their 'close-knit' community and the caring culture that is felt by all. They are exemplary role models, which was repeated again and again in discussions and commented on in staff and parent surveys. The school maximises their space despite the physical challenges of the building to promote and celebrate its Catholic nature, including high quality prayer areas in each class and a prayer garden maintained by its active pupil chaplaincy team. The school uses its website well to promote, celebrate and share their daily Catholic life with the wider school community.

On entering the gates, it is immediately apparent that it is a Catholic school. There is a shared vision and commitment from staff and governors to ensure the centrality of the Catholic life of this school. The head teacher, leadership team and RE leads have a strong commitment to demonstrate excellence in all aspects of the day-to-day life of the school. One staff member shared, 'During times of happiness, sadness and any other challenges that come our way, the school community is supportive of one another and ensure that we all continue to grow and learn together with Christ in our heart.' New staff are well supported, and all staff have access to high quality professional development opportunities. The whole school reflects the vision of the leadership team in the relationships displayed by all members of the community and in the respect and care shown to each other. The new RE leads are passionate about ensuring the St Vincent's family is immersed in their Catholic faith. The new parish priest supports the school well by leading liturgies and Masses throughout the school year. Governors are well informed, knowledgeable and are determined to ensure the school thrives in the years to come. The head teacher is an exemplary role model of leadership and continues to strive for excellence in all areas of Catholic education.

## Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

**Religious education key judgement grade:**.....

### Pupil outcomes

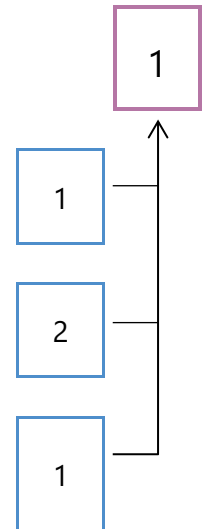
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education.....

### Provision

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

### Leadership

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



Pupil behaviour is consistently outstanding and is a major strength of St Vincent's. This is true in classrooms and indeed all around the school. Behaviour for learning is equally outstanding. Pupils' attitudes to learning, including individual, group and whole-class work, are consistently positive and have an impact on pupil outcomes. They are actively engaged in their learning and are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. An example seen was in recognising the importance of the need to 'Give, Act and Pray' as part of their Lenten obligation. Pupils are keen to share their work and discuss what they know about RE. They understand and then apply what they have learned from scripture to how they should act or respond in their lives today. An older pupil said that 'Learning about Jesus in scripture helps us to think about how we should think and act and helps us to connect to Him today'. The youngest children receive a secure start to their school life in a happy, nurturing and well set out environment that supports their religious understanding. Pupils are very well informed about the traditions and customs of others, not only from within the Catholic community but also those of other faiths.

Teachers are confident in their subject knowledge and endeavour to ensure pupils are consistently engaged in their learning. They are committed to and value RE lessons, creating a positive climate for learning. Support staff are highly effective and give good support to a wide range of pupils. Pupils achieve well when the lessons are thoughtfully planned and there is variety in the activities included in teachers' planning. Marking and feedback is evident in books across the school and some good examples were seen in scrutiny of work. The best examples seen gave clear help and guidance in how to improve their work by teachers' use of marking and next steps comments. Feedback to pupils can lack detail, meaning some pupils struggle at times to know how to improve their work. Effective feedback and marking needs to be applied consistently across the school. Fewer scaffolded lessons will enable children to become more independent learners. Despite some turnover of staff in recent years, leaders have worked very hard to maintain the quality of teaching and learning in religious education. The use of art from Nursery to Year 6 to support religious education is a strength.

The leadership team at St Vincent's 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. Staff speak enthusiastically about the support they are given by the RE leadership team to enhance the teaching of RE. Carefully planned continuous professional development is ensuring that all staff are fully able to support pupils in religious education lessons. Governors and the parish priest are committed to the school and know it well. They support the strategies currently in place to ensure high standards in religious education. The newly appointed RE leaders have shown a comprehensive understanding of strengths and areas for development and are eager to develop and embed their initiatives.

## 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



St Vincent's is a school with prayer and worship at the centre. There are an increasing number of opportunities for pupil engagement. These include regular Masses in the parish for pupils and families, child led worship in class, paired worship with another class, Gospel assemblies and a range of high-profile liturgical events, all of which the children take part in with reverence, confidence and respect. During rehearsals for their Easter Story, all pupils in Key Stage 2 were united in their desire to create a solemn, moving and prayerful performance to be shared with their school and parish. Scripture is used effectively throughout the school and is linked to the liturgical year which in turn, enables pupils to choose appropriate Gospel passages in their class and shared worship. Pupils participate fully in prayer and are now ready to take more ownership of planning and leading liturgies even in the younger years. In moments of quiet reflection, pupils behave reverently. Music and singing are integral to worship at St Vincent's and pupils sing with joy and enthusiasm. Liturgically themed prayer bags are shared to encourage family prayer at home. Regular evaluation of collective worship is undertaken by pupil leaders.

The school's mission statement 'Together through Christ we grow and learn' is most apparent in the many and varied opportunities for prayer and worship. Staff, particularly leaders, provide prayerful opportunities to follow out weekly missions based on the weekly gospel message. A well attended parent workshop to enhance prayer life for pupils at home has been well received and commented on: 'The RE lead provided opportunities for us to observe child-led worship which has helped us grow in our own confidence in terms of provision and therefore in explaining its value to our children.' Acts of worship are age-appropriate. In the Early Years, children know that a candle represents Jesus, the Light of the World. A central point for prayer and reflection can be found in each classroom, the hall and in both outdoor spaces, where pupils know they can come to be quiet, reflect or to get spiritual support from their peers and the pupil chaplaincy team.

A prayer and worship policy has recently been created by RE leads, giving clear guidance for the school community. They ensure the school calendar reflects significant dates in the liturgical year and pupils are provided with regular opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist. The parish priest also helps to facilitate a wide range of prayer and worship opportunities, including Reconciliation for older pupils. Governors and leaders ensure that ample resources are provided to allow for development in all areas of Catholic life including collective worship meaning high quality prayer resources are available for all pupils. As a result of outstanding leadership in collective worship, the pupil voice clearly articulates how much they enjoy being at St Vincent's and how they will continue to grow in their faith.



## Information about the school

Full name of school	St Vincent's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	101143
Full postal address of the school	11 St. Vincent Street, London W1U 4DF
School phone number	0203 146 0743
Name of head teacher or principal	Marina Coleman
Chair of governing board	Patrick Moloney
School Website	<a href="http://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk">www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk</a>
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age-range of pupils	3-11
Trustees	Diocese of Westminster
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	May 2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	1

## The inspection team

Mo O'Donoghue	Lead inspector
Fearghal Nash	Team inspector
Robina Maher	Shadow inspector

## Key to grade judgements

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