



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

URN: 148492

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Westminster

12–13 March 2025

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

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

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

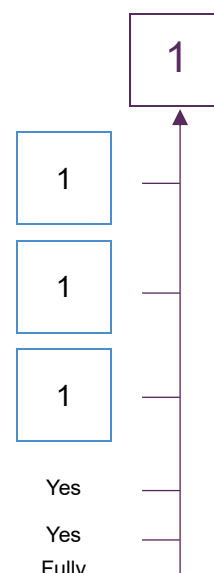
Collective worship (p.7)

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

The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference

The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection



Compliance statement

- The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference.
- The school is fully compliant with the additional requirements of the diocesan bishop.
- All areas for improvement outlined in the previous diocesan inspection report have been addressed in full.

What the school does well

- The school is a vibrant and welcoming community, deeply rooted in its mission: to live, love and learn by the example of Jesus.
- The positive, nurturing environment plays a crucial role in the success of the pupils, not only in their academic achievements but also in their personal growth.
- Pupils achieve outstanding outcomes in religious education, demonstrating strong religious literacy and the ability to base their thoughts and reflections on scripture.
- Pupils fully understand the principles of Catholic social teaching and recognise how they can be applied in other subjects.
- The inclusive nature of the school shines through in all its work including prayer and liturgy, where everyone is invited to take part in ways that nurture and support their spiritual growth.

What the school needs to improve

- Develop an effective and structured system to ensure pupils play a more active role in evaluating the Catholic life of the school.
- Further enhance pupils' learning, by helping them to make more links between scripture, the creed, the sacraments and Catholic social teaching.

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

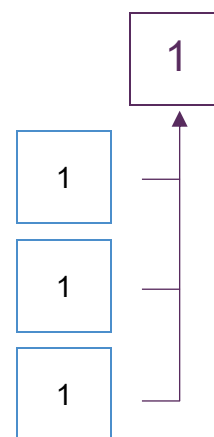
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

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



Pupils at St Joseph's are justifiably proud of their school, valuing the numerous opportunities available to them, especially the ambassadorial roles that allow them to lead. They have a deep understanding and appreciation of the school's mission statement, 'At St Joseph's, we live, love, and learn by the example of Jesus'. The pupil leadership group enjoyed sharing a song that had been written to reinforce the mission statement and its underlying message. The relationships between adults and children are exceptionally strong, contributing to exemplary behaviour both in lessons and around the school. Pupils actively contribute to the school's life and mission through groups such as Action in Love and The Lighthouse Keepers, which enhances their understanding of Catholic social teaching. The curriculum is meticulously planned to incorporate Catholic social teaching, further enriching the pupils' understanding. They are enthusiastic about finding meaningful ways to make a difference in their community locally and further afield, and they take particular pride in their fundraising efforts.

The school demonstrates a profound commitment to the most vulnerable members of the community, with staff embodying Catholic social teaching by providing unwavering support to families from the moment they arrive. One parent commented: 'St Joseph's gives me the warmth, support, and sense of spiritual comfort that was so important to me for my daughter's school life. It is our first year at St Joseph's and as a family we couldn't be happier with where we chose to send our child'. The school collaborates regularly with Westminster Caritas to offer additional support to families in need. As exceptional role models, staff inspire pupils to see Christ in everyone they encounter. The Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision exemplifies a nurturing community, ensuring all pupils, especially the most vulnerable, have the opportunity to thrive. The school environment is vibrant and engaging, celebrating its Catholic identity through thoughtful scripture-based displays that foster a sense of belonging and support pupils' growth and formation. St Joseph's uses a relationships, sex, and health education (RSHE) programme which complies with diocesan requirements. They actively consult parents on the programme's content and regularly update them on their children's learning. This approach extends to the entire personal, social, health, relationships, and economic education (PSHRE) curriculum, which is tailored to meet the specific needs of the pupils. Staff feel genuinely valued and supported, bringing energy and enthusiasm to their roles, and

reflecting the school's mission in every aspect of their work. The well-planned chaplaincy programme offers numerous opportunities for both pupils and staff to grow spiritually and explore their unique paths in life, including regular visits from the parish priest, weekly Friday Mass, Reconciliation, and stations of the cross during Lent.

Strong leadership ensures that the school remains a vibrant and faith-filled community dedicated to the flourishing of all its members. The governing body shares the leadership team's strong commitment to living out the Church's mission, regularly visiting the school to participate in prayer and liturgy, and to gather pupil feedback to monitor and evaluate the Catholic life. Leaders, with a deep respect for the dignity of all, prioritise the well-being of both staff and pupils, grounding their leadership in Gospel values and the Church's mission. Staff feel incredibly well supported as a result. Leaders have meticulously designed a rich and thoughtful curriculum, with religious education at its core, integrating Catholic beliefs across all subjects. The school actively engages in diocesan training, and all new teachers undergo a thorough induction process, inspiring them to contribute to the school's Catholic identity. Catholic life and mission could be further developed through an effective and structured system to ensure pupils play a more active role in evaluating the Catholic life of the school.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

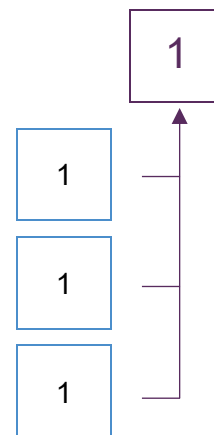
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

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



Religious education at St Joseph's is outstanding. Pupils are developing a profound understanding of their faith, acquiring the knowledge and skills outlined in the *Religious Education Directory*. They make excellent progress, consistently learning, remembering, and applying their knowledge, ensuring that every pupil, including those who are disadvantaged or have special educational needs and/or disabilities, reaches their full potential. Evidence in their books shows that pupils enjoy a variety of opportunities, including music, art, dance, prayer, poetry and extended writing, and they are excited and proud to share their work. Pupils are regularly given the opportunity to write at length, which further enhances their learning experience. The school has worked diligently to deepen pupils' understanding of scripture, with some children beginning to make connections between scripture, the creed, the sacraments, and Catholic social teaching. For example, one Year 6 pupil used the story of Moses helping the Israelites escape slavery to explain the dignity of work. Developing these links further will help more children attain the highest levels. Pupils get off to a strong start in Early Years and Key Stage 1, with children able to discuss what they are learning and what they have learned previously. The use of religious art helps the pupils' recall. By the end of Year 6, pupils have a deep understanding of their faith, which they say brings them closer to God. Observations of learning show that teachers are stretching pupils through interventions. For instance, in a Year 1 lesson, the teacher skilfully explained the parable of the Widow's Purse, highlighting that she couldn't afford to give money every day. Pupils use purple pens to reflect at the end of each lesson, helping them identify important learning points. There is an opportunity to extend this practice further to ensure pupils make more connections in their learning. Pupil conferencing also helps them identify ways to improve their work, develop their understanding, and make links in their learning.

Teachers at St Joseph's demonstrate excellent subject knowledge and teaching skills, delivering engaging and meaningful lessons tailored to the age group they teach. They effectively adapt and scaffold teaching for children with SEN, ensuring all pupils can access the curriculum. Pupils with SEND benefit from a bespoke religious education curriculum that allows them to learn in an explorative way. Teachers' deep commitment to religious education is evident in their high expectations, which they communicate effectively, inspiring pupils in their learning. Consequently, pupils hold their RE books in high regard. Teachers regularly check for understanding, as illustrated

by a Year 2 lesson where the teacher revisited the concept of reconciliation after identifying misconceptions, before allowing pupils to work independently. Over a third of the staff have achieved the Catholic Certificate for Religious Studies, reflecting the school's support for teachers' professional development. Pupils are assessed regularly, and the school participates in diocesan and trust-wide moderation. The consistent application of the marking policy ensures children can revisit learning and helps teachers address misconceptions.

Leaders and governors at St Joseph's are fully committed to ensuring that religious education holds equal importance to other core subjects, making it central to the whole school curriculum. They are ambitious in their efforts to promote religious education and are dedicated to providing high-quality professional development for staff. The school makes maximum use of diocesan training and offers targeted internal training to support teachers. Teachers receive regular feedback to enhance their practice, and leaders' evaluations of teaching are accurate, identifying marginal gains that can be made individually and implementing school-wide practices to raise standards. During the inspection, evidence showed that all groups were making progress, and assessment data is shared with the governing body to hold leaders accountable. Since the last inspection, the subject leader has demonstrated a relentless drive for excellence, resulting in high expectations for both teachers and pupils. This commitment has fostered an environment where religious education is valued and integrated into the broader educational experience.

Collective worship

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

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

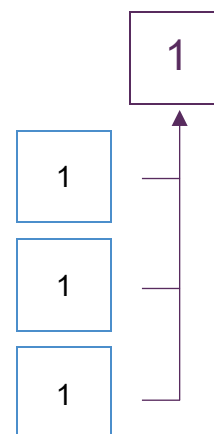
How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

Leadership

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



Pupils are deeply engaged in the school's outstanding prayer and liturgy experiences, actively participating through prayerful silence, attentiveness, and communal singing. Their singing is particularly noteworthy, exemplified by the Year 6 boys singing the alto part to 'My God Loves Me' at the end of a whole school prayer and liturgy. There is a well-established pupil chaplaincy team who work collaboratively with other teams across the trust and diocese. Pupils have a strong understanding of various Catholic prayer traditions, including scripture, symbols, and liturgical music, and they understand the Church's liturgical year. Pupils collaborate with teachers and peers to plan meaningful prayer and liturgy experiences, and some children with specific SEND participate attentively at their own level, with teachers finding innovative ways to engage them, such as learning to sign 'sorry' in the parable of the prodigal son. Pupils are reverent in moments of silence and reflective in their responses. The pupils also have the opportunity to evaluate their own prayer and liturgy, and the thought of the week, created by pupil chaplains, is shared and celebrated as a prayer focus throughout the school.

Prayer and liturgy are central to the life of St Joseph's, with daily prayer reflecting the Church's rhythm and allowing pupils and staff to experience the richness of Catholic tradition. Carefully chosen scripture passages form the heart of these celebrations, ensuring full participation. Staff support pupils in confidently planning and leading prayer and liturgy. Pupil-led celebrations of the word are planned and celebrated weekly in classes and are highly valued by all pupils. The creative talents of both pupils and staff enhance these experiences through high-quality music and art. Themes for prayer and liturgy are thoughtfully selected to reinforce the Catholic social teaching integrated into the curriculum. Pupil voice, planned sessions and floor books evidence a wide range of variety of prayer and liturgy. During the inspection, a member of staff skilfully adapted the Caritas in Love resources to make Catholic social teaching relevant for Early Years and Key Stage 1 children. The school uses spaces imaginatively for prayer, including a beautiful prayer garden and an inviting prayer room, both well-maintained and cherished. Staff work closely with families to include them in the school's prayer life and foster partnerships with the local parish, helping pupils engage more deeply in liturgy. Staff value the opportunity to foster their own faith alongside the work they do with pupils. In the staff survey

one member of staff wrote 'The ethos at St Joseph's really fosters the opportunity for children and staff alike to share their faith and to reflect on it'.

Leaders and governors at St Joseph's are dedicated to promoting, monitoring, and evaluating the provision for collective worship. The school's prayer and liturgy policy is well-crafted, regularly reviewed, and accessible to staff. Leaders recognise the varying participation levels of pupils and have a strategy to develop these skills as they move through the school, with Year 6 pupils supporting younger pupils in planning and leading prayer and liturgy. The school calendar includes regular Mass, particularly during key liturgical times, and governors frequently attend prayer and liturgy at the school. Leaders have sought high-quality professional development from the diocese, and staff have responded positively to input from the diocesan advisor at the start of the year. Leaders ensure teachers have regular professional development linked to prayer and liturgy which includes the opportunity to observe prayer and liturgy in other classes. Governors ensure that financial resources are made available to support collective worship. Leaders evaluate the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy, incorporating feedback from all stakeholders including the parish priest.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	148492
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	9193327
Full postal address of the school	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Royal Avenue, Waltham Cross, EN8 7EN
School phone number	01992629503
Headteacher	Katie Moseley
Chair of governors	Michael McKay
School Website	https://www.stjosephsherts.uk/
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Academy
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	January 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

The inspection team

Mark Holdsworth
Evelyn Ward

Lead
Team

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