

# Larmenier and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

41A Brook Green W6 7BL

Date of inspection by Westminster Diocese: 17 January 2019



## Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

### A. Classroom religious education is outstanding

- The religious education curriculum meets all of the requirements of the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory* in an outstanding way. The curriculum challenges all pupils to develop their religious literacy in a rich and creative way through the use of art, music and drama.
- The school's strong Catholic identity permeates all aspects of the learning environment of the school.
- Pupils' attainment and progress in religious education are outstanding.
- Pupils get an exceptional start to their learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage through a rich and nurturing environment.
- Teaching is a real strength of the school. Lessons are challenging, lively and fun. Support staff are very well deployed to maximise the impact on learning for all groups of pupils.
- The vision of the school leadership team is clearly communicated to all stakeholders. The inspirational religious education leader is proactive in ensuring continual improvements in teaching and learning. The governors are outstanding in their support of the teaching of religious education at Larmenier and Sacred Heart School. New staff receive a thorough induction into the Catholic ethos and religious curriculum of this school. They are well supported at all levels.

### B. The Catholic life of the school is outstanding

- The mission statement, 'In our school we learn and love, we pray and play, following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ' permeates life at Larmenier and Sacred Heart School.
- The school fully meets the 10% curriculum time requirement set by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Religious education is at the heart of this vibrant worshipping community.
- Prayer and worship are central to the Catholic mission and ethos of the school.
- The school's commitment and contribution to the Common Good and Catholic Social Teaching are outstanding. Pupils are confident and very articulate in their understanding of their call to social justice and human flourishing. Pupils are offered a rich and dynamic experience of Catholic life which is evident at all levels across the school.
- The outstanding links between the school, parents, and parish lead to a very strong partnership that benefits all. The partnership with the local parish and the weekly visits of the school chaplain to the school contribute exceptionally to the Catholic life of the school. Parents are overwhelmingly positive and appreciative of the impact the school has on their children's faith journey.
- School leaders and governors are fully committed to the Catholic mission of the Church.

## A. Classroom Religious Education

### What has improved since the last inspection?

There were no major areas for development from the previous inspection but the school has worked hard at developing its marking policy to ensure that developmental marking helps pupils to improve their work.

### The content of classroom religious education is outstanding

The content of curriculum fully meets all the requirements of the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory* (RECD) All four areas of the RECD are effectively mapped across the key stages. The curriculum meets pupils' learning needs in a creative and engaging way. Religious education (RE) is very well resourced and teachers are highly creative in the way resources are used to support children's learning and provide for a range of learning styles, needs and abilities. Progression across the school is clearly evident in well-presented pupils' workbooks, in discussions and during lessons. The teaching of other faiths including Sikhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism makes meaningful links with key beliefs and practices and pupils enjoy their learning in these areas. Pupils were very positive about their RE lessons.

### Pupil achievement in religious education is outstanding

Pupils of all ages learn exceptionally well at Larmenier and Sacred Heart School. Characteristic of the achievement of pupils across all key stages is the way in which they can articulate their understanding and learning. In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) the children are confident, enthusiastic learners who make excellent progress due in part to the high quality resources and provision provided both indoors and outdoors. The pupils show high levels of curiosity, imagination and concentration and are proactive independent learners. One child confidently spoke about Jesus feeding the five thousand, telling the inspector, 'Jesus may have wanted to be alone but he kept getting followed by lots and lots of people.' Pupil responses in classes along with work in books demonstrates the range of progress from their starting points. Attainment data, including all groups of pupils, is rigorously analysed by the RE leader and senior leadership team. Aspirational targets are set and attainment is at least as good and sometimes better than in other core subjects.

### The quality of teaching is outstanding

The quality of teaching in this school is judged outstanding, leading to the rapid progress made by all groups of pupils across the school. Teaching is creative, engaging and fun ensuring that pupils enjoy their lessons. In a Year 6 lesson on Saint Paul's conversion, a pupil said, 'Every lesson our teacher plans something different and creative.' Pupils were allowed to challenge each other and were clearly accustomed to collaborative, explorative learning. All teachers have high expectations of pupils and pupil engagement in every class was of the highest standard. Teachers use questioning skillfully including higher order questioning. Marking and next step questions are developed well and pupils were able to confidently explain how it helps them to improve their work. The RE subject leader and leadership team monitor regularly and robustly, ensuring the very good teaching is maintained and that pupils make accelerated progress. New teachers are teamed with experienced teachers to ensure collaborative planning and use of resources, which enhances the quality of teaching across the school. Support staff are very well deployed and have an intrinsic role in supporting the learning for all abilities. Behaviour of pupils in lessons, on the playground and around the school is exemplary.

**The effectiveness of leadership and management in promoting religious education is outstanding**

The quality of leadership and management of religious education is outstanding. Leaders demonstrate a commitment to continued school improvement and to ensuring that the strong Catholic ethos of the school permeates all areas of school life. School self-evaluation is very accurate, reflective and is strongly evidence based. As a result of the continued focus on school improvement, there is an excellent understanding of the strengths and areas for development in religious education. Teachers are very well supported through resources, mentoring and professional development. The headteacher has a clear commitment to encouraging staff to develop with the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) and currently hosts this course at the school. There is a creative approach to religious education which results in highly engaged and committed teaching and learning, and excellent progress being made across all key stages. Teaching is regularly monitored and staff supported at all levels. The documentation and record keeping provided to the inspection team was comprehensive and of a high standard. The governing body is well led by a committed chair of governors and the school chaplain plays a key role in the work of the governing body.

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

- Continue to work on assessment, with particular regard to developments in Diocesan recommendations.

## B. The Catholic life of the school

### What has improved since the last inspection?

The school has a wide range of retreat opportunities available to pupils and staff, including an annual pilgrimage to Assisi for Year 6 pupils and a retreat day to Wintershall for Year 5 pupils.

### The place of religious education as the core of the curriculum is outstanding

Religious education is at the heart of the school's ethos and teaching. The school fully meets the 10% curriculum time requirement set by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The school's Catholic identity is very evident upon entering the school building through the religious displays, artwork and iconography around the school. Every classroom has a prayer area and an RE working wall which reflects what the children are being taught in the current topic and celebrates their work. The ongoing artwork on display in the foyer using the monstrance as a focus, was an example of the creativity that has evolved from the school's work on Adoremus 'Our Eucharistic Journey'. At a meeting with pupils they were confident to share what being at this Catholic school meant to them. One pupil said, 'we can really make a difference. When we hear the Word at Mass, we know our Christian duty is to go out and help others.' Pupils are articulate in sharing their faith and are rightly proud of their school. A group of pupils were eager to share how their school was formed through the amalgamation of two schools and the history about Victoire Larmenier and Nazareth House. The governors place the highest importance on the Catholic values being at work in all their planning and decision-making. They offer outstanding support to the headteacher and senior leadership team in improving and maintaining the Catholic life of the school.

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

Prayer and worship are central to the life of this school and are outstanding. There are extensive opportunities throughout the school for daily collective worship and prayer. The children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) are quickly introduced to the prayer life of the school in an age appropriate way. All classes have prayer areas, a prayer focus and appropriate liturgical colours. Pupil led worship is embedded across the school at age appropriate levels and pupils are confident in leading these acts of worship. Displays of pupil work around the school are of a high standard. The celebration of the Eucharist is carefully planned both in school and in the local parish and many other sacramental celebrations are offered at key times throughout the liturgical year. Some examples include, The Marian Devotion, the Novena to Our Lady at Walsingham, the annual Holy Hour and the Corpus Christi Procession. The school worked closely with the parish to contribute to 'A Candle of Hope' a fundraising concert for persecuted Christians in the Middle East. The annual Year 6 retreat to Assisi is welcomed by pupils and parents alike and is something they feel honoured to have the opportunity to experience. The liturgical year is the foundation of all religious experiences organised within the school. The exceptionally strong school/parish links ensure that the celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of the school's Catholic tradition.

### The contribution to the Common Good – service and social justice – is outstanding

The school mission statement is the foundation upon which the school shares its responsibilities as a Catholic community towards others at a local, national and global level and it does so in an outstanding way. The religious education curriculum and Catholic life of the school provide a wealth of meaningful opportunities for pupils to recognise Christ in others and to reflect on their

responsibility as Christians, supporting the Church's mission to those in need. The school works hard to inspire and guide pupils in turning their words into actions in order that they live out the call to contribute to the human flourishing of themselves and others. Charities the school engage with include: The Passage, The Catholic Children's Society, Cafod, Mary's Meals and the Trussel Trust Foodbank. Key Stage 2 pupils have undertaken long-term fundraising projects, which has seen them planning, budgeting, designing and making goods to sell in order to raise funds for charities. The Year 6 enterprise project (The Fiver Challenge) saw pupils making donations to several charities that they had researched. During their time at the school pupils have the opportunity to experience positions of responsibility and leadership such as head boy and girl, school council, 'chaplaincy team', prefects and house captains. These roles help pupils to develop skills empowering them to make contributions to the wider community and the Common Good. There is a strong commitment to ensure that pupils understand what they are doing and why they are doing it, and understanding how their contribution makes a difference. During a meeting with the school 'chaplaincy team' a pupil said, 'if we are following in Jesus' footsteps then we are all equal and we are trying to make our world a better place for everyone.'

**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 outstanding**

The partnership with parents, parish and diocese is very strong. The high return of the parents' questionnaire revealed very high levels of support, respect and trust in the school. One parent wrote, 'Larmenier and Sacred Heart is a wonderful place for children's faith to grow and be nurtured.' Parents are kept informed about the religious education curriculum and the 'Wednesday Word' is distributed weekly to families. The school website and strong communication all support the outstanding relationship the school has with parents. There are strong links with the parish and the school chaplain is an integral member of the school community and also accompanies pupils to Assisi each year. The school is the host venue for the diocesan led CCRS programme in conjunction with St. Mary's University. The school is a member of the West London Teaching School Alliance and the headteacher is part of the steering group which oversees developments related to school to school support, professional development, initial teacher training (ITT) and the Catholic division of the Alliance. The school supports diocesan led professional development as well as taking part in deanery opportunities with local schools.

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

**is outstanding**

The school's leadership team is fully committed to the Church's mission in a vibrant and consistent way. The school mission statement, 'In our school we learn and love, we pray and play, following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ', is embedded across the school. The headteacher and her team are highly ambitious with an outstanding commitment to ongoing improvement in all areas. The self-evaluation form is an honest and accurate assessment of the strengths and areas for improvement. Parents are certain that the Catholicity of the school is of central importance to the staff and governors. School leaders are passionate about their school and are fully committed to the Church's mission in education. Governors are committed and conscientious in their role. They know their school well and play an active part in the school community.

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

- Continue to build on the already outstanding practice by further developing the initiatives and activities from 'Our Eucharistic Journey' Adoremus 2018-2019.

## Information about this school

- The school is a two-form entry Catholic primary school in the locality of Brook Green.
- The school serves the parish of Holy Trinity, Brook Green.
- The proportion of pupils who are baptised Catholic is 98%.
- The proportion of pupils who are from other Christian denominations is 1%. The remaining pupils are from families who have not declared a faith.
- The percentage of Catholic teachers in the school is 80%.
- The number of teachers with a Catholic qualification is 10.
- There are 8.3 % of pupils in the school with special educational needs or disabilities of whom 15 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 well above average.
- There is a below average rate of families claiming free school meals.
- 44 pupils receive the Pupil Premium (10%).

<b>Department for Education Number</b>	205 3649
<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	134009
<b>Local Authority</b>	Hammersmith and Fulham

<b>Type of school</b>	Primary
<b>School category</b>	Voluntary Aided
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	3-11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	445
<b>The appropriate authority</b>	The governing body
<b>Chair</b>	Mrs Lisa Howard
<b>Headteacher</b>	Miss Jennifer McGinty
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 8748 9444
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.larshrc.lbhf.sch.uk">www.larshrc.lbhf.sch.uk</a>
<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@larshrc.lbhf.sch.uk">admin@larshrc.lbhf.sch.uk</a>
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2014
<b>Grades from previous inspection:</b>	
<b>Classroom religious education</b>	Outstanding
<b>The Catholic life of the school</b>	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 11 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 Team

The inspectors are appointed by the Archbishop.

Mrs Ann Staunton

Lead Inspector

Mrs Norah Flatley

Associate Inspector

Mrs Ruth Sykes

Associate Inspector

## Information about inspection

The purpose of Diocesan inspection is to report to and advise the Archbishop on the quality of classroom religious education and the Catholic life of the school. The inspection report is also used to inform parents and carers, and the wider Catholic community. Inspection provides an opportunity to support, challenge, evaluate and promote the work of Catholic schools. It also assists schools in the work of self-evaluation and improvement, and enables the Diocese to celebrate with schools their sense of identity and their strengths as Catholic schools.

### Inspection Grades

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires improvement
- Causing concern

This report is published by the Diocese of Westminster and is available at:  
<http://rcdow.org.uk/education/schools>

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