

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School

Park Avenue, Staines TW182EF



Date of inspection by Westminster Diocese: 19 June 2019

Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

A. Classroom religious education is good

- The religious education curriculum is carefully planned so that pupils grow very well in their understanding of their Catholic faith.
- Teachers have strong subject knowledge. Teaching is never less than good and in some cases it is outstanding.
- Behaviour for learning is exemplary.
- Children in Early Years Foundation Stage get a very good start to their religious education journey in a well resourced, thought-provoking and nurturing environment.
- Teachers use a range of strategies to create a stimulating learning environment for all pupils.
- Pupils with additional needs receive excellent support and tasks, ensuring an inclusive curriculum.
- Pupils demonstrate high levels of religious literacy as a result of good teaching embedded in a lived experience of the faith.
- Homework is regular and linked to the liturgical calendar.
- Teaching of other faiths is done sensitively, respectfully and effectively.
- The presentation of work in books across the school is of a very high standard.
- The recently appointed religious education leader is passionate and committed to school improvement.

Classroom religious education is not yet outstanding because

- There is not yet a consistently high level of challenge and expectation across all year groups.

B. The Catholic life of the school is outstanding

- The school's new mission statement underpins and expresses its understanding of its core purposes as a Catholic school.
- The Catholic life of the school permeates the whole community in the outstanding opportunities it provides. Displays around the school are vibrant and have Christ at the centre.
- 10% time is given to religious education, as required by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.
- Prayer and worship are central to the school and pupils have ample opportunities to experience a wealth of Catholic tradition. Pupils are actively engaged in planning of worship opportunities.
- The school's commitment to the Common Good and Catholic Social Teaching is outstanding.
- The school has strong and vibrant relationships with the parish, parents, deanery and diocese. The school is inclusive in its outreach to its community ensuring that parents, parishioners, pupils and staff are welcome to worship together. The parish priest is inspirational in his support and commitment to life at Our Lady of the Rosary School.
- The leadership team has a clear vision of the mission of the school and developing its pupils in discipleship for life. Governors are active and a committed force for good in the school, providing both support and challenge. School self-evaluation is accurate and robust.

A. Classroom Religious Education

What has improved since the last inspection?

Staff have attended diocesan training to support teaching and the parish priest now supports staff at the beginning of each topic. Termly moderation of work and book scrutinies show that presentation in books has improved across the school. All areas from the previous inspection have been addressed.

The content of classroom religious education is good

The school has a religious education (RE) curriculum that meets all the requirements of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (RECD). This scheme is in place across all ages and key stages. The school has developed a creative approach to the teaching of RE and this was evident both in lessons and pupil books. Regular homework is set linked to the liturgical year. The teaching of other faiths enhances the curriculum across the school along with visits to holy places and leaders from other faiths speaking to pupils.

Pupil achievement in religious education is good

Pupil achievement, attainment and progress in RE are good and in line with other core subjects. Pupils' behaviour in lessons is exemplary and they are highly engaged and interested in their learning. They are helpful, courteous and polite. They are given a range of opportunities to engage in lessons including individual work, group work and whole class work. There is evidence of some creative and stimulating activities used to maximise pupils' engagement and enjoyment of the subject. Pupils are religiously literate and know scripture well. Staff are able access diocesan and joint deanery training and moderation which helps to ensure the accuracy of assessment. The school is developing its deanery networks, particularly with the appointment of the executive headteacher who is keen for schools to work closely together and share best practice.

The quality of teaching is good

The typicality of teaching at Our Lady of the Rosary is good and in some cases outstanding, leading to pupils achieving well over time. Teachers displayed strong subject knowledge and very good relationships with the children. There is a very positive climate for learning across the school. Pupils like RE lessons and one pupil told inspectors that they like RE because it is 'creative with art, craft, technology and not just about writing.' In the best lessons, pupils were challenged to take risks. A Year 6 lesson on whether it is a Christian responsibility to care of the sick, pupils were debating for and against the statement. They were able to make explicit links to scripture, link other faiths and were able to challenge each other to think deeper about their arguments. In a Year 2 lesson on forgiveness and reconciliation, a pupil was able to make links to Mathew's Gospel and say that 'Jesus told Peter that we should forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.' There was evidence of some good open-ended questioning in some year groups, which aided discussions between pupils and gave them the opportunity to extend their learning. Homework is regular and used to support the learning in class and is a good link between home and school. Marking in books was regular and next steps were understood by pupils and responded to. In the best cases, this marking challenged the children to think more deeply. The quantity of work in books and the presentation of work was of a very high standard demonstrating that pupils clearly valued the importance of their religious education books. There is a system for monitoring of teaching and its impact on learning is leading to improvements. It is recognised that it is important for sharing of best practice across the school.

The effectiveness of leadership and management in promoting religious education is good

The leadership and management of RE are judged to be good. The executive headteacher leads another Catholic school locally and has a commitment to raising standards in religious education. She has high expectations of her staff and is well supported by her leadership team. It is recognised that it is important for sharing of best practice across the school. The RE leader has a passion and commitment to raising standards across the school. Governors are experienced, committed and as regular visitors to the school, they know it very well. The educational mission of the Church is evident in all aspects of the school's work. This is reflected in many of the RE displays, artefacts and artwork around the school. It is very evident that this is a Catholic school when one enters the building. There are systems and structures in place to ensure high quality teaching and that all staff are very supported. Self-evaluation is very accurate and robust ensuring that there is the capacity for further improvement.

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

- Ensure there are opportunities for best practice across the school to be shared with all staff.
- Given the high standards of religious literacy shown by pupils teachers should now ensure that challenge is consistently applied across all year groups.

B. The Catholic life of the school

What has improved since the last inspection?

The areas from the previous inspection have all been addressed. An outdoor sensory area, designed by pupils, has been created for prayer and reflection. The school has a strong partnership with the local parish priest who is a frequent and welcome visitor to the school. Pupils are now confident to plan and lead their own class worship and each class is involved in annual fundraising for Cafod.

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. Throughout the school there are displays on Laudato Si, other faiths, Adoremus and many saints. The school motto 'Joy, Excellence, Service' is all around. At a meeting with pupils they were confident to share what being at this Catholic school meant to them. One pupil said, 'God made us to care for one another and doesn't want us to suffer so we have to help each other.' Pupils are articulate in sharing their faith and are very proud of their school. Governors 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 many 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 being used across the school at age appropriate levels and pupils are confident in leading these acts of worship. They are now ready to deepen this area by being more creative and moving away from the scaffolding that is currently in place as they are religiously literate and ready to deepen their religious knowledge. Displays of pupil work around the school are of a very 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. In a meeting with pupils one told inspectors, 'I like worshipping with other people because we are all in God's family and it's good for us to worship together.' The liturgical year is the foundation of all religious experiences within the school. The exceptionally strong school/parish links and the inspirational support from the parish priest ensure that the celebration of the Eucharist is at the very heart of Our Lady of the Rosary's Catholic tradition.

The contribution to the Common Good – service and social justice –

is outstanding

The school's commitment to the Common Good is a strength of the school. The governors, leadership team and all the staff are committed to the dignity of the human person and the Church's call to action for justice and peace. The school helps pupils develop an informed conscience and to take responsibility for their actions. The school has supported many charities including the local food bank, Cafod, Catholic Children's Society, Street Child Africa, Manna Society and Shelter among others. Pupils are proud of their community and understand the importance of working together to

put into action the Gospel values. Pupils reported that, 'Jesus said, we should 'love one another,' They explained that this is the reason why their fundraising is so important and they were also clear about the links between Pope Francis' letter '*Laudato Si*' and our responsibility to look after the world. Pupils are given opportunities to show service and leadership through a range of responsibility roles including members of the school council, focusing on looking after the environment and becoming more eco-aware as 'Eco Stewards' and the 'Chaplaincy Team'.

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 parents' questionnaire showed high levels of support, respect and trust in the school. One parent wrote, 'I think the school does a fantastic job ensuring the Catholic ethos is at the forefront of everything they do, from learning to behaviour to events and activities.' 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 parish priest is an integral member of the school community supporting staff and being a visible presence around the school. 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 newly established school mission statement, 'With joy in our hearts, we aspire to excellence and offer ourselves in service to God and to neighbour' is embedded across the school and was devised collaboratively between all stakeholders. The executive headteacher and her team are ambitious and have a commitment to ongoing improvement in all areas. The self-evaluation form is an honest and accurate assessment of the strengths and areas for improvement. 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?

- Further develop pupil led worship to allow pupils to be more creative in displaying their deepening religious knowledge.

Information about this school

- The school is a one-form entry Catholic primary school in the locality of Staines.
- The school serves the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Staines.
- The proportion of pupils who are baptised Catholic is 99.6%.
- The proportion of pupils who are from other Christian denominations is 0.4% and from other faiths is 0%.
- The percentage of Catholic teachers in the school is 78%.
- The number of teachers with a Catholic qualification is 3.
- There are 15% of pupils in the school with special educational needs or disabilities of whom 3 have statements of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)/ Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP).
- The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups is below average.
- The number of pupils speaking English as an Additional Language is above average.
- There is a below average rate of families claiming free school meals.
- 8 pupils receive the Pupil Premium (4%).

Department for Education Number	936 3461
Unique Reference Number	125215
Local Authority	Surrey

Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary Aided
Age range of pupils	4 -11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on roll	Number
The appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr Howard Hughes
Executive Headteacher	Mrs Helen Andrews
Telephone number	01784 453539
Website	www.ourladyrosary-surrey.frogos.net
Email address	admin@ourlady.surrey.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	30 January 2014
Grades from previous inspection:	
Classroom religious education	Good
The Catholic life of the school	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 8 lessons or part lessons were observed.
- The inspectors attended 2 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

Mr Paul Stubbings

Associate Inspector

Miss Katie Buckley

Associate Inspector

Mr Tony Gorton

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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