



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

Name of School: Our Lady and St George's Catholic Primary School

Unique Reference Number: 135193

Inspection Date: 5 October, 2012

**Reporting Inspectors: Dr Michael Sutherland-Harper and
Mrs Maureen Cosgrave**

This Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of School: Primary
School Category: Voluntary Aided
Age range of pupils: 3 - 11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 457
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous inspection:

School Address:
Shernhall Road
London
E17 3EA
Tel. No. 020 8520 8500
Fax No. 020 8520 3092
Chair of Governors: Mrs Anita Feculak
Headteacher: Mrs Rosie McGlynn

Introduction:

The Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education (Schools) Act 2005 by two inspectors appointed by the Diocesan Bishop at the request of the Governing Body of the School.

The Inspectors acknowledge and are appreciative of the full support, co-operation and courtesy they enjoyed from the Governors, Headteacher, Staff and Pupils of the School both before and during the Inspection. The Inspectors wish to express their gratitude to all concerned.

The focus of the Section 48 Inspection was:

- Classroom Religious Education
- The Catholic nature of the School through:
 1. Worship
 2. Links with the Catholic and wider community
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

The Section 48 Report

Our Lady and St George's Catholic Primary School
Shernhall Road
London
E17 3EA

Head Teacher: Mrs Rosie McGlynn

Date of Inspection: 5 October 2012

Description of the School:

Our Lady & St George's Catholic Primary School is a voluntary aided Catholic school situated in Walthamstow and in the diocese of Brentwood. The school is much larger than the average-sized primary school. The school serves the Catholic parishes of Our Lady and St George in Walthamstow and Christ the King in Chingford. It is a split site school with a distance of 700 metres between the sites. The school opened on the 1st September 2010 as the result of the amalgamation of St Helen's Catholic Infant School and St Mary's Catholic Junior School.

Record of Evidence Base:

Two Diocesan Inspectors were in the school for the equivalent of two inspection days.

- The study of pre-inspection documentation including the Self-Evaluation Form/ Denominational Provision (SEF/DP).
- The observation of seven lessons.
- Participation in an assembly.
- Scrutiny of pupils' written work.
- Meetings with the Headteacher and the Co-ordinator of Religious Education (R.E.), the Chair of Governors and other governors, the parish priest and a representative group of pupils.
- Observations of R.E. displays in the classrooms and around the school.

What the School does well:

Our Lady and St George's Catholic Primary School is a good Catholic school. The school's mission statement, 'With Jesus we join together to love, listen, respect, learn and enjoy', sums up the sense of community and the feeling of nurture which pervades both school sites. The school provides pupils with a good Catholic education because its values are clear, pupils are well-behaved and there are strong relationships between the pupils and adults. The school's ethos, based on Gospel values, is also about caring for each other and that quality is well personified by the efforts put in by the capable headteacher to create a strong sense of inclusion. Strong links with local parishes to extend learning about and understanding their Catholic faith, together with regular visits from much-respected local priests, mean that pupils have a secure grounding in religious education before they leave the school.

The clear-sighted headteacher works tirelessly to improve the school. She knows her school and its pupils well and is fully supported in her work to take the school forward by her deputies and staff. Governors bring considerable experience into the school and are very supportive of its work through their knowledge of the local area and the regular visits they make to the school. The roles of middle leaders are being further developed to contribute to the ongoing improvement in the school. Self-evaluation is accurate with a focus on improvement but some activities in the development plans need further dates for review and follow-up activities. Good links with local schools and between the two sites ensure consistently good provision. All staff understand the ethos and aims of the school as do parents and carers with whom there are strong links.

Provision for prayer, collective worship and the liturgical life of the school is good. The school was able to provide a list of school dates linked to feasts and the liturgy which underlined its close attention to this aspect of provision. Prayer corners and crucifixes feature prominently in classrooms. The school keeps a good photographic record of

family involvement with the liturgy and the school. There are good roles for both staff and pupils to share their faith in school assemblies.

Provision of Religious Education is well-organised. Good use is made of resources, electronic technology and questions to enhance learning. The R.E. curriculum is based on the Religious Education programmes of study, recommended by the Bishop of the Diocese, and is being fully implemented with discussion of how to bring in the new 'Come and See' programme. Standards conform fully to diocesan expectations. In some lessons, planning is followed closely at the expense of opportunities for pupils to develop their own reflections and take their learning forward personally as a result.

Teaching is good because teachers have good subject knowledge and are appropriately trained. They know the pupils well and are keenly supportive of their pastoral and academic welfare. This aspect was clearly illustrated in a very good buddying up session between Year 1 and Year 4 pupils where the older pupils had adopted a younger colleague and both groups had a wonderful opportunity to present their best skills in singing and art work to each other as a means of reinforcing the provision of Religious Education. Identification and sharing of best practice between staff is at an early stage of development.

Learners' achievement is good. Pupils behave well and are fully engaged in lessons. They listen respectfully to each other and to adults. Work produced is of good quality with some opportunities for extended writing but opportunities for pupils to move rapidly forward in independent learning are sometimes limited because the teacher talks too long before the pupils are allowed to move on with development of their written work. Presentation is usually neat. Parents and carers are encouraged to be involved in taking forward their children's learning. The school is looking at ways to extend challenge for pupils through more closely timed activities. It is seeking to ensure that pupils are always clear about next steps through the comments made in marking and more display of pupils' own best work in classrooms. Pupils are well prepared for their future by good transitions between the two sites and with secondary schools. Progress in R.E. is closely tracked and monitored. All pupils have equal access to all opportunities in this inclusive school.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good. Good displays reinforce school values. Pupils have a clear sense of right and wrong. They enjoy strong, supportive relationships with each other and with adults. Good links with the church and diocese reinforce opportunities for spiritual growth. The priests associated with the school work tirelessly to help develop the sense of awe and wonder about God's creation. This aspect could be further developed in some lessons by allowing time for pupils to explain the results of their own reflections. The school is a thriving, multi-cultural community which is actively developing its close links with Ghana and is beginning to explore how the rich personal experiences of its community can help to develop teaching and learning.

Our Lady and St George's Primary School is a good Catholic school with a clear ethos which is highly valued by its pupils as illustrated by the numbers of ex-pupils who

stopped to greet staff as they made their way between the two sites with inspectors. The school is deeply committed to children, their education and welfare and, as such, is highly valued by all members of the community. The school's capacity for further improvement is very good.

What needs to be improved?

- **Continue to develop links with the multi-cultural school community of parents and carers to enrich the curriculum and learning experiences.**
- **Provide further opportunities for pupils to develop their learning independently and ensure that all assessment procedures show them how to do so.**
- **Continue staff training on the use and implementation of the Come and See programme.**

The Inspectors endorse the areas identified by the school for improvement in the Section 48 Self-Evaluation Form.

Our Lady and St George's Catholic Primary School is a good school. Close links between staff, pupils, priest, governors and parents and carers mean that the school is an inclusive community centred on the development of the individual through faith. The dedicated headteacher is working tirelessly with all stakeholders to make the school even better and is making good progress towards achieving its goals.