



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

Name of School: St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School

LEA: Essex URN 115183

Inspection Dates: 11th March 2009

Reporting Inspectors: Ms Colette Dawson and Mr Derek Kelly

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: 4 - 11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 209
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous Inspection: October 2005

School Address:
Highview Crescent
Hutton Essex, CM13 1BJ
Tel. No. 01277 227282
Fax No. 01277 227282
Chair of Governors: Shelagh Facchini
Headteacher: Bernadette Rossiter

Introduction:

The Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education (Schools) Act 2005 by 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 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

**St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School,
Highview Crescent
Hutton
Essex,
CM13 1BJ**

Head Teacher: Bernadette Rossiter

Date of Inspection: 11th March 2009

Description of the School:

St Joseph the Worker Primary School is a voluntary aided Catholic school situated in the Essex Local Education Authority and under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Brentwood. It is a smaller than average school, next to the parish church of St Joseph the Worker. Pupils are drawn from a variety of social backgrounds and mixed academic ability. 75% of pupils are from White British background. 77% are baptised Catholics. St Joseph's is an extremely popular school.

Record of Evidence Base:

Two 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 complete lessons.
- Scrutiny of pupils' work.
- Participation in a whole school Assembly.
- Meetings with the Acting Head teacher, the Head teacher, who is currently on adoption leave, the Parish Priest, the Religious Education (R.E.) Co-ordinator, the R.E. Link Governor, the School Council and the Eco Group, the St Joseph the Workers (SJWs), the Positive Play Leaders (PPLs), the Liturgical Choir and the Key Stage One Science Celebration.
- Observations of R.E. Displays in the Class rooms and around the school.

What the School does well:

St Joseph the Worker is an outstanding Catholic School. It displays many strengths. It is firmly committed to developing its Catholic identity under the inspirational and outstanding leadership of its Head teacher who is very well supported by her Deputy who is at present the Acting Head and their Management team, committed Governors, highly motivated Staff, Pupils and the Parish Priest. All the stakeholders demonstrate an outstanding sense of teamwork. St Joseph's School is outstanding in every area. 'This is an outstanding school and parents are right in their view that it provides pupils with an excellent start to their education and prepares them well for their future lives as adults.' (Ofsted October 2008)

Religious Education (R.E.) is an area of high focus in the school. The '**Here I Am**' programme, recommended by the Bishop of the Diocese, is fully implemented. The 'Before You Begin' element of the process is securely embedded at the beginning of each topic. Staff planning is exemplary. They clearly understand the '**Here I Am**' process and use it effectively to provide a high quality and stimulating curriculum. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is used effectively to enhance the quality of lessons.

The overall quality of teaching and learning in R.E. is outstanding. Lessons are well planned and learning objectives are stated, explained and revisited. In the lessons observed, pupils were on task, engaged, highly motivated, challenged and enjoying their R.E. Behaviour is outstanding. Pupils were enthusiastic and purposeful and worked well together. The school uses its Mission Statement '**With Jesus we learn, we care, we listen, we share so that He might be seen in the people that we are and the things that we do.**' as a model for everything the school achieves. This and relationships and class management are recognised strengths of the school.

Assessment in R.E. is consistent in all year groups. It is systematic, rigorous and informative. There is a clear assessment focus for each of the '**Here I Am**' topics which gives excellent evidence of '**Relate**' knowledge and understanding. Positive

feedback is given to the pupils and this enables them to make progress. Assessment for Learning (AfL) is used to enhance pupils' learning and progress.

The leadership and management of the R.E. by the R.E. Co-ordinator are outstanding. Her leadership drives the assessment procedures used by all the teachers, she monitors R.E. lessons and is very supportive of all staff, teachers and teacher assistants. Her line of management ensures that there are good links between R.E., the liturgical life of the school and Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education. (PSCHE)

The School meets both the national and diocesan requirements for the allocation of curriculum time for taught R.E.

Collective Worship, liturgical celebrations, the celebration of major Saints' feast days, the feast of St Joseph and the school's links with the local parish are all strengths of St Joseph's School. The preparation for and celebration of Christmas and Easter, Mother's Day are all outstanding features of St Joseph's school. In addition the school has developed two areas for quiet reflection – a Quiet Room and a Garden area.

St Joseph the Worker School promotes an outstanding and tangible Catholic ethos. This is subscribed to by all the stakeholders – Governors, the Head Teacher and her management team, staff, pupils and their parents. The School provides outstanding opportunities for the pupils to develop a strong sense of community through activities which engender feelings of loyalty and belonging. There are links with a local Care Home and a Special School. The School continues to develop strong links with other primary schools in the Deanery and beyond. The emphasis on community cohesion is another outstanding strength of the school. 'Leaders ensure that the school promotes community cohesion by fostering very positive relationships with outside agencies and the wider community' (Ofsted October 2008)

R.E. displays and artefacts, in the classrooms and around the School, are outstanding in their range and quality.

St Joseph's Primary School values links with parents with every effort being made to improve and maintain communication with parents as their children progress through the school. Links between the school and the parish are excellent. The parish Priest is a frequent visitor. The governors of the school are very dedicated, hardworking and supportive of everything the school does.

Pupils are given every opportunity to become responsible citizens. This is evident in their concern for each other and for those who are in need. This is particularly evidenced by the work and role of the School Council, the Eco Group, the SJWs and the PPLs and the generous fundraising for the charities that the School supports. St Joseph the Worker Primary School participates in the annual Diocesan Citizenship Awards which takes place in the Summer term.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is another outstanding strength of the School. They celebrate different cultures and enjoy themed weeks and special days. Resources for the study of other faiths and visits to places of worship are outstanding.

What needs to be improved?

There are no specific areas requiring improvement other than ensuring that the areas highlighted by the Section 48 Self Evaluation Form continue to be addressed. .

Overall, St Joseph the Worker Primary School is an outstanding Catholic School which displays many strengths. It is outstanding in all areas. It prepares its pupils so that they transfer to their Secondary Schools as happy, well-adjusted young people who are a credit to themselves, their parents and their School. The School owes much of its success to the strong and committed leadership of the Head teacher, her Deputy and her Management Team and to the valued support and expertise of her staff and governors.