



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

Name of School: St George's Catholic Primary School

Inspection Date: 7th May 2014

Reporting Inspector: Mrs Angela O'Connor OBE
Mrs Penny Rickard

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 to 11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 209
Appropriate Authority: Governing Body
Date of previous inspection:
25th May 2012

School Address:
Eagle Way
Shoeburyness
Southend-on-Sea
SS39RN
Tel. No. 01702293522
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Headteacher: Mrs Annabelle Smith
Chair of Governors: Mr Frank McEvoy

Information about the school

St George's Primary School is a Catholic school in the county of Essex in the diocese of Brentwood. It serves the nearby parishes in the surrounding area. There are currently 209 pupils aged 4 to 11 on roll and the school is over subscribed. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage of whom 80% are Catholics. The proportion of pupils supported by pupil premium is well below the national average and 8% pupils receive free school meals. There are 10 teachers of whom 6 are Catholic and 5 hold the CCRS.

Key grades for inspection

1: Outstanding 2: Good 3: Requires Improvement 4: Inadequate

Overall effectiveness of this Catholic school

Grade 2

St George's Primary School is a good school. It is warm and welcoming with a strong Catholic ethos which permeates all areas. The school is committed to its Mission Statement, which is displayed prominently throughout the school, of having Christ at its heart. This is manifested through the positive relationships, close home, school, parish links and the good behaviour of the pupils. The care and welfare of each pupil is paramount and each child is celebrated and cared for as an individual. The strong catholic ethos of the school is enhanced by the many attractive and relevant religious displays in the classrooms and around the school. Parents are very supportive of the school. They appreciate the care for their children and the catholic life of the school

The school's capacity for sustained improvement

Grade 2

The school has a good capacity for sustained improvement. The last inspection in May 2012 identified two areas for development linked to progress and marking and assessment. These have been partly addressed but the school is well aware that marking and assessment need further development. The school gives a high priority to the religious education curriculum and ensures that staff are well trained and have sufficient good quality resources.

The headteacher and governors are united in their commitment to the school and their drive and determination to succeed strives to provide the best possible environment and education for the pupils. The staff are given many opportunities to extend their knowledge and improve their skills through courses, training and sharing good practice

The partnership between headteacher, governors, religious education coordinator and parish priest which provides strong leadership of this catholic community will be further strengthened when the senior leadership is fully established.

What the school should do to improve further

Continue to develop the marking process so that comments enable pupils to improve, through identifying the next steps and by giving them the opportunity and time to respond to the comments

Develop a clear policy to ensure a more consistent approach to the quantity, quality, content and presentation of work in the religious education workbooks

Outcomes for pupils

Grade 2

Pupils make a good contribution to the Catholic life of the school. They understand the needs of others both in their local and wider communities. They are involved in supporting many Charities such as CAFOD and Shoebox Appeal. The Liturgy Team plays an important role in the preparation of Mass and allocate roles ranging from organising the seating to reading the prayers. There is a very strong and supportive link with the Parish Priest who is a frequent and welcome visitor to the school. The Home, School, Parish relationship is flourishing and this is further enhanced through regular communication and information sharing. Pupils are polite and respectful and their behavior is excellent.

Prayer and worship are central to school life. A well planned programme of Masses and assemblies give pupils the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of their faith. They know the traditional prayers of the church. In some classes there are opportunities for spontaneous prayer. Pupils are given opportunities to write their own prayers which are displayed in the very attractive and prominent prayer corners in each classroom. Of particular note was the “prayer tent” in a key Stage 1 classroom which gave the pupils a quiet area to reflect. Reflections are a part of religious education lessons and are used to help the pupils relate their behaviours towards others in everyday life.

Pastoral care is excellent and is given a high priority in the school by the headteacher, governors and staff. Pupils feel safe and well cared for. They are confident they will be listened to and any concerns rectified. A thriving buddy system for reception and year 6 pupils gives responsibility to the older pupils and helped the younger pupils to settle well into school. Parents are very appreciative of the care, commitment and friendliness of the staff

Progress in religious education is good. Pupils enjoy their lessons. They particularly enjoy working together, writing their own prayers and showing respect to others. As one pupil said “They enjoy learning how to become more like Jesus” They have a good knowledge of the Catholic faith and can use the appropriate religious language. Progress in religious education can be seen through various activities such as Dance, Drama and Art, as well as in their workbooks. In order to give full justice to the standards achieved in religious education there needs to be a more consistent approach to the amount and presentation of their written work.

Leaders and managers

Grade 2

The headteacher provides strong and focused leadership. She has a clear vision of Catholic education which she communicates to the whole community. She is enthusiastic and passionate about the school, always wanting the very best provision and outcomes for pupils, staff and parents. She is a good role model for the staff. She is aware of areas of development and her self-evaluation is accurate and detailed.

The senior leadership team is not yet fully established with allocated roles and consequently the headteacher is undertaking many different roles. The SLT will be stronger when it is fully in place.

The religious education coordinator is very committed to her role and works tirelessly with the headteacher to continue to raise standards in religious education. She is very supportive of the staff providing them with all the resources necessary to plan and organize the curriculum. She monitors the religious education curriculum through work and planning scrutiny and learning walks. She is currently undertaking a middle managers course which will enable her to further develop her role.

There is a real emphasis in the school on staff development and increasing their subject knowledge in religious education. New staff are strongly encouraged to take the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

The very strong Governing Body led by an experienced and knowledgeable chair of governors work closely with the headteacher. They are very well informed about the school about the school and its progress through very focused and well planned governor visits and regular meetings between the headteacher and chair of governors

The parish priest is a governor and very involved in the catholic life and religious education in the school providing help and support when needed.

School leaders have ensured this is a welcoming and caring community where all are valued and respected. The school is supportive of their local community through activities such as carol singing and summer concerts. There are good links with diocesan Catholic primary schools as well as the senior schools to which most pupils transfer at the end of Key Stage 2. A wide range of charities are supported both local and national. Parents and the parish community are invited into the school for Assemblies, masses and social events. Parents are kept well informed about their children's progress and welfare.

Provision

Grade 2

Provision for prayer and worship at St George's is very good. Assemblies and Liturgies are well planned and include drama, music and singing. There is a high level of pupil involvement. Parents are frequently invited to assemblies and school masses and there is always a good uptake. The parish priest attends Friday's celebration Assembly which contributes to the strong school, parish partnership. Mass is celebrated in school on various occasions and key liturgical feast days are celebrated in church with the parish community. The pupils know a variety of prayers which are used during the school day such as the Angelus and prayers before and after lunch. The prayer corners in each classroom are attractive and interactive and a central focus in each classroom.

The Quality of Teaching and Learning in religious education is good. During the inspection lessons observed were generally good. Interesting and thoughtful activities engaged the pupils. Pupils are articulate and answer questions using appropriate religious vocabulary. They work well together. Teaching Assistants were fully involved in each lesson and helped to move the pupil's learning on. They were well briefed and supported the pupils, where necessary, to achieve good progress. Marking is still being developed. It is affirmative but at present does not identify the next steps in learning. The school is aware of this and sees it as an area of

development. Assessment and pupil tracking is continuing to develop to take into account the new “Come and See” curriculum.

The quality of the religious education curriculum is good. The curriculum meets the requirements of the Bishops Conference and 10% of the timetable as allocated to the teaching of religious education. The school uses the “Come and See” curriculum and ongoing training and Inset ensure staff are well prepared to deliver the curriculum. Religious education displays in the classrooms and around the school are well presented with a good variety of pupil’s work and contribute to supporting the mission Statement. There are good cross curricular links such as drama, dance and art. Information and communications technology is used as both a teaching resource and for pupil activities. Other Faiths are taught in accordance with the “Come and See” curriculum. The curriculum enables pupils to demonstrate respect for self and others and be aware of the difference between right and wrong. It contributes very well to their spiritual and moral development. The religious education curriculum is well resourced with books, bibles and artefacts.

The inspector would like to express her thanks and appreciation to all members of the school community for their welcome and openness during the inspection.