



St Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

URN: 148951

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Clifton

20–21 June 2024

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

2

Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

1

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

2

Collective worship (p.7)

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

2

The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference

Yes

The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop

Yes

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection

Fully

What the school does well

- The school has strong leadership that provides the capacity for continued development.
- The school's values are well known by pupils and staff and their active participation enhances the Catholic life and mission of the community.
- Children are enthusiastic to participate in worship and are respectful in their approach.
- Pupils are skilful in making links with scripture and the principles of Catholic social teaching; this begins from the earliest stages of school life.
- Staff are committed to developing their own knowledge and pedagogy and benefit from high quality staff training.

What the school needs to improve

- For all subject leaders to develop a collaborative approach to identify connections between discrete subject areas and links with Catholic social teaching and Catholic values.
- To develop pupils' understanding of how well they are doing in religious education and what they need to do next to improve.
- For staff to expand their understanding of the variety of prayers that form part of the Catholic tradition, so as to enhance the experience of prayer and spirituality for participants.

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

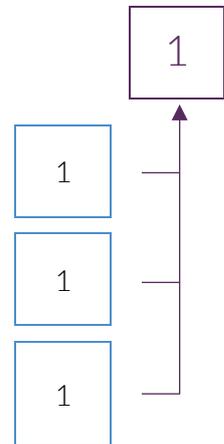
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school



St Joseph's community is proud of its school and celebrates its distinctive Catholic identity. Pupils can articulate their understanding of what makes the school unique, for example through their references to Catholic social teaching and school values. Pupils also feel happy, confident and valued in school; the vast majority of parents confirm this. The children are keen to adopt leadership roles within the school, for example by participating in Pupil Chaplaincy and School Council activities. This year, activities that the children have been involved with include running a prayer group at lunchtime, working towards the Live Simply Award and supporting the local food bank and other charities. Senior leaders plan to enable more children to participate in similar activities next year.

There is a strong sense of community at St Joseph's. The school environment reflects these values in its displays, areas for prayer, and the quality of resources available. The school works hard to develop a culture of welcome by celebrating and respecting all, irrespective of their culture or belief traditions. For example, Muslim and Polish parents were invited into the school to talk to the other children about their own lived experiences. In parental questionnaires, one response stated, 'The Catholic life, mission and education really feels like it underpins the holistic values, ethos and culture at the school. My two children understand how to be community minded and seem very well engaged with the religious teachings of the school.' Staff are exemplary role models for pupils, which is clearly evidenced through the supportive relationships they have with each other, the leadership team, and with the pupils and families in their care. The school's provision for relationships, sex and health education [R(S)HE] is carefully planned and parents and carers are regularly consulted regarding its content. The curriculum meets statutory and diocesan requirements and is faithful to the teachings of the church.

Leaders are energised, joyful and determined in their pursuit to ensure that Christ is always at the heart of all elements of school life. Parents and carers also value the school's mission. Parent and carer questionnaire responses were overwhelmingly positive in their support for the school. One response stated, 'St Joseph's is a school which consistently communicates its Catholic mission to parents. We are informed every term about Catholic life within the school and also Catholic life at the local church.' The school actively engages with the diocese, attending all relevant training and being proactive in seeking additional support as and when this is needed. The Head teacher also supports the diocese by participating in working party projects. Leaders and governors support and promote parish links within the school. For example, the parish priest is a regular visitor to St Joseph's, children attend Mass each week at the parish church and parishioners volunteer in school. Currently parishioners visit the school weekly to run the lunchtime prayer group with pupils and to hear readers. The school invites parents and carers to be involved in the wider Catholic life of the school and they are supportive of it. The wider school community are invited to Mass at the parish church each week and to attend school events, such as the stations of the cross.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

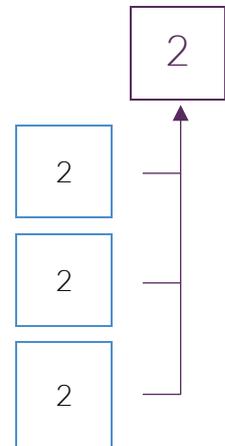
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for religious education



Pupils are secure in their understanding of religious education and build upon their prior learning. As a result, all year groups achieve well and in line with other core subjects. During lessons, children confidently recall previous knowledge and explain how this linked to their current learning. Pupils demonstrate religious literacy by using a range of vocabulary and through their use of scripture, Catholic social teaching and gospel values. Children are engaged in lessons, are able to speak confidently about their learning and encouraged to think ethically. 'Big questions' have been used by class teachers to good effect, as a way of generating discussion and developing deeper thinking. Children report that they enjoy religious education and particularly appreciate the opportunities that they have to learn in different ways, such as through art or drama. Pupils are able to work independently and encouraged to use their initiative in their learning. A range of resources are provided for children which include information fact files, success criteria prompt sheets and Bibles. Pupils now need to develop a better understanding of how well they are doing in religious education and what they can do next, to improve further.

Teachers are confident in their subject knowledge as a result of effective training provided by the diocese, the Multi Academy Trust and senior leadership. Teachers are committed to delivering quality religious education. This is evidenced in their detailed planning and through effective questioning during lessons. During lessons, teachers use ancillary questions to develop children's thinking and to develop an understanding of subject specific vocabulary. All pupils, including those with SEND are supported so that they can access the curriculum successfully. This is achieved by the skilful use of adult support where necessary and by providing additional scaffolding for specific learning tasks. Teachers also share their expectations with children by providing exemplars and by sharing examples of children's work through the school's practice

of using live marking. Pupils have the opportunity to present their learning using a variety of forms of expression, for example art, drama, letter writing and the children stated that they enjoyed these opportunities. Pupils' books are of a good standard and the children demonstrate pride in their work.

The curriculum is a faithful expression of the *Religious Education Directory* as the result of the work carried out by leaders and governors. This year, the school has introduced the new *Religious Education Directory* materials in Reception and Year 3, as recommended by Clifton Diocese. These have been received well by staff and pupils. The subject leader for religious education has a clear vision for St Joseph's and has a good level of expertise to achieve this. She has implemented a range of 'non-negotiables' in religious education and monitors the implementation of these regularly. As a result, additional support is provided for staff as and when required and the impact of this support can be evidenced. Leaders and governors also have a secure understanding of the school's strengths and its areas of development. As a consequence, leaders have formulated effective development plans based on their understanding. For example, following a monitoring visit made by the link governor, the school updated its self-evaluation document to include these recommendations. All governors are also well informed about religious education in school, for example the new *Religious Education Directory* and its implications for staff and pupils at St Joseph's.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

2

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

2

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

2

2

Prayer and liturgy are central to school life at St Joseph's and pupils respond well to the experiences provided by the school. Children speak enthusiastically about these opportunities, for example, the Tuesday lunchtime prayer group and their regular use of the Prayer Garden. Pupils are confident in planning and supporting prayer and liturgy and undertake these ministries willingly. Children enjoy participating in the celebration of the word that takes place in all classes across the school. Each class has resources available to support pupils in planning and leading prayer. Children mentioned specific resources that they found helpful, such as the prayer cubes and rosary beads. The school marks key times in the liturgical year and provides opportunities for the children to engage in these. Such occasions include the stations of the cross, the rosary, holy days of obligation and reconciliation. Pupils also participate in prayers and liturgy that are linked to specific intentions, for example during Refugee Week.

Staff are models of good practice and as a result are able to support children to actively participate. As identified in the school's own self-evaluation, the variety of creative prayer opportunities offered needs to be expanded so as to enhance the spiritual experiences for participants. The use of music and other art forms is limited and needs to be developed in prayer and liturgy to reflect the riches of the Church's traditions of prayer. The school makes good use of spaces for worship, which includes a prayer garden that was designed and is cared for by the children. St Joseph's also benefits from the regular use of the parish church, which is in close proximity to the school. This also ensures that there are frequent opportunities for parishioners, parents and carers to participate in the prayer life of the school.

Leaders recognise the importance of prayer and liturgy and as a result, allocate sufficient time, resources and facilities to this. St Joseph's has a policy for prayer and liturgy which is well formulated and which staff see as useful. There is a whole school approach to adopting pupil

led worship, as recommended by the diocese. As a result, children are able to plan, deliver and evaluate prayer and liturgy. Pupils do so in a way that is age and stage appropriate and are developing their confidence in doing so. The school's chaplaincy team also support other pupils in leading prayer. This year the chaplains have worked on sharing their knowledge of saints with the rest of the school, which was something that had been suggested by a governor during a monitoring visit. Leaders monitor the impact of prayer and liturgy and put support in place as necessary. School leaders also ensure that initial staff inductions include information about the daily pattern of prayer that exists within the school and training so that staff feel equipped to lead prayer. As a way of providing support, staff work together when planning and delivering liturgy themed around school values. Pupils' views on prayer and liturgy are regularly sought as part of the school's evaluation and leadership plan to develop this further in the coming academic year.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School
School unique reference number (URN)	148951
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	9333402
Full postal address of the school	St Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School, Oxford Street, Burnham-on-Sea, TA8 1LG
School phone number	01278784641
Headteacher	Rebecca Suik
Chair of Governors/Trustees	Sara Wills
School Website	www.st-josephs-burnham.co.uk/
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Academy
Admissions policy	N/A
Age-range of pupils	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	22-23 February 2017
Previous denominational inspection grade	2

The inspection team

Nicola Clayton

Lead

Rita McLoughlin

Team

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement