



## **DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**



### **Inspection Report**

**Name of School: St Joseph's Catholic Junior School**

**LA: Waltham Forest**

**Inspection Date: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

**Reporting Inspector: Mr Derek Kelly**

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

**Type of School: Junior  
School Category: Voluntary Aided  
Age range of pupils: 7 - 11  
Gender of pupils: Mixed  
Number on roll: 238  
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body  
School No. 320 3301**

**School Address:  
Vicarage Road  
Leyton  
London E10 5DX  
Tel. No. 020 8539 5971  
Fax No. 020 8556 9668  
Chair of Governors: Miss Jessie Howard  
Headteacher: Ms Rosie McGlynn (Seconded)  
Mr John Alexander (Acting)**

**Introduction:**

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

The Inspector acknowledges and is appreciative of the full support, co-operation and courtesy he enjoyed from the Chair of Governors, Headteacher, Acting Headteacher, Acting Deputy Headteacher, Staff and Pupils of the School both before and during the Inspection. The Inspector wishes to express his 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's Catholic Junior School**  
**Vicarage Road**  
**Leyton**  
**London**  
**E10 5DX**

**Head Teacher:**                   **Ms Rosie McGlynn (Seconded)**  
   **Mr John Alexander (Acting)**

**Date of Inspection:**           **24<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

**Description of the School:**

St Joseph's Catholic Junior School is a voluntary aided Catholic school situated in the London Borough of Waltham Forest and in the Diocese of Brentwood. It was founded in 1901 with the building of a combined church and school and serves the parish of St Joseph's and its catchment areas of Leyton and Leytonstone. It is a two form entry junior school located approximately half a mile from the parish church.

### **Record of Evidence Base:**

One Inspector was in the School for the equivalent of one inspection day.

- The study of pre-inspection documentation including the Self-Evaluation Form/ Denominational Provision (SEF/DP).
- The observation of four lessons.
- Participation in a whole school assembly.
- Scrutiny of pupils' work.
- Meetings with the Acting Headteacher, Acting Deputy Headteacher, the R.E. Co-ordinator, the Chair of Governors and the School Council.
- Observations of R.E. Displays in the Classrooms and around the school.

### **What the School does well:**

St Joseph's is good Catholic School which displays many strengths. It is firmly committed to developing its Catholic identity under the leadership of its Seconded Headteacher and Acting Headteacher, who are very well supported by the Acting Deputy Headteacher, committed Governors, staff, pupils and Parish Priest.

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. Planning and monitoring systems ensures coverage of the 'Here I Am' programme. The 'Before You Begin' element of the process is a strength, as is the use of Lectio Divina to deepen pupils' understanding of scripture. The staff understand the 'Here I Am' process and use it effectively. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is used successfully to enhance the quality of lessons.

The overall quality of teaching and learning in R.E. is good. Lessons are well planned and learning objectives are stated, explained and revisited. In all of the lessons observed, pupils were fully on task, engaged and enjoying their R.E. Behaviour throughout the School is exemplary. A sense of purposeful calm pervades the School.

The School uses its Mission Statement: 'Jesus Christ is the unseen but ever present teacher in our school, our model and inspiration for all who work here', to guide the School community.

The displays in the classrooms and around the School, many highlighting prayer, or the current 'Here I Am' topic, are of a good quality. R.E. is very well resourced and resources to support work covered in Other Faiths are good. Visits to the Waltham Forest Hebrew Congregation Synagogue and the Walthamstow Jamia Masjid Ghosia Mosque enhance the pupils' understanding of World Religions. The local Rabbi is a welcome visitor during Judaism Faith Week.

Assessment in R.E. is being developed and embedded in all year groups. There are focused assessment opportunities for the end of each of the 'Here I Am' topics using 'Societas Doctrine Christiane' evaluations.

The School is beginning to develop the use of Assessing Pupils' Progress (APP) to record assessment of pupils and track R.E. attainment.

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, and the School's links with St Joseph's parish are all strengths of St Joseph's School. The Parish Priest is a regular and very welcome visitor to the School. He celebrates Mass regularly in the School with both whole school and class masses. There is a reconciliation service during Advent and Lent with a Polish speaking priest available for pupils. In May and October a parishioner leads a Rosary prayer group for pupils.

St Joseph's School provides many opportunities for the pupils to develop a strong sense of community through activities which engender feelings of loyalty and belonging, such as the whole school Christmas carol concert, held in the parish church. There are strong links with St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School, Holy Family Catholic College and Buckden Towers Retreat Centre, where Year 5 and Year 6 pupils reflect upon their spiritual journey.

The emphasis on the wider community is another strength of the School, through its support of many charities, including CAFOD, Mission Belize and the Brentwood Catholic Childrens' Society.

Community cohesion is developed through activities, such as pupils singing carols at George Mason Lodge Residential Care Home for older people, Selborne Walk Shopping Centre and participation in a variety of schemes with the PDS (Partnership Development Schools) Project.

The school has received the International School Award and has developed global links with schools in South East China, Hungary, Austria and Norway. Pupils and staff value the opportunity to communicate with the schools through the School's Intranet.

The St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School Friends Association organises a variety of social events with the parish, in order to build community. The School values links with parents, the introduction of an R.E. newsletter, which is distributed each term, has improved communication with parents. 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 particularly evident in the work and role of the elected members of the School Council, who are proud of making improvements to the playground equipment and their generous fund-raising for the charities that the School supports. The pupils take on a variety of responsible roles as playground, dining hall and library monitors.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is a great strength of the School. The School uses the Diocesan Sex Education programme, 'Journey in Love' and it successfully engages the parents in the delivery of the course. In May the School holds an International Day, which highlights the richness of cultural heritages represented within the community.

**What needs to be improved?**

The Inspector endorses the areas identified for improvement in the Section 48 Self-Evaluation Form.

Overall, St Joseph's Catholic Junior School is a good Catholic school, which displays many strengths. 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 committed leadership of the Headteacher, Acting Headteacher, Acting Deputy Headteacher, R.E. Co-ordinator and the valued support and expertise of the Staff and Governors.