



## **DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**



### **Inspection Report**

**Name of School:** St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

**Local Authority:** Waltham Forest

**Unique Reference Number:** 305 5200

**Inspection Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011

**Reporting Inspectors:** Derek Kelly and  
Maureen Perry

**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: 447  
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body  
Date of previous Inspection: December 2007

School Address:  
Longfield Avenue  
Walthamstow  
London E17 7DP  
Tel. No. 020 8509 4321  
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Chair of Governors: Mary Arthur  
Headteacher: Ruslan Protsiv

## **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 Patrick's Catholic Primary School  
Longfield Avenue  
Walthamstow  
London  
E17 7DP**

**Head Teacher:                      Ruslan Protsiv**

**Date of Inspection:                2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011**

## **Description of the School:**

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is a voluntary aided Catholic school situated in the London Borough of Waltham Forest and in the Diocese of Brentwood. The school was founded by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary in 1930. It is a larger than average sized two-form entry primary school. The school serves the Catholic parish of Our Lady of the Rosary & St Patrick. A very large majority of the pupils are of the Catholic faith. The school has achieved National Healthy School status and holds the International School award.

## **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 7 complete lessons.
- Scrutiny of pupils' written work.
- Participation in an Assembly and Morning Prayer.
- Meetings with the Headteacher, R.E. Co-ordinator, Parish Priest and the School Council.
- Observations of R.E. Displays in the Classrooms and around the school

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

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is a good and effective Catholic school and displays many strengths. The headteacher and governors give exemplary leadership to its Catholic life and ensure pupils of all abilities, cultures and social backgrounds are given many opportunities to develop spiritually, morally and academically. The school is well led by a clear-sighted Headteacher who leads a strongly cohesive staff team. Guided by the Mission Statement: *'We will strive for excellence within a caring community, nurturing the Catholic faith, living, working and growing together as part of God's family.'*, the whole school community work together to create a very safe, stimulating learning environment, which has a direct impact on the personal well-being and educational success of the pupils. The strong partnership with home and parish nourishes provision and makes the school a supportive, inclusive community.

Religious Education (R.E.) is central to the mission of the school. The 'Here I Am' Religious Education Programme, recommended by the Bishop of the Diocese, is fully implemented.

The lessons observed were good with some outstanding features. The pupils benefit from consistently good teaching in religious education and make good progress. The school is committed to continuous improvement, there is consistent planning in R.E. across all year groups, which is evaluated and informs future lessons.

Teachers plan their lessons with clear learning objectives which are shared with pupils. Teachers demonstrate a secure understanding of the 'Here I Am' Religious Education Programme and have a coherent expectation of outcomes. A good range of teaching strategies are used, so that lessons are interesting and pupils are engaged. For example, talk partners and drama were used to good effect, as were picture prompts, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Teachers also frequently share their own experiences to make lessons interesting and encourage pupil participation. For example, one teacher shared her thoughts about being a mother to explain the joys of being a family, in order to prompt pupils to share their thoughts about family life. Teachers' use of questioning challenged pupils to extend their thinking and encouraged use of key vocabulary.

Assessment in R.E. is a high priority and there are focussed assessment opportunities for the beginning and conclusion of each of the 'Here I Am' topics with key questions, which informs planning and target setting.

The leadership and management of Religious Education by the enthusiastic R.E. Co-ordinator is good. Assessment opportunities have been successfully introduced and are being embedded.

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

R.E. displays and artefacts, in the classrooms and around the school support learning and enhance opportunities for prayer and reflection. Each classroom has an appropriate focal point for prayer, in a prominent position, which is well used to support personal reflection. Resources for the study of other world faiths are also appropriate. Visits to a Hindu temple and visitors from other religions, such as the Jewish faith, enhance pupils' learning.

The Mission Statement underpins all that is done within and beyond the school community. The pupils willingly undertake a number of responsible roles, such as; House Captains, anti-bullying ambassadors and School Councillors. This reflects the school's commitment to nurturing each person as valuable and to encouraging personal endeavour. The pupils actively contribute to caring for the local community through their involvement in a litter-picking campaign and a recycling scheme, which has been acknowledged through gaining a local Go Green Award.

Relationships in the school are exceptionally positive and pupils are courteous, respectful and friendly towards adults and each other. Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. Pastoral care is very good because it is based on personal knowledge of pupils' needs.

Prayer is central to the life of the school with many opportunities for prayer offered throughout the day. R.E. lessons often include a time for prayerful reflection; teachers create a calm atmosphere for pupils to reflect on their learning. In May and October there is an opportunity for pupils to attend a voluntary Rosary prayer group and lead the prayers, which is well attended.

The school's Peace Garden provides a suitable outdoor space for worship and reflection, especially in the summer term, when classes and individual pupils use this area for prayer.

Collective worship is well planned to reflect community celebrations, the liturgical year and the 'Here I Am' Religious Education Programme. The inspection took place during the season of Advent when there was a particular focus on preparation for Christmas. An assembly provided an opportunity for pupils to reflect on the reasons for Advent being a time of preparation and hope. Pupils participated respectfully in their response through prayer and enthusiastic singing.

The Catholic ethos of the school permeates every aspect of the community. The Catholic life of the school is subscribed to by all the stakeholders – Governors, the Headteacher and his leadership team, staff, pupils and their parents and carers.

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School values links with parents and carers who are involved with their children's learning and on receiving regular curriculum information, support them at home.

There is a proactive Friends of St Patrick's Parents Association, which organises regular social and fundraising events to strengthen the school community. The Governors of the school are very dedicated and supportive of everything the school does and provide suitable challenge to the leadership of the school.

Links with the Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary and St Patrick is also a strength. The Parish Priest is a frequent and welcome visitor to the school. He celebrates Mass in the school at the beginning of the school year and other significant festivals. Two classes attend Mass on a weekly basis at the parish church. A Polish Priest who had stayed in the parish visited classes to answer pupils' questions about ordination.

Contributions to the wider community are through fund raising for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society, Christian Kitchen, Japan and Pakistan Disaster Appeals. The school has received the International School Award through the Comenius Project and has developed global links with schools in Poland, Spain, Italy and Turkey.

Pupils' spiritual, moral and social development is good. They pray with confidence, have a well developed sense of responsibility and demonstrate a mature understanding of the needs of others. Provision for Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is comprehensive and the school has fully implemented the Diocesan Sex Education programme, 'Journey in Love'.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- Develop a pupils' focus group for the 'Care for Creation', in order to promote existing and future ecology developments within the school community.
- Develop effective R.E. Assessment tracking procedures.

The inspectors endorse the improvements identified by the school in the Section 48 Self Evaluation Form.

Overall, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is a good Catholic School with the capacity for sustained improvement. Pupils are carefully inducted into the school and well prepared for transition to their Secondary Schools.