



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD

Inspection Report



Name of School: La Salette School

LEA: Havering

Inspection Date: 3rd May 2017

Reporting Inspector: Pamela Brannigan

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: December 2011

School Address:
Dunedin Road
Rainham
Essex
RM13 8SP

Tel. No. 01708 555554
Headteacher: Mrs A. Fletcher
Chair of Governors: Mr S. Colhoun

Information about the school

La Salette Catholic Primary School is one form entry in Rainham in the London Borough of Havering and part of the diocese of Brentwood. It serves the parish of Our Lady of La Salette Rainham with a small number of pupils coming from farther afield. There are currently 209 pupils aged 4-11 on roll and the school is over subscribed. The proportion of Catholic pupils is 94% and from a range of ethnic groups with 35% speaking English as an additional language. 67% of teachers are Catholics, three of whom hold the CCRS qualification. There are good links with other Catholic schools in the deanery.

Key grades for inspection

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

Overall effectiveness of this Catholic school

Grade 1

La Salette is an outstanding Catholic school where pupils receive a strong, faith based education. It has a Catholic ethos which is at the heart of all it does. Outcomes for pupils are very good as is the provision for Catholic education and the capacity for sustained improvement. Opportunities for spiritual and moral development are part of religious education and the wider curriculum. Pupils are given many opportunities to understand what it means to be part of a Catholic community through prayer, worship and charitable outreach. Leaders are excellent role models and are fully committed to all aspects of the Catholic life of the school. Staff set high expectations for pupil behaviour which results in calm, hard working classes. Governors are committed and well placed to challenge and support. Pastoral care is given a high priority by all members of the school community. Relationships within the school are very good and pupils interviewed said they feel safe and well cared for. There are opportunities to develop a wide range of interests through extracurricular activities. Parents are supported by curriculum workshops to help them understand current educational practice. Pupils' standards of attainment are in line with and often exceed diocesan expectations.

The school has a very good capacity for sustained improvement. The last inspection in 2011 identified one area for development: to give pupils opportunities to take the lead in lessons and engage in independent work in religious education. This has been addressed and standards in religious education have risen for all groups. There are now moderation meetings with other Catholic schools in the deanery to share judgements and further improve assessment. The school gives a high profile to religious education and has strategies to share good practice and support new teachers.

The headteacher, her deputy and governors have a clear vision for the Catholicity of the school and the central place of prayer, worship and religious education. The headteacher who is also subject leader, ensures that all staff are given opportunities to extend their knowledge and improve their skills through staff meetings and attendance at diocesan led training. Three teachers hold the CCRS or equivalent qualification. Governors, including the local parish priest who is link governor for religious education, support the headteacher in evaluating the Catholic life of the school. They are dedicated and are involved in the life of the school through frequent visits.

The current leadership has a very good capacity to maintain effectiveness. The experienced headteacher who is also subject leader shows outstanding leadership of the school through the way she ensures that self-evaluation gives staff and governors an accurate understanding of itself as a Catholic community. She is very well supported by all staff. There is a clear focus on prayer and worship throughout the school. Parish links are excellent and effective systems are in place to develop and strengthen initiatives which lead to good outcomes for all groups of pupils.

What the school should do to improve further

- Continue to implement the areas identified in the religious education action plan.
- Revisit the Mission Statement to ensure all pupils understand and are familiar with it.

Attainment in religious education is outstanding. Pupils make very good progress year on year so that by the time they reach Year 6 attainment reaches and sometimes exceeds diocesan expectations. Lessons observed during the inspection were good, some with outstanding features, and pupils worked with interest and commitment. Pupils spoken to said they like religious education and enjoy a wide variety of activities during the lessons. They work well together whether in groups or pairs. Pupils have a good understanding of the liturgical year and are able to apply religious ideas to their own lives. Workbooks are well presented, show coverage of the curriculum and indicate good progress made by all groups. Pupils spoken to showed an understanding of the sacraments, Catholic teaching and moral issues. Behaviour for learning is excellent and pupils are courteous and thoughtful to adults and each other.

Pupils make an excellent contribution to the Catholic life of the school. They are given many opportunities to understand the needs of others in school and the wider community. Pupils are keen to take on responsibilities including membership of the children's council and as playground helpers. They also help in the lunch hall and as play leaders and buddies. Pupils are given opportunities to organise a range of fundraising activities for Cafod, St Francis' hospice and the local food bank. They also join the parish in supporting the charity 'Mary's Meals'. They have a good understanding of the theology underpinning their actions and are encouraged to see themselves as part of a community with responsibilities for other people and the environment. This includes support for the parish by holding an annual Carol Concert for older parishioners followed by afternoon tea prepared and served by Year 6 pupils. All pupils spoken to said they value the sense of friendship and belonging created within the school.

Prayer and worship are central to school life and has an impact on pupils' understanding of their faith and their personal, moral and spiritual development. All pupils are given opportunities to participate in assemblies, masses and collective worship. Each day begins with a whole school assembly with prayers and reflections. Older pupils are on a rota to serve at the parish morning Mass which is held before the school day begins. At whole school masses pupils lead the prayers, read, sing, lead the offertory procession and act as altar servers. The centrality of the Church's liturgical year with its seasons and celebrations are leading to a good understanding of the links with the sacraments and life of Christ. A Rosary club held weekly and led by the parish priest and the Angelus in Year 6 give familiarity with traditional devotions. Visits to the shrine of Our Lady of La Salette in the church grounds and reflections take place for Years 5 and 6. Pupils are developing the ability to pray in different ways and at different times. They use the traditional prayers of the church, meditation and their own prayers, many examples of which were seen during the inspection. The parish priest holds services of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. As they develop, pupils are able to apply aspects of Jesus' life and teaching to their own lives and understand that a sense of service is part of being a member of a Catholic community.

Pastoral care is very good and shared by all members of staff and governors who work closely together to promote the spiritual development of pupils and the Catholic life of the community. The school uses the services of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society to support children in need of help or care. Pupils feel safe, well cared for and know that all members of staff are there to help if they need support. Pupils value their school and all it offers. They know they are respected, listened to and encouraged to help each other. However, although they understand the values the school promotes, they are not familiar with the Mission Statement which should be revisited.

Leaders and managers**Grade 1**

Leadership at all levels is outstanding. The headteacher in partnership with the governors demonstrates excellent leadership of the school by the way she ensures the Catholic identity of the school through religious education and collective worship and prayer. Staff and governors are all committed to providing the best possible environment for the pupils. The headteacher ensures that the School Improvement Plan gives priority to Catholic Life. It is linked into the religious education self-evaluation and action plan which is detailed and accurate. The headteacher as subject leader has excellent knowledge of areas for development in religious education and is very well placed to support colleagues. She monitors religious education by means of lesson observations, work scrutiny and joint

planning which is followed by feedback to individual teachers. She attends the deanery group for subject leaders to monitor pupils' work and identify areas of development. The impact of rigorous monitoring results in high standards in religious education. The school constantly seeks to put in place strategies to give further challenge to all groups of pupils. Much emphasis is placed on staff development. Teaching assistants play a key role supporting the learning in the school.

Governors work closely with senior leadership and have a very good understanding of strengths and areas for development. They receive updates on aspects of religious education and regularly review the school's aims linked to Catholic life. The parish priest offers a very high level of support and visits regularly to act as an additional resource in classroom religious education as well as joining the headteacher in monitoring sessions. Governors are able to challenge as well as support. They attend diocesan training to enable them to fulfil their role effectively.

Leaders ensure that the school is a welcoming community where everyone is respected and valued. Diversity is celebrated and pupils are taught to respect other faiths. There are good links with other schools, both deanery and local authority run, through visits, sporting and cultural events. Opportunities for spiritual development ensure that pupils are able to reflect on their own lives and experiences. Parents are invited to many school events and are kept well informed about their children's welfare and progress through curriculum information evenings and newsletters which enable them to support their children's education and faith journey. One parent wrote, 'La Salette is a fantastic school with dedicated teachers who care and support every member of their school.' The school and parish have developed excellent links which enable pupils, families and parishioners to see school and parish as one community.

Provision

Grade 1

The quality of teaching and learning in religious education is very good. During the inspection lessons observed were good or outstanding. They are planned carefully with clear learning intentions and an excellent range of activities. The school has made a major investment in resources although more class sets of bibles would further support pupils' understanding of scripture. Pupils benefit from the high profile given throughout the school to religious education lessons. In all classes observed pupils were engaged and made good progress. Teachers have good subject knowledge and respond well to pupils' comments as they take every opportunity to develop understanding. Good support by teaching assistants enables all groups of pupils to make progress. Marking is positive, interactive and enables pupils to identify next steps in their learning. Very good monitoring, assessment, planning and tracking supports the attainment and progress of all groups of pupils.

The quality of the religious education curriculum is outstanding. At least 10% of curriculum time is devoted to religious education. The headteacher gives religious education a central place in the life of the school and engaging displays around the school emphasise the centrality of faith to the work of the community. The support of the parish priests enhances the curriculum through their involvement with the Stations of the Cross and other traditional devotions. The curriculum enables pupils to become aware of their responsibility for each other and their environment. It contributes very well to their spiritual and moral development. The school's programme of reflections for years 5 and 6 supports pupils' faith journey and sense of worth. Other faiths are taught well and a recent visit of an Imam enabled pupils to develop their understanding of their wider community. The range of extra-curricular activities also gives a strong sense of community to the school. There is every indication that current high standards are likely to be maintained or improved.

Provision for prayer and worship at La Salette is very good. Assemblies and liturgies are well planned and contribute greatly to pupils' spiritual development. They often include visual presentations, bible readings, drama, singing and music. During the inspection the headteacher led a gospel assembly on 'the road to Emmaus' reminding pupils that they also could encounter Jesus in their daily lives. Pupils are involved in collective worship several times a day in their classrooms and are given opportunities for meditation and personal reflection. Each classroom has a prayer focus with religious artefacts and display boards which include children's work. Pupils visit the adjacent church and attend Mass regularly. They compose bidding prayers, reading, offertory and act as altar servers. Visits to the shrine offers opportunities for informal prayer and reflection. Parents, families and parishioners are invited to masses and other celebrations and attendance is very high. Pupils are given many

opportunities to develop their knowledge of Catholic traditions through Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross and Rosary as well as excellent links with the local parish.

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.