

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

URN: 125234

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Arundel & Brighton

07–08 February 2024

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

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

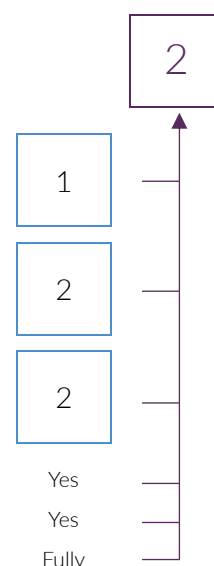
Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

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

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

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



What the school does well

- There is an unwavering commitment to Catholic social teaching in all aspects of school life
- Chaplaincy provision is distinct and bespoke
- All leadership groups including governors work with sincerity and sensitivity
- Inspiring Year 6 faith leaders show confidence, pride and passion in their distinct role
- Every pupil is known and loved within the school community

What the school needs to improve

- Ensure that pupils throughout the school are given sufficient opportunities to be actively involved in lesson inputs so that they can follow their own curiosity and tackle a variety of independent tasks

- Create a system that enables the skilled older pupils to support and develop the skills of younger pupils when leading collective worship
- Further develop the explicit use of scripture in class-based collective worship

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

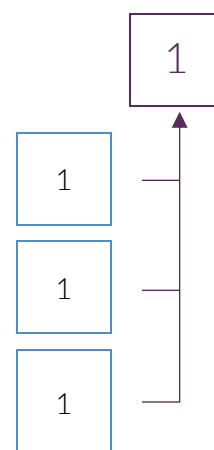
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

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



At St Joseph's, pupils and their families feel a real sense and pride of belonging to this inclusive community where they live their mission statement and school motto of 'learning and laughing together in the light of God's love.' Leaders and governors have worked tirelessly to ensure that the ethos and welcome have remained central as the school has grown and responded to the needs of the community. The parish priest is a visible presence at the school and the appointment of the school chaplain to serve this community is very much appreciated and valued. Pupils are happy and confident, they have strong relationships with each other and show a deep respect for those of other faiths or with no faith. Governors talk about the uniqueness of each child and how at this school they can be themselves and express themselves. Pupil knowledge and understanding of Catholic social teaching is exemplary and permeates all aspects of school life. They readily respond to the call to support those who are vulnerable or in need, assisting numerous charities, e.g. Cafod, St Matthew's Foodbank, St Catherine's Hospice; 'I learnt that Jesus' mission is to be kind to everyone and we must follow in his footsteps and make that our mission too.'

Staff at all levels are committed to the school's mission. This is reflected through all relationships and interactions. Pupils are witnesses to the school mission statement, knowing and understanding the essence of its content. Staff are excellent role models and nurture and involve all pupils, including the most vulnerable. The education of the whole person is evident with

relationship, sex and health programmes being taught and explored through fidelity to the Church's teaching, preparing pupils for the next stages of development and future adulthood. Pupils are aware of the unconditional presence of God in their lives and this is rooted in a commitment to the presence of the Word of God, 'it is comforting to know that God loves you and is by your side for ever.' St Joseph's welcomes and celebrates the presence of those from various cultures and belief traditions, showing a true understanding of their needs and parents are very grateful for this. The school's environment is distinctly Catholic, with a range of inviting, child-centred interactive displays which celebrate and promote its mission. Parents are very appreciative for the provision offered and feel that 'all the staff embody the school's mission in dealing with parents and students.'

The executive head teacher, ably supported by her leadership team, is dedicated to ensuring that pupils experience an enriching Catholic education that provides excellent formation. As the school has grown, the leaders have prioritised their Catholic identity and the requirements of their community by extending the pastoral provision. The whole community recognise this, 'Catholic life and values really do pervade every aspect of school life.' The school engages positively with the diocese, and staff regularly attend training and join meetings with deanery colleagues. This work ensures that the Catholic life and the mission of the school are strong. Leaders and governors ensure all staff are treated with respect and dignity, resulting in a motivated and committed staff team. Staff feedback highlights how they feel valued and supported by the school. The governing body is well established and is dedicated to ensuring the school, as an integral part of the parish, provides the best possible Catholic education and care for its pupils. Pupils are skilfully supported to play a leadership role in the life of their school, they are reflective and insightful in their role, 'We help people in need because you never know how it will go, a smile goes a long way.'

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

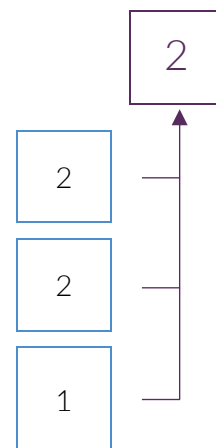
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

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 throughout St Joseph's, both those year groups studying the new *Religious Education Directory* and those learning with the *Come and See* programme, are developing secure knowledge, understanding and skills. Pupils behave well, are motivated and engaged, making clear progress and attaining well. Pupils of all abilities and from the youngest of ages, are religiously literate and can articulate subject specific and age-appropriate vocabulary. They thoroughly enjoy lessons and can make meaningful links between learning and their lives. Pupils are confident to pose searching questions, 'If God is there why can't we see him?' In many classes, pupils are able to make links between scripture they are currently studying and those they have learned about previously. They are able to bring in elements of Catholic social teaching connected to their current learning. Pupil books show learning that is clear and well presented. In the best books, there are a variety of tasks which show independent thinking and attention to detail. The school now needs to build upon opportunities for pupils to present and express their knowledge in original and creative ways. Older pupils are responding to written feedback and through this are deepening their comprehension.

Teachers have good subject knowledge which is enhanced by carefully planned training and a clear support network within the school. This ensures that teaching is engaging and of a good quality. Teachers are skilled at questioning pupils to enable them to retrieve prior knowledge, and build upon it, extending their application and understanding. A parish catechist recorded, 'I am always impressed with the religious knowledge of the children from St Joseph's.' In religious education lessons there is no doubt that pupils of all ages are knowing more and remembering more. Pupils take real delight in sharing their religious education experiences with peers, staff and other adults. Year 4 are trialling a memory book, where key information is placed in a class book to be recalled and referred to at a later date. Staff provide feedback during the lessons;

this serves to celebrate, as well as checking for and ensuring understanding. High quality resources, particularly the use of *Widgit* symbols, combined with the care and attention given by support staff under the skilful direction of teachers, allow all pupils to progress effectively. In the best lessons, pupils are given space for time and reflection to facilitate their spiritual and moral development, often at the start of a lesson; this should now be a feature of all lessons.

Led by the executive head teacher, the leadership team has a shared vision to uphold the value and uniqueness of religious education. This is driven by accurate self-evaluation and clear improvement plans. Leaders ensure that the curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the *Directory* and that all classes cover the required content. The subject leader is dedicated and works hard she celebrates that, 'RE is the front and centre of this school.' She readily supports all staff in developing their subject knowledge and guides them in their lesson resourcing in order to optimise learning. The leadership team has been forward-thinking and has established a religious education team which has 'strengthened the school.' Governors work in harmony with the senior leadership team to rigorously monitor this subject. They provide strategic support and challenge in order to advocate the value of this subject, 'RE feeds into everything we as Governors do' and allocate a generous budget to allow this to happen. Specialist resources are also well-used to ensure all pupils can access and benefit from the curriculum, which is enriched by role play, artwork, offsite visits, and the richly Catholic environment of the school itself.

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

1

2



The quality of prayer and liturgy experiences that St Joseph's provides for pupils leads and encourages them to full engagement and active participation. In all situations, pupils show very high levels of reverence and respect and participate wholeheartedly by answering questions, responding and singing enthusiastically. Pupils of all ages are involved in the preparation and provision of worship, developing their relationship with God; they know that it strengthens their faith and brings them closer to God. One pupil explained, 'prayers can help us talk to God.' Pupils are empowered to lead and participate in a number of ways from the class 'daily disciples' to the Year 6 faith leaders guided in their ministry by a range of adults. As they continue their faith journey, the school should provide a greater variety of ideas which facilitate and broaden the opportunities for pupils to engage with scripture each day. Pupils experience the Church's calendar through a number of celebrations and assemblies which follow the Sunday Gospel readings and focused liturgies. Pupils are able to reflect on their experiences of prayer, making strong connections with previous knowledge, 'God will always keep his promises and won't let us down because we are his creation.'

Prayer and liturgy are central to the life of the school and a daily pattern of prayer is embedded, with readings chosen to reflect the liturgical season. The parent association has recently funded the purchasing of new Bibles. Staff, including the school chaplain, work as a team and are models of good practice for prayer and liturgy; a member of staff commented 'I feel we have transformed RE teaching and pupil worship.' The pattern of prayer and liturgy at St Joseph's provides memorable experiences e.g. the May procession, the rosary and Remembrance Sunday and are treasured by the pupils. There is provision for both staff-led and pupil-led worship. Singing during key stage Gospel liturgies are ably led and directed, leading to a palpable sense of celebration and joy within the school hall. One parent said, 'She sings in the car all the way home.'

The parent community would welcome the opportunity to attend class-based prayer and liturgy. This would support them to walk alongside their child on their spiritual path, learning with and from each other. The use of music, creative displays and images help to provide engaging acts of prayer and liturgy.

Leaders and governors of St Joseph's ensure all staff receive high quality support and training in liturgical formation. Leaders attend regular diocesan training and are open to further development as this area evolves. Staff feel extremely well supported as both leaders of and participants in prayer and liturgy. Leaders have formed a collective worship practice which enables pupils to respond meaningfully to local and global events that they wish to pray for and support. There are opportunities for older pupils and staff to attend Mass in the parish. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in school twice a year in line with the cycle of the liturgical year. The whole school community observes not only their patron saint but also the inspiring lives of their chosen class saints, giving pupils Catholic role models to learn about and draw inspiration from. Governors have first-hand experience of prayer and liturgy and work together with the subject leader to monitor and evaluate provision, this encourages a culture whereby pupils are both enabled and empowered to lead and participate in liturgy. The role of faith leader is a position of responsibility and is valued both by the leaders themselves and their peers, 'Being a faith leader allows me to show how to lead by example.'

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	125234
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	9363916
Full postal address of the school	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Linkfield Lane, Redhill, RH1 1EA
School phone number	01737765373
Headteacher	Tamsyn Lawlor
Chair of Governors	Eveline Fredericks
School Website	www.stjosephs-redhill.surrey.sch.uk/
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	N/A
Age-range of pupils	4-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	26 th June 2017
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

The inspection team

Fiona McGonigle

Emma Daly

Sarah Norville

Lead Inspector

Team Inspector

Team Inspector

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