



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

Name of School: St Mary's Catholic Primary School

LEA: Havering: URN 102329

Inspection Dates: 23rd June 2009

Reporting Inspectors: Miss Colette Dawson and Mr Anthony Castle

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: 425
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous Inspection: June 2006**

**School Address:
Hornchurch Road
Hornchurch Essex RM12 4TL
Tel. No. 01708 448 430
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Chair of Governors: Mr Mark Adams
Headteacher: Mr Michael Coy**

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 Mary's Catholic Primary School,
Hornchurch Road
Hornchurch
Essex,
RM12 4TL**

Head Teacher: Mr Michael Coy

Date of Inspection: 23rd June 2009

Description of the School:

St Mary's Primary School is a voluntary aided Catholic school situated in the Havering Local Education Authority and under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Brentwood. It is a large school, next to the parish church of St Mary, Mother of God in the town of Hornchurch. Most pupils are of White British origin, although the number of pupils from minority ethnic groups is increasing. The school was founded in 1933 by the Religious Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary. The school offers a wide and varied curriculum and has excellent facilities for use by its pupils and the wider community. St Mary's is an oversubscribed and extremely popular school.

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 complete lessons.
- Scrutiny of pupils' work.
- Participation in two Assemblies.
- Meetings with the Head teacher and his Deputy, the Parish Priest, the Religious Education (R.E.) Co-ordinator, a Foundation Governor and the School Council.
- Observations of R.E. Displays in the Class rooms and around the school.

What the School does well:

St Mary' is an outstanding Catholic School which displays numerous strengths. It is firmly committed to developing its Catholic identity under the inspirational and outstanding leadership of its Head teacher who is very well supported by his Deputy, committed Governors, highly motivated Staff, Pupils and the Parish Priest and his team. All the stakeholders demonstrate an outstanding sense of teamwork.

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. The 'Before You Begin' element of the process is securely embedded at the beginning of each topic. Staff planning is exemplary. They clearly understand the **'Here I Am'** process and use it effectively to provide a high quality and stimulating curriculum. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is used effectively to enhance the quality of lessons.

The overall quality of teaching and learning in R.E. is outstanding. Lessons are well planned and learning objectives are stated, explained and revisited and a variety of teaching strategies are used. In the lessons observed, pupils were on task, engaged, highly motivated, challenged and enjoying their R.E. There was evidence of excellent differentiated tasks. Behaviour is outstanding. Pupils were enthusiastic and purposeful and worked well together. Relationships and class management are recognised strengths of the school. World Religions – Sikhism, Judaism and Islam particularly – are given considerable time on the R.E. timetable.

Assessment in R.E. is consistent in all year groups but work has still to be done to link assessment to each of the **'Here I Am'** topics. Positive feedback is given to the pupils and this enables them to make progress.

The leadership and management of the R.E. by the R.E. Co-ordinator are outstanding. Her leadership drives the assessment procedures used by all the teachers, she monitors R.E. lessons and is very supportive of all staff, teachers and teacher assistants.

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 the local parish are all strengths of St Mary's School. The preparation for and celebration of Christmas and Easter is excellent. There is a daily Mass in the parish church which is organised by the pupils and is attended by pupils and parishioners. Prayer is a very important component of the whole school community. The Angelus is recited each day. In addition there is a 'Rosary Garden' which is an area for quiet reflection. Pupils actively support both school and parish liturgies.

St Mary's School promotes an outstanding and tangible Catholic ethos. This is subscribed to by all the stakeholders – Governors, the Head Teacher and his management team, staff, pupils and their parents. A small group of parents praised the school and spoke of the respect accorded to even the youngest in the community. The School provides outstanding opportunities for the pupils to develop a strong sense of community through activities which engender feelings of loyalty and belonging. The School has an outstanding relationship with the parish and the parish team. St Mary's continues to develop strong links with other primary schools in the Deanery and beyond. St Mary's has strong links with both a Jewish and Muslim school and links are being developed with a Sikh Gurdwara. The emphasis on community cohesion is another outstanding strength of the school.

R.E. displays and artefacts, in the classrooms and around the School, are outstanding in their range and quality.

St Mary's Primary School values links with parents with every effort being made to improve and maintain communication with parents as their children progress through the school. Links between the school and the parish are excellent. The parish Priest is a friend and frequent visitor. 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 evident in their concern for each other and for those who are in need. Considerable funds are raised every year for local and national charities chosen by the School Council. Also funds were raised for the refurbishment of the swimming pool which is an outstanding resource and is used and appreciated by the pupils and by various groups in the local community. The School Council are articulate and well organised. They are proud of what they have achieved this year.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is another outstanding strength of the School. They celebrate different cultures. Resources for the study of other faiths and visits to places of worship are outstanding.

What needs to be improved?

There are no specific areas requiring improvement other than ensuring that the areas highlighted by the Section 48 Self Evaluation Form continue to be addressed. .

Overall, St Mary's Primary School is an outstanding Catholic School which displays numerous 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 strong and committed leadership of the Head teacher, his Deputy and his Management Team and to the valued support and expertise of his staff and governors.