



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD

Denominational (S48) Inspection Report

Name of School: St Winefride's Catholic Primary School
Local Authority: Newham
Inspection Date: 14 January 2022

Reporting Inspector: Mrs Angela Podmore Lead Inspector

This Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 and 2011.

Type of School:	Primary	School Address:	Church Road
School Category:	VA		Manor Park
Age range of pupils:	3 - 11		E12 6HB
Gender of pupils:	Mixed	Tel. No.	020 8478 0510
Number on roll:	287	Headteacher:	Mrs Nicola Brosnan
Appropriate Authority:	The Governing Body	Chair of Governors:	Mr Tony Fernandes
Date of previous inspection:	30 June 2015		

Information about the school

St Winefride's is an average sized, one and a half form entry primary school. It is part of the Diocese of Brentwood and serves the parish of St Stephen's and St Nicholas. It is currently in the process of converting to an Academy with the aim of joining the Our Lady of Grace Trust on 1 April 2022. There are currently 287 children on roll which includes 22 children attending the nursery part time and 4 children attending full time. The vast majority of children are from ethnic minority backgrounds, the largest being Black or Black British African. Over half of the children speak English as an additional language. 68% of the children are Catholics with the remainder coming from other Christian denominations and other faiths, 64% of the teachers are Catholics and 4 teachers have the CCRS qualification. The number of children with an Education Health Care Plan is well below the national average, however the number of children with special educational needs is on the increase and is higher than the national average.

Key grades for inspection

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

Overall effectiveness of this Catholic school

Grade 1

St Winefride's is a warm, friendly and vibrant community which provides its children with an outstanding Catholic education. The school is rightly proud of its heritage, this is clearly evidenced in the communal areas where flags from every nation represented in the school are prominently displayed and a research project about past pupils takes a prominent place. The high regard and centrality of Religious Education is clearly evidenced in the beautiful religious displays, classroom prayer focus areas and the striking stained glass window designed by the children.

School leaders, along with governors, have worked meticulously to maintain and build on the strengths from the previous inspection. They have a clear vision of the direction in which they want to take the school and all work together to achieve this. All areas for development from the previous inspection have been fully addressed.

Pupils thrive in the caring and nurturing environment where every member of the community is valued and respected as a unique gift from God. The school's Mission Statement 'We celebrate God's love for everyone. We enjoy learning and growing together in our caring and welcoming family.' along with the statements 'Faith, Confidence and Kindness' from the kindness tree are not just at the heart of the school but truly lived and demonstrated daily by all stakeholders.

St Winefride's strives to develop strong, confident and articulate young people and this is clearly seen in the way they communicate with each other and with visitors to the school. The school community, under the excellent direction of the Headteacher and her senior colleagues, works hard to develop positive relationships with its' families, the successful Marvellous Me App, the Parent Forum and Parent Choir are testament to this. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school and fully appreciate the family atmosphere reporting that the pastoral care provided 'is amazing' and that the well-being of children and families is of paramount importance

Pupils enjoy coming to school and report that there is nothing they would like to change about the school; 'It is perfect as it is,' one child reported to the inspector. Pupils are able to thrive in the school and enjoy learning and achieve high standards. Teachers have high expectations of their pupils and behaviour for learning is a real strength of the school. Pupils are caring towards each other and reach out to those in need through a variety of charitable deeds. They are proud of their school acting as excellent role models and ambassadors.

What the school should do to improve further:

Fully develop the reflective areas around the school, especially the prayer garden and the scripture trail, where children can experience meaningful time to pause and reflect.

Ensure non-Catholic staff and children are fully immersed in the traditions and celebrations of the Catholic Church and that they also have opportunities to share their faith.

The leadership of the Headteacher and her leadership team, including governors, in promoting the Catholic Life of the School is outstanding. The school provides a variety of opportunities for its pupils to participate in the Catholic Life of the School and serve others, including being a member of the Mini Vinnies (for which there is a waiting list), the RE team and the School Council. Pupils have a strong understanding of why it is important to serve and help others because 'God told us to look after the poor' and that 'it is important to share and to show how grateful we are.' One pupil told the inspector that it was not only important to give money to a homeless man, whom he met in the streets, in order for him to buy food but also to look him in the eye to show that he was valued, respected and not ignored. An innovative reverse Advent Calendar, where children brought in food, clothes and toys to be donated to a local food bank and the Salvation Army and a mini Christmas fayre are just two ways in which pupils show their commitment to serving others. The school also supports a school in Ghana and the lovely display in the school hall allows pupils to see how their efforts are helping and supporting the children in Ghana. The leadership team's drive to celebrate the church's mission in education is truly alive and embedded in the actions of St Winefride's children.

Pupils are proud of the St Winefride's family and show this in many ways, not least in their excellent attitudes towards each other and to their work. They believe that they attend an excellent school which teaches them how to become better people and bring them closer to God. Their behaviour in and around school is exemplary, older pupils act as excellent role models to the younger children. This impressive behaviour makes for a nurturing environment in which to learn and grow. Collaboration with each other in lessons is exceptionally well developed allowing everyone to speak and share their ideas and opinions, it is clear that St Winefride's pupils value, respect and appreciate each other.

Links with parents are very strong and these were further developed during recent lockdowns where school leaders were able to gain further insight into the needs of families. Parents receive termly Religious Education newsletters and the weekly school newsletter contains ideas on discussing the Gospel readings with their children. The Parents' Forum acts as a platform for the parents and meets each half term with senior leaders. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school with one parent commenting, 'I am very happy and proud my children attend St Winefride's' and another reporting, 'The school works hard to interweave in the curriculum the principles and doctrines of the Catholic Faith.'

The commitment and determination of the Headteacher to strive to make St Winefrides' the best it can be, is evidenced in the school self-evaluation documents. Leaders know their school very well, their evaluations are accurate and their RE Action Plan shows their determination to remain focused on continual improvement. Opportunities for Continuing Professional Development are extensive and staff are well supported by leaders to take up these opportunities to develop their practice. Governors make a significant contribution to Catholic Life through their commitment and involvement in school activities including leading prayer services and hymn singing.

The quality of Religious Education is outstanding. Standards in Religious Education are very high and in line with those in other core subjects. The high regard leaders place on Religious Education can be seen in the generous budget allocation and the allocation of curriculum time which clearly meets the 10% requirement time demanded by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. Lesson observations and work in books clearly indicate that pupils make very good and in some cases outstanding progress. There is clear evidence in books that pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding are built upon year on year when children revisit topics previously studied. Pupils with special educational needs are very well supported by well trained and committed adults who consistently check and monitor understanding.

Progress in Religious Education is tracked and monitored robustly by the Headteacher using Target Tracker to analyse data. Along with other senior leaders and information gathered at pupil progress meetings, she is able to identify the progress of individuals and groups. She is then able to put in place any additional support to improve attainment and close any gaps in knowledge and skills. Governors are kept well informed of pupil progress and attainment and the content of the Religious Education curriculum. Opportunities for moderation both within the school and with colleagues in the deanery schools are well established and these ensure that teacher assessments are accurate.

Teaching of Religious Education is strong. Teachers use a variety of teaching styles, strategies and resources to enhance learning opportunities for pupils. These ensure that not only do pupils enjoy their learning but make very good and sustained progress. Lessons are well planned and motivate pupils so that pupils are rarely if ever off task. Teachers demonstrate strong subject knowledge and have high expectations. Strong questioning to assess understanding and detailed verbal feedback allows pupils to develop their knowledge and deepen their understanding. The use of 'I can' statements allows pupils to self-assess their work at the end of the topics. Every opportunity is used to ensure Religious Education is supported by cross curricular links. During the inspection pupils were using the medium of Art to enhance their understanding of Mission. Teachers make excellent use of resources to enhance the pupils' learning experiences. Year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoyed using 3D visualisers when learning about the importance of the Cathedral to the diocese, while another class enjoyed singing opportunities and pupils in Early Years enjoyed dressing up and role playing a wedding to develop their understanding of the topic.

Pupils have the opportunity to learn about other world faiths from staff and pupils who belong to these faiths. This personal experience allows pupils to develop an understanding of the similarities and differences in different faiths. It also allows children to deepen their tolerance and respect for others. Evidence in pupils' books shows that they have studied Judaism and Hinduism.

Prayer and worship are central to the life of all at St Winefride's. Pupils have many opportunities to participate in worship whether in class or during Assemblies. For every child the day starts with them enthusiastically singing the school Mission Statement. Prayers are said at various times throughout the school day and Year 6 pupils are proud to lead The Angelus at noon.

Pupils' response to and participation in prayer and worship is wholehearted. Worship has a clear message and sense of purpose contributing well to pupils' spiritual and moral development. Pupils are confident in planning and leading assemblies, with adults acting as excellent role models in supporting their endeavours. During the inspection Year 3 and 4 pupils confidently delivered a class liturgy based on the Sunday Gospel where Jesus turned the water into wine at the Wedding in Cana. They related this story to their own life experiences to help them in gaining a deeper understanding. Friday Celebration assemblies, now held via zoom, allow the whole community to come together to celebrate the achievements of peers.

Although very new to the school the Parish Priest has already become a welcome visitor and the children enjoy meeting him. Links with the parish are again strong and the entire school community is looking forward to once again being able to celebrate in the parish church. Parents are highly positive about the prayer and worship life of the school commenting, 'I value praying as part of our faith and this being instilled within the school means a lot'. School staff have played a vital role acting as catechists preparing children for their First Holy Communion celebration, parents were highly appreciative of this saying that the school made a huge effort working in collaboration with the Parish Priest and the diocese.

Music is a great strength of the school and many pupils are members of the choir which has been invited to participate in many prestigious events including celebrations involving Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and events celebrating the Commonwealth.

The Headteacher, her staff and School Governors are outstanding in promoting the provision for Catholic Worship. They are passionate and committed to delivering meaningful and purposeful worship to bring pupils closer to God. The vibrant displays in classrooms, communal areas and prayer focus areas remind the children daily of the importance of worship in their lives.