



Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for
Holy Family Catholic Primary School

URN: 145595

Carried out on behalf of the Right Rev. Alan Williams, sm, Bishop of Brentwood on:

Date: 27-28 September 2023

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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	Fully

Summary of key findings

What the school does well

- Catholic life and mission is a real strength of the school, allowing all pupils, regardless of their faith background, to grow and flourish in a faith-filled community.
- Relationships, nurturing and role modelling provide pupils with a safe and secure environment in which they can develop into morally responsible citizens who know they have the capacity to make a positive contribution to society.
- Teachers' strong subject knowledge and commitment provide an environment conducive to learning.
- The dynamic headteacher and his senior colleagues are passionate in their determination to make Holy Family School the best it can be.

- The school has a strong capacity to continue its journey of improvement.

What the school needs to improve:

- To further develop pupil leadership roles so that they can take a more active and independent role in the planning, leadership and evaluation of Prayer and Liturgy.
- To secure a flourishing faith partnership between home, parish and school.

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:.....

2

Pupil outcomes

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

2

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

2

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

2



Pupils know that they are part of the special community that is Holy Family Catholic Primary School. They are valued and respected as individuals made in the image and likeness of God, and know that they all have a part to play in the world around them. A pupil in Key Stage 2 wrote, 'God's plan for me is to help all God's family' and another wrote, 'God's plan for me is to help Jesus in his mission.' Pupils are happy and confident, and enjoy being part of this special community, saying, 'Everyone is part of the big family and we all have a great bond'. They fully appreciate their commitment to following Gospel values and the teachings of Jesus. A duty to helping and looking out for others, including the most vulnerable, is embedded in the daily lives of all in the school community. Pupils are respectful and kind to each other and their behaviour both in lessons and around the school is good. Older pupils enjoy their role as playground leaders at lunchtime, looking after their younger peers. The Eco Warriors relish their role as guardians of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* initiative. All pupils, regardless of their faith background, demonstrate a real commitment to the Catholic life and mission of the school.

The school's mission statement, 'United in God's love, through learning and play, we nurture hearts and minds as we welcome all into our family', is central to life at Holy Family. It is known by all members of the community. Parents report that the school 'really stands by its mission statement....and that the Catholic way of life is at the centre of everything that is done'. The school promotes a real sense of community and togetherness where everyone is fully welcomed and supported. During the inspection pupils were collecting items for the upcoming Harvest Festival as well as preparing for the Macmillan coffee morning. Relationships are a real strength of the school. Holy Family provides a joyful and nurturing

community, valuing all and acknowledging Christ's presence in others. Staff are positive role models for pupils, ensuring pastoral care is very strong, with pupils commenting that staff are always there for them and that there is always someone to talk to : 'teachers won't leave you upset, they will help you.' The school environment proudly demonstrates that Holy Family is a Catholic school. The mission statement board in the school grounds clearly announces its witness to the Catholic character of the school. The beautiful stained glass windows, depicting the sacraments, in the school hall, and the Biblical quotations around the walls are added testimony to the school's mission. The provision for relationships, sex, and health education meets both statutory and diocesan requirements, is faithful to the teachings of the Church and has been shared with parents.

The inspirational headteacher, along with his senior colleagues, is ambitious for the Catholic life and mission of the school. They share a real commitment to the Church's mission in education. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school with one parent saying, 'Holy Family supports and encourages the children to be the very best they can be within their Catholic lives. My children are thriving at the school, and as a family we couldn't be happier'. Governors visit the school regularly, joining pupils in class as well as listening to pupils' ideas and opinions. Governors take opportunities to join the school and diocese in events and activities as well as undertaking relevant training. School policies are monitored and reviewed regularly and demonstrate the identity, charisma and mission of the school. The school works well with the local parish, and the parish priest visits regularly, joining pupils in class to support their learning in topics such as vocation. Pupils also enjoy chatting with him during unstructured times. The school works hard to engage with parents who welcome the moral and ethical well-being promoted by all staff.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade:.....

2

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education.....

2

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education.....

2

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor, and evaluate the provision for religious education.....

2



Pupils are developing secure knowledge and understanding which reflect the requirements of the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory* throughout the school and the new *Religious Education Directory* in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Work in pupils' books clearly indicates that they build on prior learning, enabling them to know more and remember more. As a result, pupils across all age phases and all year groups, including those with additional needs, make good progress from their various starting points; consequently, achievement in religious education is good and in line with that in other core subjects. Pupils are enthusiastic about their learning, enjoying taking part in discussions and presenting their work in a variety of ways to showcase their understanding. They are developing into religiously literate young people, who can speak with confidence and link what they have learnt in class to everyday life. They are able to think ethically and reflect on what they have learnt. Pupils enjoy their learning and approach lessons with the determination to do well. They take pride in their work and this pride, and the respect they have for the subject can be clearly seen in the high standards of presentation in their books.

Teachers demonstrate confidence in their subject knowledge and a good understanding of how pupils learn. They plan well-sequenced and well-executed lessons which engage all pupils. Questioning is used skilfully to assess pupils' understanding and teachers adapt explanations or tasks as necessary, enabling all pupils to be successful learners. Any misconceptions are swiftly rectified. Teachers know their pupils well and have high expectations of them; pupils' efforts are acknowledged frequently in class and in the weekly celebration assembly, leading to high levels of motivation. Pupils' enjoyment of the achievement of others is clearly seen during celebration assemblies. Highly positive relationships create an atmosphere and environment which is conducive to learning and

where pupils feel motivated to do well. Teachers take advantage of the outside area when planning lessons; in a lower Key Stage 1 lesson, pupils enjoyed visiting the prayer garden to look for examples of how everything has a place in God's world. Learning support assistants are deployed well to maximise learning for those pupils who need additional support; they have good subject knowledge and use it well to support learning. Staff take full advantage of internal and external monitoring and moderation of pupils' work, joining colleagues from across the trust; consequently, teachers' assessments are accurate.

Along with senior leaders and governors, the inspirational headteacher and the deputy headteacher ensure that religious education is given high priority, and meets all the requirements of the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*. It is given equal priority with other core subjects in terms of funding and time allocation. Leaders are committed to providing regular opportunities for professional development, and a significant number of staff have the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. All staff benefit from internal and cross-trust training to continue to develop their expertise. The religious education subject leaders work hard to secure good teaching and learning, and staff feel well supported to deliver engaging lessons. The subject leaders are passionate in their commitment to ensuring pupils receive all the support they need to be successful and to the school being the best it can be.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.

Collective worship key judgement grade:.....

2

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

2



Pupils' response to and participation in prayer and liturgy is strong and contributes well to their spiritual and moral development. They engage reverently during daily prayers, and their enjoyment of singing enhances liturgies. Appropriate liturgical music is chosen during liturgies to provide a calm and prayerful atmosphere. Pupil chaplains willingly undertake liturgical ministries both in school and in the local parish church. All pupils have the opportunity to read and take on the role of altar servers in church. Chaplains welcome the opportunity to prepare prayer and liturgy celebrations and take these responsibilities seriously and dutifully; they now need to take on the responsibility of leading and evaluating these sessions with greater independence. Pupils have a good knowledge and understanding of daily prayer. They are able to make strong connections between prayer and liturgy and how this can be lived out on a day-to-day basis.

The centrality of prayer and worship is evident throughout the school. Pupils and staff pray together at various times throughout the day, experiencing spontaneous prayer alongside the traditional prayers of the Church. Staff act as good role models during these times, providing support and guidance for those unfamiliar with the routines and rituals. Music and religious images are used effectively to enhance prayer and liturgy experiences. The lovely prayer area outside the hall is beautifully maintained and provides a quiet space where pupils can sit and pray and reflect. They use the space to write their own prayers, and older pupils spend time during lunch reading Bible stories to their younger peers. Classroom prayer areas are carefully monitored by pupil chaplains to ensure they are well maintained. The Eco Warriors team spoke with great enthusiasm of their plans to renovate the prayer garden area. Even the youngest pupils enjoy writing their own prayers and hanging them on their class prayer tree and looking at the pictures in the Bibles. They like to remind their

teacher that the candle needs to be lit when they pray because it shows that 'Jesus is with us and He is the light of the world'.

The school's policy on prayer and liturgy is well formulated; it is reviewed regularly and is used by staff to support them when planning liturgies. School leaders ensure that prayer and liturgy are accessible to all pupils, enabling them to participate and respond age-appropriately. There is a flourishing partnership between the school and the parish to support pupils' participation in the carefully planned liturgical life of the school and the many opportunities to celebrate special events together as a community both in the local parish church and in school. Pupils also have the opportunity to take part in Reconciliation services, Harvest Festival celebrations, Christmas carol concerts and Christingle services, and whilst the number of Catholic pupils is low, all pupils participate and engage fully in these events. Governors, parents and parishioners welcome the chance to join the school during these celebrations. School leaders and governors place a high importance on prayer and liturgy when allocating resources and ensure that all staff have the opportunity to take up any training to support them in developing and delivering high quality experiences of prayer and liturgy.

Information about the school

Full name of school	Holy Family Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	145595
Full postal address of the school	Kents Hill Road, Benfleet. Essex. SS7 5PX
School phone number	01268 792231
Name of head teacher or principal	Mr Daniel Craft
Chair of governing board	Mrs Julie Herridge
School Website	www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	The Assisi Trust
Type of school	Primary
School category	Academy
Age-range of pupils	3 - 11
Trustees	The Diocese of Brentwood
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	4 May 2017
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

The inspection team

Mrs Angela Podmore

Lead inspector

Mrs Laura White

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