



Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for **Our Lady Of Victories Primary School**

URN: 100504

Carried out on behalf of the Most Rev. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster on:

Date: 25 - 26 May 2023

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The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection	Fully

Summary of key findings

What the school does well

- Pupils are articulate, confident and proud of their school, clearly understanding that they are part of a Catholic community rooted in Christ.
- This is an inclusive and welcoming community that provides a sanctuary for refugees and cares for the most vulnerable in society.
- Caritas Young Ambassadors are proactive in encouraging the school community to support meaningful causes.
- Staff feel well supported and valued by leaders and governors.
- The Young Missionaries programme enables some pupils to effectively lead prayer and worship across the school.

This Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection was carried out under canons 804 & 806 of the code of canon law. For maintained schools and academies in England it fulfils the statutory requirements of s.48 of the Education Act 2005. For maintained schools and academies in Wales it fulfils the statutory requirements of s.50 of the Education Act 2005.

What the school needs to improve

- Leaders and governors to engage in more robust and rigorous self-evaluation of religious education by thorough monitoring, analysis and self-challenge.
- Leaders and governors to plan a curriculum for religious education that is progressive, has Catholic Social Teaching embedded and is adapted to meet the needs of all learners.
- All pupils to have opportunities to lead creative and reflective prayer and liturgy, which includes clear progression in prayer as pupils move through the 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 are proud of Our Lady of Victories Catholic Primary School. They clearly understand their mission statement 'led by Christ, we learn to grow in God's family' and can link it to their good behaviour in school. They understand that everyone is equal in the eyes of God and quoted the messages from Vatican II as examples of how they should care for the disadvantaged and poor. They also linked work in this area with Scripture. Pupils who are Caritas Young Ambassadors are physically active at the foodbank and they quoted the preferential option for the poor, explaining they must act and be active rather than passive bystanders. They explained, 'we have to act - Jesus told us to treat everyone equally and not just sit.' Another Caritas Young Ambassador added, 'we know we are a small school, but we know we can unite and make a difference.' Caritas Young Ambassadors encourage pupils to raise funds to support CAFOD, Save the Children and the RSPCA thereby ensuring the school supports charities locally, nationally and globally. Pupils are articulate and confident to express their views. They are aware that they must pursue the common good. Pupils care for each other, and kindness is a key word for them. One pupil explained 'imagine a pebble and its waves when thrown into a pond are waves of kindness. The kindness spreads and touches something or someone else.' Pupils welcome new starters with kindness and respect those of other faiths. This is an inclusive school. Another pupil group, the Young Missionaries, value the opportunity to serve at Mass. Mass is celebrated regularly, on holy days and special occasions.

The mission statement is known and lived throughout the school. Displays celebrate the school's distinctive Catholic identity, Catholic Social Teaching and the commitment to charitable work. Pupils identify with their school's charism and can relate to Our Lady, Mother of Christ and Our Lady, Help of Christians. Staff are committed to the mission of the school and those new to Catholic teaching

undertake 'Foundation Stones' a diocesan professional development programme. Other staff are currently undertaking professional development in the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS). In Our Lady of Victories there is a sense of a warm, inviting Catholic community where visitors are made welcome. The school has recently welcomed pupils from Ukraine and have engaged an extra adult who speaks Ukrainian to make sure that pupils feel safe and secure. Pupils from other faith traditions explained that their faith is respected, and they feel welcomed. The parish priest and the curate are regular visitors. They celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent and assist pupils in a variety of forms of liturgical worship. Pupils have created stations of the cross from mosaics and they are hanging in a central location. They explained how they use this artwork to reflect on the suffering and passion of Christ. The chaplaincy provision is strong in its support of the life and mission of the school. As a consequence, the school provides a range of well-planned and effective opportunities for the spiritual and moral development of pupils and staff. Year 5 pupils are highly effective Caritas ambassadors. The provision for R(S)HE meets both statutory and diocesan requirements so is faithful to the teaching of the Church. One staff member explained that, 'in the school, we place an emphasis on being part of God's family and growing.'

Leaders and governors are able to articulate the Church's mission in education and exercise their duty as guardians of the Catholic life and mission of the school. They ensure that Christ is at the heart of the school. The development of Catholic life and mission is viewed by leaders and governors as a core leadership responsibility. They have worked to ensure new staff are fully aware of what it means to teach in a Catholic school. Staff place great value on the support received from the leader of religious education. Teachers new to Catholic education and those new to the profession explained that her support instilled confidence. Leaders and governors have ensured there is sufficient budget set aside for staff to avail of high-quality professional development. The school works in partnership with the diocesan bishop and actively participates in the services offered by the diocese. Leaders and governors recognise the principle that Catholic schools are at the service of the local Church. The school works closely with the local parish; the parish priest is chair of governors and the curate is also a regular visitor. Leaders and governors put into practice the Church's preferential option for the poor by ensuring that resources are used effectively to support those in greatest need. Leaders and governors demonstrate respect for the dignity of workers and have prioritised staff wellbeing. Staff feel valued and recognise that leaders are considerate of workload. Governors are ambitious for the Catholic life and mission of the school and this is emphasised as a school improvement priority at governing body meetings.

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



Leaders have chosen a scheme that enables pupils to develop knowledge and understanding that reflects the learning required by the *Religious Education Directory*. Pupils are confident, articulate and can reflect spiritually. They can link the teaching of Vatican II and their knowledge of Scripture to the actions they carry out in their everyday lives. Pupils can speak with confidence about what they have learned in religious education, and they understand their responsibility as stewards of the earth. Even the youngest pupils can recognise the importance of being good stewards. Pupils enjoy research and art in religious education, they are able to work independently and speak confidently about their learning. Most pupils produce work which is well presented with elements of emerging individuality and creativity. Pupils engage well and approach their lessons with interest and enthusiasm. As a consequence, behaviour in lessons is good. Pupils' attainment is in line with other core curriculum subjects.

Teachers are enthusiastic and committed to the value of religious education. They communicate this effectively to their pupils. A regular feature of learning in Our Lady of Victories is that pupils recap previous learning in lessons and steps to success are discussed. Pupils explained that this practice helps them link their learning and know how to move forward. There has been a recent focus on highlighting key religious vocabulary, and this is beginning to have an impact. Pupil effort is often celebrated leading to good levels of motivation. Teachers' use of questioning is variable; there are missed opportunities to probe, stretch and challenge pupils' understanding. Developmental feedback in lessons or in books is not consistent and as a result, all pupils do not know how to improve their work. Teachers do not always adapt their teaching to meet the needs of all pupils therefore progress for the most able pupils is limited. In some lessons observed, scaffolding was provided and used effectively for pupils who needed extra support. Knowledge

organisers introduced this year are beginning to have an impact and pupils are beginning to refer to them in lessons to support their learning.

Leaders and governors have ensured that the religious education programme meets the requirements set out in the *Religious Education Directory* (RED). The curriculum for religious education has not been mapped out to clearly meet the needs of all learners and include distinctive Catholic Social Teaching opportunities. Leaders and governors ensure that religious education is comparable to other core curriculum subjects, in terms of professional development, resourcing, timetabling, staffing and accommodation. They ensure whole-school policies are equitably applied to all core subjects. A non-Catholic staff member commented on how professional development and support from the subject leader had helped improve their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. Governors have been involved in the evaluation of religious education and leaders and governors have devised action plans for improvement. However there have been missed opportunities to monitor and evaluate their work in this area for impact.

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 respond well to the experiences of prayer and liturgy provided by the school. The school provides pupils with opportunities to become 'Young Missionaries'. These pupils are trained and provided with resources to lead prayer and liturgy in all classes. Pupils participate in prayer and liturgy by reflecting in silence and confidently joining in community prayer. They understand some of ways of praying that are part of the Catholic tradition. This includes for example, the use of Scripture, symbol, silence, meditation, reflection and reflective music. Pupils work well with others, including teachers and other pupils, to prepare engaging experiences of prayer and liturgy. 'Young Missionaries' undertake liturgical ministries willingly and are sometimes involved in evaluating the quality of the prayer and liturgy they have planned. However, the experience of leading prayer and liturgy is not offered to all pupils. Pupils understand how to reflect on their experience of prayer and liturgy and can articulate the ways in which these experiences have led to action. One pupil commented that they were overwhelmed when they realised they were talking to God.

There is a daily pattern of prayer that reflects the rhythm of the prayer life of the Church. Pupils have a range of daily prayers led by 'Young Missionaries', leaders and staff. Seasonally appropriate Scripture passages are central to prayer and liturgy. They are chosen to help those present to participate fully and actively. The leader of religious education has worked to help the 'Young Missionaries' prepare for prayer and liturgy. There has been some monitoring of the impact of this work, however this has not yet been evaluated. The school makes good use of the spaces available to it, such as the chapel devoted to Our Lady. Each classroom has its own prayer space in correct liturgical colours. Some classes also have a dedicated May altar with fresh flowers for Our Lady. Families are invited to participate in prayer and liturgy to support the developing prayer life of

pupils. Parents who responded to the survey are supportive of the work of the school in religious education.

The school has a policy on prayer and liturgy that clearly sets out expectations and is effective for staff to use. However, it does not clearly indicate progression in prayer as pupils move through the school. Leaders, including governors, have planned the school calendar and timetable to set aside opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist, particularly at key times in the liturgical year and at significant moments within the life of the school. All holy days of obligation and other significant days are recognised in the school's calendar and timetable. Members of the school community are able to attend

Mass, or other appropriate liturgies, on such days. The local curate visits, to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation at key times in the liturgical year, such as Lent and Advent. Leaders, including governors, offer regular opportunities for the professional development of all staff.

Information about the school

Full name of school	Our Lady of Victories Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	100504
Full postal address of the school	Clareville Street London SW7 5AQ
School phone number	02073734491
Name of head teacher or principal	Chris McPhilemy
Chair of governing board	Mgr James Curry
School Website	https://olov.rbkc.sch.uk/
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age-range of pupils	4-11
Trustees	Diocese of Westminster
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	December 2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

The inspection team

Evelyn Ward	Lead inspector
Susan Grace	Team inspector
Ursula Hargrave	Shadow 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