



DIOCESE OF **Arundel and Brighton**

DENOMINATIONAL (S48) INSPECTION REPORT

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Address: Rosebank, West Street, Epsom, KT18 7RT

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School Unique Reference Number: 125205

Headteacher:	Mrs Theresa Kenefick
Chair of Governors:	Mr Ray Henry
Lead Inspector:	Mrs Gillian Askham
Associate Inspector:	Mrs Angela Ireland
Inspection date:	28 th November 2018

Overall Effectiveness	Previous Inspection:	1
	This inspection:	1
Catholic Life:	1	
Collective Worship:	1	
Religious Education:	1	

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FOR PARENTS AND PUPILS

St. Joseph's is an outstanding Catholic school because:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The mission statement is truly at the heart of everything that is done, said and felt by those within the community. There is a sense of shared ownership as the pupils have developed their own version of the mission statement and are very proud of that fact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The pupils are growing spiritually because of the outstanding Catholic education received and the opportunities and experiences that they are provided with. They are proud of their Catholic identity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The leaders of the school are deeply passionate about the faith journey of all in their care and the result is that the members of the whole community of St Joseph's are on their spiritual journey together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Standards are consistently high and the needs of all groups of pupils are very well addressed in order to ensure that all pupils achieve their very best.

FULL REPORT

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is located in the heart of Epsom and sits adjacent to the parish church. Strong links have been secured between school and church. Now established as a two-form entry school, St. Joseph's has experienced a large scale expansion without losing sight of the school mission – to provide excellent academic, social, moral and spiritual opportunities for all pupils. The leaders of the school are to be congratulated for steering the school through what could have been a turbulent time.

St. Joseph's is larger than the average size primary school and has been designated a teaching school.

The proportion of pupils who have SEN and/or disabilities is below national average and the proportion of disadvantaged pupils is well below the national average. The number of pupils from minority ethnic groups is above national average. Attendance is above national average. In November 2017, Ofsted judged the school to be outstanding in every area and particular reference was made to the way in which 'pupils contributed positively to the wider life of the school and the local community.'

It was also noted that that the school motto, 'Work hard, play well and make other people happy', was a strong guiding feature in the way the 'pupils look after each other and demonstrate a very high level of care and friendship' – these views were fully echoed during the Section 48 Inspection.

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL NEED TO DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER

- There are no significant areas for development.
- The school is aware that there is a need to continually refresh practice and policy as national and diocesan programmes are updated.
- The recent introduction of a national assessment and planning tool has provided the school with its latest area of focus and the Religious Education leaders will work on this to secure a consistent implementation of this across the school.
- The development of shared Religious Education leadership will be further developed and shaped in the way in which the school see best.

CATHOLIC LIFE

THE QUALITY OF THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

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- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.
- The quality of provision of the Catholic Life of the school.
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school.

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The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding

- The school's mission statement is powerful. It captures the true aims and aspirations of a strong Catholic community. St. Joseph's mission is central to the work of the school and is regularly referred to during school life in order to keep it alive.
- The pupils are very keen to talk about their involvement in creating their own version of the school mission statement using simplified language. They are able to unpick and discuss the messages within their mission and how they 'live it out in their daily lives'.
- The mission guides them in their work and play both in school and beyond – '*We gather a lot for liturgies and assemblies so that we can get closer to God. We are lucky to have God to help us in our lives.*' (Year 6 pupil).
- It is clear from talking to the pupils, that they are proud to belong to St. Joseph's school. They speak with enthusiasm and maturity about the many ways in which they support local and worldwide charities. They are committed to helping those who are less fortunate than themselves and are extremely successful in doing so. The range of

charities supported by the pupils is creatively displayed in the school hall for all to see - *'I love our special days when we raise money for charities – I'm proud of that.'* (Year 3 pupil).

- Pupil behaviour is outstanding. They demonstrate a deep sense of fairness and justice. When talking about behaviour and attitudes, pupils describe their school as one where 'we all work hard together as a community and we celebrate individuals' talents and achievements.' They told inspectors that when issues arise, they are dealt with quickly and fairly - 'Our teachers don't take sides. They like honesty and always listen to both sides of a story. They are fair.' (Year 4 pupil).
- The pupils at St. Joseph's are happy, confident and appreciative. They value the Catholic identity of their school community and are excited to tell others about their experiences.
- It is clear from talking to the children that with the help, guidance and nurturing received from staff, parents, governors and parish priests they are thriving as active members within a very special and unique Catholic community.
- The pupils are a credit to the school and staff should be very proud of the influence they have had in the growing of such confident and well - mannered young people.

The quality of provision of the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding

- A powerful sense of mission and Catholic ethos permeates every area of school life at St. Joseph's.
- On entering the school, visitors and friends alike receive a warm and genuine welcome. Each and every person is seen as a valued member of the community with unique contributions to make. Pastoral care and programmes including Education in Personal Relationships (EPR) are sensitively designed and implemented and pupil records show that they appreciate and enjoy this area of their education.
- Opportunities for pupils to realise their own potential and for them to experience the importance of responsibility are well planned and carefully designed through a range of pupil groups and task forces. The pupils speak highly of these opportunities – *'Our school is fair and equal. We vote to arrive at decisions together and our opinions and ideas are listened to by our teachers.'* (Year 5 pupil).
- School policies and procedures are rooted in the Gospel values and carefully linked to modern day British Values.
- The learning environment is vibrant, relevant and exudes Catholic values at every turn.

- There are many lovely traditions at St Joseph's which make it a unique and family driven community; one such tradition was explained by the pupils on the day of inspection - *'We have special books in which to record our Religious Education work, these are stored until we leave the school, bound with ribbon and presented as a leaving gift – we treasure the books and so do our parents.'* (Year 6 pupil).
- The parental response from the pre-inspection survey was overwhelming, with the vast majority of responses being extremely positive - *'This is a wonderful school and I have watched my son grown spiritually and morally into a lovely young man.'* *'We are so privileged that our children attend such an amazing school – they put God at the centre of everything they do at St Joseph's.'*
- The parish priests are very supportive of the school and play a vital role in securing close links between school, home and parish. The pupils are regularly welcomed into the church by the priests who also visit the school on a regular basis to work and worship with the pupils. This level of partnership and commitment is to be commended.

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding

- The headteacher leads by example. Her passion and commitment to an education firmly rooted in Gospel values is clear to all who meet and work with her. She is an excellent role model for her staff and they speak of her with respect and affection. She has a resounding enthusiasm and passion for her school and a pure love of her vocation – *'Religious Education is the happy bit of what we do.'* (headteacher).
- The substantive subject leader is dedicated to the development of a Religious Education programme which is creative, based around achieving the highest standards for all pupils and includes a range of lesson types to capture interest and promote deep thinking and reflection. Her enthusiasm for the subject is infectious and she is viewed as being a real support to her colleagues. She is currently working alongside a developing Religious Education leader who is increasingly sharing the role.
- The monitoring schedule ensures that the highest standards are achieved across the school and all teaching is well supported through a continued focus on religious knowledge and development of expertise. Teachers have access to high quality Continued Professional Development (CPD) opportunities and the school is involved in shared INSET (In Service Training) within its deanery group.
- Currently, St. Joseph's are taking a leading role in the securing of the new national assessment and planning tool for Religious Education and in doing so are providing high quality resources which are being shared across the deanery.

- The Religious Education leaders are well aware of their strengths and areas for development and have clear aims based on accurate self evaluation. They work tirelessly to achieve the best for all pupils. The learning environment is attractively resourced with high quality artefacts reflecting the Catholic ethos and the pupils treasure the outward signs of their faith.
- Governors know their school well. In discussion it was clear that they are involved in the development of the school at all levels and they spoke highly of the school team. They are visible in the school and were able to talk honestly and knowledgeably about the ways in which they were supporting and challenging leaders. The governors have confidence in their headteacher and a relationship based on mutual respect has flourished over time.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP / PRAYER AND PRAYER LIFE

- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship and Prayer Life
- The quality of provision for Collective Worship and Prayer Life
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship and Prayer Life

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How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship and Prayer Life is outstanding

- Prayer and worship provide the heartbeat of the school. The spiritual development of all pupils is a priority at St. Joseph's; the pupils respond positively and are able to explain what it means to them to be part of a Catholic community.
- The whole school liturgy observed during the inspection was inspiring, interactive and incredibly moving. With quiet reflective music playing throughout, the headteacher skilfully addressed all who were present, giving the feeling of complete participation and intimacy. The creative use of space and simple but beautifully composed focal points provided the pupils with the opportunity to develop a deep and meaningful relationship with God whilst being fully engaged. Pupils are confident to lead in the preparation and delivery of liturgies. They are fully involved in all religious celebrations and are very keen to be so. Their liturgical knowledge is impressive – *'We pray at lunchtime so we don't forget to thank God for our food.'* (Year 3 pupil).

- In line with the school mission, pupils are keen to celebrate the gifts and talents of their peers. For instance, musical talent is used to enhance worship and the standard of communal singing is very good.
- The pupils attend Masses and liturgies at the church and are supported by the parish priests who encourage them to participate in religious services – often prepared and led by pupils.
- Whilst talking to inspectors the pupils described their worship experiences as being *'wide ranging, varied and always uplifting.'* (Group of Year 2 to Year 6 pupils).

The quality of provision for Collective Worship and Prayer Life is outstanding

- Leaders provide rich and varied opportunities for pupils to experience prayer and worship. This is evident in all year groups and pupils of all ages are able to discuss the importance and power of prayer. Opportunities for silent prayer, meditation, class and whole school worship are well established traditions of school life and pupils are provided with support through the use of liturgy planners to enable them to lead others in prayer.
- The opportunities are not restricted to the use of the indoor environment but extend into the school grounds with the wonderful creation of their own 'Way of the Cross'. The pupils treasure this addition to their school grounds and have plans of their own to develop one of the stations in the future. They know that their ideas and opinions will be considered by the staff - *'I feel honoured that my class station is the tomb.'*
- The displays in the school hall include one which clearly outlines the rhythm of the liturgical year. Small footsteps are moved around the display clearly indicating the current liturgical season. This, amongst a number of other colourful and inspiring displays, reflects the focus on the religious, charitable and community driven profile of the school.
- The parish priests support pupils in their spiritual development by being visible in school and through regular focussed discussion with the pupils. The clergy are aware of and grateful for the important role that St. Joseph's plays in the formation and development of the pupils attending and there is a mutual respect between leaders, parents and clergy in this vibrant Catholic community.

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship and Prayer Life is outstanding

- The leaders in the school are excellent role models for the pupils. The high quality opportunities which they provide for all pupils are testament to their commitment and loyalty to the school community. They have expert knowledge of how to plan and lead collective worship and are able to share the messages from the Gospel in creative and relevant ways for the pupils in their school.
- Leaders regularly seek the views and opinions of the pupils and encourage them to be fully involved in the development of St. Joseph’s Catholic ethos – enabling the pupils to shape the mission and aims of their school.
- Leaders ensure that the pupils and staff are involved in local, deanery and diocesan celebrations during the year so that the spiritual development of all within the school community remains a priority at all times.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.
- The quality of teaching and assessment in Religious Education.
- How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education.

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How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education is outstanding

- Pupils most certainly enjoy their Religious Education lessons. They speak of it with enthusiasm in all year groups and most say that Religious Education is their favourite subject.
- In the vast majority of lessons observed during the inspection, behaviour for learning was exemplary, and pupils worked at a good pace without any disruptions.

- High level questioning from teachers develops in the pupils the ability to reflect and to engage with deeper religious ideas and themes. Standards are consistently high with pupils having the opportunity to challenge themselves in every lesson. Their 'special books' provide a real sense of pride and pupils look forward to taking them home with them when they leave St. Joseph's.
- The quality of responses and presentation of work in books is excellent and pupils are able to discuss what they have learned in detail. Their religious literacy is to be commended.

The quality of teaching and assessment in Religious Education is outstanding

- Teachers use time in lessons to maximum effect. Lessons are well prepared to ensure focussed learning and differentiated activities provide support and challenge for all pupils. Skilful questioning demonstrates that the teachers' subject knowledge is very good and allows them to assess and reshape a lesson where appropriate.
- Pupils are given time in lessons to talk to each other, sharing ideas and refining their thoughts whilst deepening their own understanding of the lesson focus.
- Marking and feedback procedures are embedded in the school and pupils are familiar with self-assessment. The lessons observed were inspiring, creative and engaging and pupils told the inspectors that they particularly liked the lessons when they could decide on the presentation of their work for themselves.

How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education is outstanding

- The leadership of Religious Education is outstanding. The substantive leader has had a lasting and powerful influence on the profile of the subject due to her commitment, knowledge, experience and obvious love for the subject. The appointment of a second leader to share the role is developing very well and both leaders are aware of the strengths and success of the school. The challenge of the new national assessment and planning tool has been embraced and the Religious Education leaders are working closely with deanery colleagues to ensure a consistent and effective approach. St Joseph's staff are currently leading this developmental work within the deanery family.
- Religious Education is very well resourced, and the curriculum provides pupils with opportunities to experience at first hand, links with other agencies and organisations in the wider community – thus enriching their learning and enabling them to put their 'Faith into Action'. Evidence of this is displayed on the 'Serving our Community' notice board.

- The Religious Education leaders inspire confidence in pupils as well as colleagues who feel that they are able to rely on whole hearted support and guidance from their leaders.
- As a result of all of this, Religious Education has a very high profile in all aspects of school life and there is a palpable impact on the moral and spiritual development of the pupils who are indeed privileged to belong to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

Summary of Inspection Judgements

How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education.

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Catholic Life

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The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.

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The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school

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How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school.

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Collective Worship and Prayer Life

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How well pupils respond to and participate in the schools' Collective Worship and Prayer Life.

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The quality of provision for Collective Worship and Prayer Life.

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How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship and Prayer Life.

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Religious Education

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How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.

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The quality of teaching and assessment in Religious Education

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How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education

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