

St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School



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*St. Alban's Deanery
Catholic Schools' Partnership*

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RE Inspection Report to Parents and Pupils

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Following the recent RE inspection I am writing to inform you that the school report has been published and is available on the school website. I am pleased to report that the school has been judged as **Outstanding** (Grade 1) in all key areas.

The inspectors enjoyed their visit to the school and the warm welcome they received. The report highlights the commitment and hard work of all staff, governors and pupils, the excellent relationships and drive to continually improve outcomes for all pupils.

Summary of key findings for parents and pupils:

- St. Joseph's Junior School is an outstanding Catholic School. The extremely strong Catholic identity permeates the school's daily life.
- The head teacher, senior leaders and governors are deeply committed to promoting the school's Catholic life. The school mission statement "Building up God's Kingdom together" is clearly communicated and inspires all in the school community. Very attractive displays and good quality artefacts around the school confirm the Catholic identity. The school is a welcoming inclusive community where all members are respected and valued.
- Relationships within the school are excellent and reflect Christian respect and concern for others. Pupils' personal, spiritual and moral development is outstanding; Prayer, Mass and worship are of pivotal importance in the school's life.
- The extent to which pupils benefit from the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. They know and understand the mission statement and strive to achieve it in all areas of their school life. Pupils are proud of their school and show concern for the well-being of others.
- Pupils' personal, spiritual and moral development is outstanding and this is reflected in their very good behaviour and their positive attitudes to learning. They demonstrate a respect for the cultural diversity within the school community.
- Pupils know RE is an important subject and through it develop a sound knowledge of the Catholic faith. They achieve age appropriate RE levels of attainment and progress is in line with national expectations. Pupils make good progress throughout their school life in knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- Pupils enjoy their religious education lessons especially when given practical tasks. Pupils' responses in lessons and RE books show evidence of their growing depth and maturity of thought and opinions.



- The quality of religious education lessons overall is good. Teachers demonstrate sound subject knowledge and lessons are planned well with clear learning intentions. Differentiated tasks were set that allowed all pupils to achieve. Teaching assistants gave good support to groups of pupils.
- Work is well marked with praise and affirmative comments given. Questions posed and time given for pupils to consider their response further, effectively extends the learning.

The last RE inspection report suggested that there were no major improvements needed. The school has not remained complacent but has continued to make further developments.

What the school needs to do to improve further:

- Give pupils more responsibility for developing their own spiritual lives by providing opportunities for them to prepare and plan their own class acts of worship.
- Raise the quality of teaching further by the teachers being more creative in adapting RE plans so that input and tasks fully engage and motivate the learning of all groups of pupils.

As part of the inspection process the school agreed the key areas for improvement and matched them to the priorities from the current School Plan. The welfare and education of pupils at St. Joseph's remains paramount and together we will strive to achieve our targets to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our children.

Thank you to staff, parents, pupils and governors who help us to live our school mission statement and make St. Joseph's such a special community to be a part of. The inspection team strongly observed a real sense of belonging and pride within our Catholic community. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. J. A. Lee
Head teacher

