

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Masbro Road, Hammersmith, London, W14 0LT



Date of inspection by Westminster Diocese: 2 March 2022

## Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

### A. Classroom religious education is outstanding

- The content of curriculum RE meets all the requirements of the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory* in an exceptional way; it is creative and engaging and meets the learning needs of all groups of pupils.
- The use of 'big questions' is a strong feature in developing the philosophical thinking skills of pupils.
- Pupils' achievement is outstanding. The evidence of pupil progress, as demonstrated in internal systems, deanery, and diocesan moderation, indicate that pupils make rapid and sustained progress.
- Pupils excel through high teacher expectations and engagement in their own learning. There is a genuine enthusiasm from pupils to learn.
- Pupils' behaviour is outstanding. The learning relationships between teacher and pupil, and peer to peer are very strong and consequently lead to accelerated learning.
- A significant strength of the school is the consistent use of teacher questioning that stretches and challenges pupils.
- There is a clear and dynamic vision and direction for RE which is shared by staff and governors. The school's vision of 'aspiring to greatness' is fully embraced in the delivery of the RE curriculum.
- The headteacher works closely with the subject leader of RE to ensure that standards in RE continue to improve; this has led to significant and sustained improvements in the quality of teaching and learning since the last inspection.
- The subject leader and leadership team work hard in relentlessly pursuing excellence.

### B. The Catholic life of the school is outstanding

- RE is at the heart of this school. RE receives the 10% curriculum time as required by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.
- The liturgical and prayer life of St Mary's is at the heart of this school community. Contributions are made by all families in each year group to the class/family prayer book and these are shared each day.
- Pupils' spiritual development is enabled through the excellent opportunities they have for quiet, reflection, sharing and discussion, enhanced by the high level of religious literacy.
- Pupils are actively engaged in supporting those in need, over time and in depth, and pro-active in creative ways of responding locally, nationally and globally.
- St Mary's works extremely hard to develop strong relationships with parents, the parish, other local Catholic schools and particularly those in the Deanery and beyond. These are crucial to school life and contribute to the Catholic identity and success of the school.
- The headteacher has a strong vision of Catholic education and how this challenges all to aspire to greatness. The Catholic life of the school is very well led by the headteacher and the leadership team.
- The school's self-evaluation is an accurate reflection of the strengths and areas for development; it is based on rigorous monitoring and analysis. As a result, inspectors were able to validate the school's judgments of itself. This is an outstanding Catholic school.