

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Junior School

URN: 146116

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Westminster

18–19 June 2025

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

1

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

1

Collective worship (p.7)

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

1

The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference

Yes

The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop

Yes

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection

Fully

1

Compliance statement

- The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference.
- The school is fully compliant with the additional requirements of the diocesan bishop.
- All areas for improvement outlined in the previous diocesan inspection report have been addressed in full.

What the school does well

- Outstanding leadership at all levels ensures a clear Catholic vision and drives continuous improvement across the school.
- Catholic social teaching is deeply embedded in both the religious education and the wider curriculum lived in the daily life of the school, shaping pupils' values, choices and actions.
- Pupils are exceptional ambassadors for their school, demonstrating exemplary behaviour, deep engagement in learning and respect and compassion towards others.
- Engagement with parents is strong; they feel valued and involved in a thriving, welcoming and inclusive school community.
- A well-planned and meaningful programme of prayer and liturgy enriches the spiritual lives of both pupils and staff.

What the school needs to improve

- Implement rigorous tracking and analysis of pupil assessments to help inform planning.
- Further enhance pupils' ability to evaluate prayer and liturgy, enabling them to identify next steps for personal and communal spiritual growth.
- Design open-ended tasks that encourage greater pupil independence and enhance the depth and quality of their learning outcomes.

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

Pupil outcomes

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

Provision

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

Leadership

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



Pupils at Our Lady of Grace fully embrace its distinctive Catholic identity and mission, clearly living out the values of the mission statement, 'OLOG: Love, Opportunity, Growth, Always through Christ'. They understand their role as part of both the local and universal Church and confidently articulate the school's unique story. One pupil remarked, 'Jesus told us to love our neighbour. We believe everyone is equal and has the same rights. To stand for social justice, we need to care and be compassionate,' reflecting the deep theological understanding that underpins their actions. Pupils flourish in a nurturing environment where they feel valued, cared for and recognised as unique individuals made in the image and likeness of God. Their behaviour is exemplary, rooted in a profound respect for themselves and others, including those of different faiths. They actively live out the principles of Catholic social teaching, which are woven into the fabric of school life. Leadership opportunities such as the Mini Vinnie chaplaincy team, Eco team and school council, empower pupils to respond to local, national and global needs. Half-termly assemblies on Catholic social teaching principles are pupil-led and theologically informed, inspiring the whole community to serve their brothers and sisters with compassion, justice and dignity.

The mission statement, recently revisited by the whole community, is deeply rooted in the Word of God. Staff fully embrace the mission and model it through their active participation in liturgical and community life and the strong pastoral care, particularly for the most vulnerable. Relationships are strong and inclusive, with a clear sense of Christ at the centre. One parent commented, 'Our faith is important to us as a family, and we feel that Our Lady of Grace is like an extended part of that family with the same values and focus on putting Christ at the centre of everything.' A culture of welcome embraces all families, celebrating diverse cultural and faith

traditions with respect and sensitivity. The school environment clearly reflects its Catholic character through spaces like the newly formed prayer room and the vibrant eco garden, both of which support spiritual growth and care for creation. The chaplaincy provision is a strength, offering meaningful opportunities for worship, reflection and service. Staff actively support pupil leadership, guiding children's initiatives linked to Ashford Place, Catholic Children's Society and Cafod, including projects such as Live Simply pledges, Lenten Walk and Fairtrade fortnight. Pupils are increasingly taking ownership of their own campaigns, such as choosing their own charities and leading events like the NSPCC Number Day. Pupils have earned the Cafod Live Simply, Oscar Romero and UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Silver awards, reflecting strong staff commitment. The school delivers relationships, sex and health education which fully meets diocesan requirements.

As soon as you enter Our Lady of Grace, it is clear that the school is rooted in Catholic tradition. Senior leaders and governors share a strong vision that places Catholic life at the heart of the community. The parish priest plays an active role, regularly visiting classes to support both pupils and staff. Leaders and governors are passionate about immersing pupils in the Catholic faith and the positive relationships throughout the school reflect this shared vision. Pupil leadership is well developed, with children understanding their responsibility to care for others. A pupil commented, 'In assemblies we are told to go forth and spread the Word of God and help people who don't have the same opportunities we do. Catholic social teaching helps us put our faith into action.' The school is a model example of Catholic social teaching and has taken a lead across the All Saints' Trust. Parents are valued as the first educators of their children and are actively encouraged to engage in the Catholic life of the school. This partnership strengthens the community and ensures the Catholic mission is lived by all.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

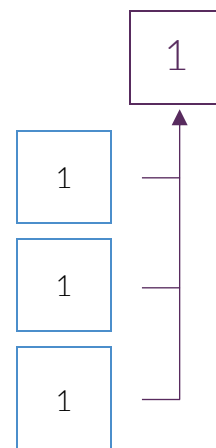
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

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

Leadership

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



Pupils at Our Lady of Grace are developing excellent knowledge, understanding and skills aligned with the *Directory*. They make strong progress across the curriculum, including disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The school is successfully closing gaps for pupils working below age-related expectations. However, leaders should continue to monitor the progress of more able pupils with SEND to ensure their progress is sustained. Pupils display outstanding religious literacy, confidently using subject-specific vocabulary, as seen when a Year 5 pupil clearly explained the significance of transubstantiation in Catholic belief. Books show high-quality work, with strong use of key concepts and thoughtful, reflective responses. Pupils ask probing questions, indicating a natural curiosity and eagerness to deepen their understanding. Their learning is enhanced by collaboration and lessons are marked by mutual respect and shared enthusiasm. Pupils' high-quality presentation and creative work is celebrated across the school, inspiring peers to strive for excellence. Engagement in religious education is consistently high. Pupils are reflective, self-motivated learners who understand how they are progressing and what they need to do to improve. While most tasks support achievement, some scaffolds may occasionally limit the depth of response. Attainment in religious education is broadly in line with other core subjects, with behaviour in lessons exemplary due to strong pupil interest and enjoyment.

Teachers at Our Lady of Grace, demonstrate strong subject knowledge and phase-appropriate expertise in religious education, which leads to confident and effective teaching. Their deep commitment to the subject is evident in their high expectations and the thoughtful way they communicate its importance to pupils. Planning is informed by ongoing assessment and teachers' deep knowledge of their pupils as individuals, who are tracked regularly at pupil progress meetings. In many lessons, feedback is pre-planned to deepen understanding and, in

some classes, next steps are carefully tailored to address misconceptions and identify pupils' precise learning stage. However, while teaching is consistently strong, the use of tasks and scaffolds can, at times, limit pupils' ability to demonstrate depth and independence in their learning. Celebration of effort is a hallmark of the school's culture and leads to high levels of intrinsic motivation among pupils. Teachers make excellent use of end-of-topic assessments to provide pupils with clear, specific feedback on how to make progress. There is a strong emphasis on moral and spiritual development, with teachers offering regular opportunities for purposeful reflection that enable pupils to relate their learning to their experience of the world. This approach ensures that religious education is meaningful, relevant and rooted in the school's wider Catholic mission. Staff speak very highly of the provision put in place for learning about other faiths and traditions and pupils are regularly given opportunities to visit other places of worship.

The leadership team at Our Lady of Grace demonstrates a deep commitment to ensuring high-quality religious education for all pupils, placing it firmly at the heart of the curriculum. Religious education is given full parity with other core subjects, particularly in terms of time allocation, professional development and resourcing. The curriculum is a faithful expression of the *Directory*, with leaders drawing effectively on the support of the Diocesan Education Service. Two members of staff completed the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies this academic year, reflecting the school's strong culture of professional growth. The subject leader for religious education, alongside senior leaders, has a clear and ambitious vision for teaching and learning. This is brought to life through regular monitoring, feedback and coaching, which builds both confidence and subject expertise across the staff team. Targeted support, particularly for new staff through intensive induction, has resulted in consistently good teaching across the school, with some outstanding practice evident in the upper school. Planning is securely linked to ongoing assessment, and leaders have supported staff in moderating judgements to ensure accuracy. While leaders have a clear grasp of strengths and areas for development, further rigorous analysis of outcomes for specific pupil groups remains a priority to drive continued improvement.

Collective worship

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

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

1

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

1

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

1

1

Pupils at Our Lady of Grace are deeply engaged in the rich and varied opportunities for prayer and liturgy. They are active and enthusiastic participants in whole school assemblies and class liturgies, singing hymns with reverence. Across all classes, pupils are developing a wide range of prayer forms, including traditional prayers, silent reflection and reflection on Scripture. This is evident in their prayer journals and class floor books, which contain thoughtful, personal responses and original written prayers. As they progress through Key Stage 2, pupils show increasing confidence in planning and leading acts of worship. They collaborate effectively with peers and staff, choosing music, scripture and symbols that enhance the prayerful atmosphere. For example, Year 6 pupils selected images to support reflection on the parable of the Good Samaritan, inviting others to consider their own actions. One pupil demonstrated the mission in action, stating, 'Some people do not have anyone standing up for them, so we have to do it for them'. Pupils reflect meaningfully on how these experiences deepen their spiritual understanding and connection with God. They speak confidently about the value of Godly play and their time in the prayer room, recognising how these moments influence their sense of justice and enhance their spiritual development by bringing them closer to God.

Prayer and liturgy form an integral part of every school day. A well-embedded pattern of prayer reflects the rhythm of the Church's liturgical life. Staff and pupils regularly gather for acts of collective worship, which are thoughtfully planned and rooted in scripture. As it was the feast of Corpus Christi, some children's acts of worship reflected on God's presence in their lives. Senior leaders, particularly the head teacher and deputy head teacher, are exemplary role models in leading prayer and liturgy, setting a high standard and nurturing a shared commitment among staff to the spiritual life of the school. Pupils confidently plan and lead acts of worship using structured formats that include gather, scripture, response and mission. In some classes pupil-

led liturgy includes children's own intercessions and opening prayers. Prayer spaces are creatively used across the school, with pupils recognising and respecting their sacredness. The prayer garden, for example, was used by Year 3 pupils, who processed there singing joyfully. Staff should now focus on further developing pupils' ability to evaluate prayer and liturgy effectively, enabling them to identify next steps for improvement. Classroom prayer tables, Bibles and prayer bags shared with families during Advent and Lent reinforce the school's strong Catholic identity. The partnership with families is well-established and growing, supporting a school-wide commitment to meaningful and inclusive prayer experiences.

Leaders and governors at Our Lady of Grace demonstrate a clear commitment to ensuring that prayer and liturgy is central to the life of the school. The existing prayer and liturgy policy provides a strong foundation and is regularly used by staff; however, it is now due for review to reflect the requirements of the new Prayer and Liturgy Directory. Leaders, including those from the All Saints' Trust, ensure pupils attend Mass on all holy days of obligation and significant liturgical celebrations. Year 6 pupils also join with other Trust schools for a special leavers' Mass, highlighting the importance placed on communal worship. A comprehensive liturgical calendar guides worship opportunities throughout the year, including a shared procession for Our Lady of Grace Feast Day and the in-school celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. Professional development for staff is prioritised and enhanced through collaboration with the parish priest, whose input has significantly raised the quality of pupil-led liturgies. Leaders and governors ensure prayer and liturgy are appropriately resourced, including through budget planning. Pupil voice is actively sought and embedded in the self-evaluation cycle, helping to refine and improve provision. This collaborative approach ensures that prayer and liturgy are consistently meaningful, inclusive and reflective of the Catholic tradition.

Information about the school

Full name of school	Our Lady of Grace Catholic Junior School
School unique reference number (URN)	146116
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3043500
Full postal address of the school	Our Lady of Grace Catholic Junior School, Dollis Hill Lane, London, NW2 6HS
School phone number	02084506002
Headteacher	Steve McGrath
Chair of governors	Mary Ann Cooper
School Website	www.ourladyofgracejuniors.co.uk
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	All Saints' Trust
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Academy
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	7-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	March 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

The inspection team

Cynthia Ní Loingsigh
Sinead Killian

Lead
Team

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