



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

Name of School: All Saints Catholic School and Technology College

LEA: Barking and Dagenham

Inspection Dates: 21st November 2007

Reporting Inspectors: Ms Colette Dawson and Anthony Castle

This Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of School: Secondary
School Category: Voluntary Aided
Age range of pupils: 11 - 18
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 1098, 6th Form 283
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous Inspection: March 2003

School Address:
Terling Road,
Wood Lane, Dagenham, RM8 1JT.
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Chair of Governors: Mr. Dominic Savage
Headteacher: Mr. Kevin Wilson

Introduction:

The Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education [Schools] Act 2005 by Inspectors appointed by the Diocesan Bishop at the request of the Governing Body of the school.

The Inspectors acknowledge and are appreciative of the full support, co-operation and courtesy they enjoyed from the Governors, Headteacher, Staff and Pupils of the School both before and during the Inspection. The Inspectors wish to express their gratitude to all concerned.

The focus of the Section 48 Inspection was:

- Classroom Religious Education
- The Catholic nature of the school through:
 1. Worship
 2. Links with the Catholic and wider community
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

All Saints Catholic School and Technology College
Terling Road,
Wood Lane,
Dagenham,
Essex
RM8 1JT

Head Teacher: Mr. Kevin Wilson

Date of Inspection: 21st November 2007

Description of the School:

All Saints is a mixed Voluntary Aided Catholic School and Technology College serving the deaneries of Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and beyond. The proportion of students from minority ethnic groups is above average and there are more boys than girls. The school is in its thirteenth year as a specialist technology college and was one of the first schools, nationally, to receive specialist status. The school has been a member of the three coveted clubs awarded by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) – 70% Club, Value Added Club and Most Improved Club. A new head teacher took up post in 2006. The previous Head teacher, who retired in August 2006, was in post for 21 years. All Saints School is a high achieving, successful school which is popular and over subscribed. Barking and Dagenham is the 42nd most deprived borough in the Country. The students at All Saints thrive in an environment which values their social and cultural differences. The

students are socially confident and receptive to learning. They respond well to the ethos of the school, learning to support each other and to be sensitive to those who are in need. At sixth form level All Saints is a member of the North East Barking and Dagenham Consortium which consists of three other schools. The Ofsted Report 2007 stated 'All groups of students achieve extremely well academically and in their personal development and well being. The Christian ethos and practise of the Catholic faith permeate the life of the school and underpin the excellent relationships with all staff and students and its concern for the individual.'

Record of Evidence Base:

Two Inspectors were in the school for the equivalent of two inspection days.

- The study of pre-inspection documentation including the Self Evaluation Form / Denominational Provision (SEF/DP).
- Observation of 11 complete lessons.
- Scrutiny of students' work.
- A Year 11 Chapel Visit.
- Participation in a Year 10 Assembly.
- Meetings with a Foundation Governor, the Head teacher, the Deputy Head teacher, the Head of Religious Education (R.E.), the School Council and some Youth S.V.P. students.
- Observation of displays in the R.E. rooms and around the school.

What the School does well.

All Saints is an outstanding Catholic School which displays numerous strengths. It is outstanding in every area. It is firmly committed to developing its Catholic identity under the outstanding and inspirational leadership of its Head teacher, his deputy and Senior Leadership Team, Governors, Staff, Students and their Parents.

Religious Education (R.E.) is at the core of the curriculum at All Saints. The overall quality of teaching and learning in R.E. is outstanding. Lessons are well planned and paced, learning objectives are clearly stated, explained and revisited. In the lessons observed the students were on task, engaged, highly motivated and challenged. Behaviour is outstanding and relationships and class management are a strength of the school. The 6 full-time specialist R.E. staff work as an outstanding team. Students are set according to ability and in some cases gender groups in order to maximise full academic potential. 'As part of the Excellence in Cities initiative and in accordance with the social inclusion policies of the Government, the Learning Enhancement Centre (LEC) at All Saints School has been established as a separate and distinctive learning environment. The LEC complements the Catholic ethos of the school and has been adapted to best suit the needs of All Saints School.' (Prospectus 2007)

Assessment in R.E. at all Key Stages is an identified and developing strength of the school.

‘The R.E. department have systems in place to monitor, evaluate, assess, record and report on the progress of all students in Religious Education.’(SEF/DP) At Key Stage 3 students sit an end of module test each half term and Writers in sustained excellence (WISE) tasks have been developed at this stage to ensure all students produce three pieces of sustained writing in each of the three years. These tasks are excellent preparation for coursework in years 10 and 11. Throughout Key Stages 4 and 5 past essay questions are used to provide guidance for development in examination technique which in turn helps students develop assessment for learning. At both these Key Stages examination results are well above the national average. An increasing number of students are opting to follow AS and A2 courses in Religious Studies (R.S.)

The leadership and management of the R.E. department by the Head of R.E. and his Second in Department are outstanding. The development of literacy skills through R.E. has made a significant impact on the work of the department across all Key Stages. Students are theologically and scripturally literate and are able to express clearly the beliefs, values and way of life of the Roman Catholic Church and other Christian and Faith traditions. The school uses the ‘**ICONS**’ programme of study and has customised it to meet the needs of the students. The Ofsted Report noted that - ‘Overall the progress of all groups of students is outstanding placing the school in the top 1% nationally for students’ progress’ (2007). This applies to the students’ progress in R.E. also.

9% of curriculum time is allocated to taught R.E. at Key Stages 3 and 4. AS and A2 receive 12 % of curricular time.

All Saints School promotes an outstanding and tangible Catholic ethos. This is subscribed to by all stakeholders – Governors, the Head teacher and his Deputy and Senior Leadership Team, staff, students and their parents. The school provides excellent opportunities for the students to develop a strong sense of community through activities which engender feelings of loyalty and belonging. The school has strong links with the deanery primary schools. This ensures that the Year 6 students, who transfer to All Saints, are familiar with the school and members of staff that they have already met. The emphasis on community is an outstanding strength. When asked, the students expressed the opinion that they felt safe, secure and cared for while at school.

Displays and artefacts in the R.E. classrooms and around the school are of excellent quality. They highlight creatively the Catholic beliefs of the school.

Collective Acts of Worship and liturgical celebrations are well prepared and reflective. Prayer in the classroom and at the beginning of meetings has a high priority. The standard of Assemblies is exceptionally high. Every classroom has a crucifix as a prayer focus. The school has a tastefully refurbished Chapel which is used by the students as a place for prayer and quiet reflection. The school’s sense of community is evident at whole school celebrations of the liturgy.

All Saints values its strong links with parents. There is an excellent level of attendance at meetings arranged for them. Links with governors are excellent. They act as critical friends and are very supportive of the school. Primary liaison is an outstanding feature with the deanery feeder schools. Links with the deanery parishes are in place and developing. In addition there are well established links with the parish SVP groups who help with the distribution of Christmas hampers to the elderly and those in need. As part of the community cohesion project the Youth SVP group visits a local primary school on a weekly basis. They also organise a Christmas party for Senior Citizens. There are long established links with CAFOD and the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) who receive monies raised during Advent and Lent. The BCCS provide a counselling service for the students on two days a week. Links are strong with the Diocese and the Barking and Dagenham support teams.

The students are given many opportunities to become responsible citizens. These include events off timetable with citizenship themes and All Saints being represented at the annual 'Citizenship Awards' which takes place at Brentwood Cathedral every Spring.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all the students is outstanding. Their personal development and well-being are excellent. Students take on a range of responsibilities which are reflected in the life of the school and in their involvement with the wider community. There is a proactive School Council which makes a significant contribution to the life of the school.

What needs to be improved?

There are no specific areas for development other than those identified in the Self Evaluation document (SEF/DP)

Overall All Saints Catholic School and Technology College is outstanding in all areas. It displays numerous strengths. All Saints prepares its students so that they leave school happy, well adjusted young adults who are a credit to themselves, their parents and their school. The school owes much of its success to the outstanding leadership of its Head teacher, his Deputy and his Senior Leadership team and to the valued support of his staff and governors.