



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

School Profile

2008-2009



Successes

School Grounds

As always, the school has celebrated a wide range of achievements/improvements this academic year in terms of the school environment. The school building and grounds have been further developed in the following ways:

- ✚ Purchase/Installation of a new 'Summer House/Chalet' which is situated adjacent to the Infant playground and is used for both recreation and small group work. This has been furnished with colourful cushions and chairs for added comfort.
- ✚ Purchase/Installation of a large screen in the Staff Room to display/promote the Learning Platform (see Improvements) and encourage its use.
- ✚ The development of a 'Seasonal Nature Walk' which is situated around half of the perimeter of the school garden.
- ✚ Purchase/Installation of three large circular benches, two of which are situated on new patio areas on the school field with the third being on the Infant playground.
- ✚ The development of an all weather patio area for table tennis on the school field adjacent to the Junior playground, including a full-sized table tennis table.
- ✚ Two 'vegetable plots' have been created for children to grow a variety of crops including strawberries, potatoes, radishes and onions.
- ✚ Large Butterfly mosaic has been installed on the outside wall at the end of the Junior corridor.
- ✚ New lockers installed in Reception classroom.
- ✚ New display boards put up in each classroom.

Academic Achievements

Academically, we achieved very high results at the end of Foundation Stage and at the end of Key Stage 1. Average Points Scores in English were significantly better than the National average (Reading – 16.8 compared to 15.2; Writing –

16.4 compared to 14.3) and Mathematics was also above the National average (16.5 compared to 15.8).

Our Key Stage 2 results were good with 97% achieving a Level 4+ in English, 94% in Science and 88% in Maths. Level 5 percentages in English and Mathematics were lower than in previous years. The Average Points Score for Key Stage 2 was 101.2 in all subjects which placed us in the 11th percentile. Contextual Value Added for Key Stage 1 to 2 was 100.9 for all subjects, placing us in the 14th percentile. CVA for Key Stage 1 to 2 for English and Science were significantly above the National average but not so in Mathematics.

Sport

On the sporting front we have enjoyed several successes as follows:

- ✚ Cheshunt Schools Tag Rugby Tournament (group stages)
- ✚ Cheshunt Schools 7-a-side Football Tournament - Plate
- ✚ Saracens Tag Rugby Tournament - 3rd position
- ✚ Cheshunt Schools Mob Race - individual 3rd place
- ✚ Cheshunt Schools Kwik Cricket Tournament Runners Up
- ✚ Cheshunt Schools District Sports Overall Winners 2008

Class Trips/Visits

Throughout the school, the children have enjoyed many school outings including:

- ✚ Year 6 Residential visit to the Isle of Wight - June 2008
- ✚ Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 visit to Walton-on-the-Naze
- ✚ Y3 visit to the Celtic Harmony Camp
- ✚ Year 5 visit to the Thames Barrier
- ✚ Year 2 visits to the Fire Station/War Memorial (Cheshunt)
- ✚ Foundation Stage visit to Willows Farm
- ✚ Year 4 visit to the Roald Dahl Museum
- ✚ Year 6 visit to St. Mary's (Bishops Stortford) for an Afternoon of Sport
- ✚ Year 5 visit to St. Mary's (Bishops Stortford) for a 'Performing Arts Day'
- ✚ Nursery visit to Cedars Park
- ✚ Y4 visit to the London Wetlands Centre
- ✚ Y5 visit to the British Museum
- ✚ Year 6 visit to the Young Mariners Base in Cheshunt for the 'Crucial Crew'
- ✚ Year 2 visit to Chapel Manor

- ✚ Y4 residential visit to 'The Loft'
- ✚ Y1 visit to Bethnal Green Toy Museum
- ✚ Y6 visit to the RAF Museum (Hendon)

Staffing

Five new members of teaching staff (Miss Corrigan, Miss Vouniotis, Miss Todd, Miss Spence and Miss Aherne) joined our teaching team at St. Joseph's along with three new Teaching Assistants (Miss Kavanagh, Mrs Tutin and Mrs Byrne). All of the NQTs have been successfully inducted and have made very good progress throughout the course of the year.

Improvements - Curriculum

As a Catholic School we continually aim to maintain and improve upon the high profile given to RE and continue to raise standards in this subject. In order to assist with this, teachers have had the opportunity to plan engaging and exciting RE activities with an experienced former Westminster advisor, Sr. Judith Russi. Sr. Judith has proved inspirational to our staff and the impact that this has had on the children's learning has been immense. In addition to this, teacher confidence in the delivery of RE has soared and they have been provided with some extremely stimulating ideas on how to deliver the RE curriculum effectively.

Whilst we are currently achieving higher than average against National and County levels, we are still trying hard to improve our overall standards in Maths and Writing throughout the school. We have continued to use a wide variety of intervention strategies to support those children who have been highlighted as underachieving in termly Pupil Progress Meetings, including additional Booster sessions for Mathematics throughout the school, phonics work for targeted children and the use of a TA to support those children with English as a second language.

Staff INSET on the appropriate use of the Revised Framework for Literacy and the use of Drama to promote Writing was provided by a leading LA Literacy advisor in the Autumn term. Staff found this very beneficial and subsequent lesson observations demonstrated the impact of this training in the activities planned/undertaken.

In order to raise the achievement in Mathematics throughout the school we have also purchased Maths Whizz – a software package which can be accessed by all members of the school community. This is used on a daily basis throughout the

school, both for whole class teaching and group work. Indeed, pupils are encouraged to access Maths Whizz on an individual basis whenever they wish to consolidate various concepts. Initial feedback on Maths Whizz is very positive and we hope that its use will further enhance achievement in all year groups.

In addition to this we are also continuing to work extremely hard to become an e-confident school where ICT is embedded in the culture of the school and permeates all aspects of the curriculum. We have purchased visualisers for all classrooms to support teachers in their delivery of all aspects of the curriculum and the Reception class has a new RM Ascend PC which is linked to the network so that the children can access all of the available software packages. Another investment is an on-line subscription to Education City which allows the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 to access a wide variety of materials to support Literacy and Science in particular. These resources are also available for those children who may be experiencing difficulties in these areas of the curriculum.

Another ICT development this year has been the roll-out of our Learning Platform. All Teaching Staff and Teaching Assistants were given a Learning Platform account in the Spring term and received training in its basic use/functionality. Subsequently, further training was given on how to manage various Interest Spaces (ie: Class groups). This was then followed by the children in Years 4 and 5 receiving their own Learning Platform account with appropriate training. These children will use their Learning Platform for the duration of the Summer term and in Autumn 2009 the Learning Platform will be opened up to those children then in Year 3 and 4.

Another improvement in terms of the use of ICT throughout the school is the introduction of Assessment Manager 7 for tracking pupil progress and target setting. Three sessions of INSET has been provided for all Teaching Staff and the impact of this in terms of improved tracking of individual pupils and cohorts should be immense in the months/years to come.

The provision for PE continues to improve at St. Joseph's and this year the school has been involved in a plethora of activities provided by the A10 Sports Partnership, Cheshunt Extended Schools and the Waltham Cross District Sports Association. After school clubs continue to thrive and the majority of children attend at least one of the clubs available to their year group.

This year, the school has continued to teach Modern Foreign Languages in Key Stage 2. French is taught for 30-45 minutes per week using the 'Tout Le Monde' scheme as well as other teacher assimilated resources. The MFL Subject Leader is investigating a range of resources to further support the teaching of French as well as resources to support those children with English as a second language.

Fortnightly Key Stage meetings have continued this year and these continue to prove a very beneficial addition in terms of improved communication.

Results Over Time

For the past five years our Key Stage 1 results have steadily increased. Last year, there was a slight 'dip' in our Key Stage 2 results, particularly in terms of the number of children achieving at a higher level than expected.

End of Key Stage 1 results have shown the majority of our children achieving level 2 with an increase in the number achieving level 3.

In our Foundation Stage, where children entering the school are in line with the national averages, they are above the national averages by the end of Key Stage 1.

Meeting the Needs of Learners

All children have individual targets set in the all subjects and these are reviewed once a term. At the end of each term a full analysis in relation to Reading, Writing and Mathematics is carried out on the child's progress through Pupil Progress Meetings involving the SLT, the Class Teacher and the Teaching Assistant for that class. At the end of the academic year, levels attained are discussed with the 'receiving' teacher to ensure that appropriate provision is made for each individual from the start of the subsequent academic year.

Analysis by the SLT and the Class Teacher of Teacher Assessment in Year 1, SATS results in Year 2 and Optional SATS results in Years 3, 4 and 5 highlighted areas for improvement for cohorts/individuals and the correlated data helped the relevant teaching staff to ensure that their planning (both medium and short term) addressed the issues highlighted in this analysis.

All children on the SEN register are monitored on a regular basis and adjustments to provision are made as necessary.

Increased Teaching Assistant support for all year groups for both Literacy and Mathematics ensures that the needs of all learners, at both ends of the SEN spectrum, are addressed.

Additional support, including outside agencies, has enabled those children in need of increased 'one-to one' provision to receive this support on a regular basis.

Continuing professional development for both teaching and support staff is encouraged to meet specific learners' individual needs and all staff are encouraged to attend any courses that are significant to their role. In addition to this, a variety of school-based INSET takes place on a regular basis.

Outside agencies are regularly approached to provide advice and support children with specific learning difficulties.

Booster groups for Mathematics have taken place for 30 minutes each morning to ensure that areas of concern for individuals/groups relating to basic mathematical concepts/skills are being addressed.

Healthy, Safe, Well Supported

At St. Joseph's, our Mission Statement: *'To live, love and learn by the example of Jesus'*, underpins everything that we are trying to achieve. We feel that through our strong school ethos, our children are healthy, safe and well-supported in the following ways:

- ✚ Teddy/Talk Time has been introduced in Key Stages 1 and 2 respectively for children to discuss any issues/concerns that they may have in a confidential manner with a chosen adult
- ✚ Circle Time takes place on a regular basis and is a planned element of the PSCHÉ curriculum
- ✚ The 'Journey In Love' Sex Education Program was taught throughout the school over a fortnightly period in Summer 2009.
- ✚ School Nurse visits to support the delivery of the 'Journey In Love' scheme in Years 5 and 6

- ✚ A specially themed 'PSCHE Week' takes place each term as well as ongoing teaching throughout the course of the year.
- ✚ Peer 'Buddy System' involving Reception and Year 6.
- ✚ Friendship Stops in each playground
- ✚ First Aid timetable for all break/lunch-times
- ✚ Two members of staff are fully trained on Child Protection along with a nominated Governor.
- ✚ Three members of staff are currently First Aid trained.
- ✚ Regular Health and Safety checks are undertaken by the school nurse.
- ✚ Each Class has two Class Reps who meet with the SLT on a fortnightly basis to discuss various issues
- ✚ Active School Council including representatives from Y2-Y6.
- ✚ Monitors throughout the school with specific responsibilities.
- ✚ All classes timetabled for at least 2 PE lessons per week.
- ✚ A wide variety of after school sports clubs are available (see below)
- ✚ 'Huff and Puff' play equipment is used at break-times and lunch-time in Key Stage 1 (Year 5 Play Leaders run these activities)
- ✚ Fresh bottled drinking water is readily available in all classrooms
- ✚ Year 4 children are involved in cultivating a variety of organically grown vegetables
- ✚ The school takes part in the 'Fruit and Veg' Scheme throughout Key Stage 1.
- ✚ The vast majority of children take advantage of the healthy school meals provided

Activities Available

Besides the National Curriculum, there have been a multitude of extra curricular activities available for the children in 2008/9 including:

- ✚ School Orchestra (weekly)
- ✚ Cross-Stitch Club for Year 5
- ✚ Speed Stacking Club for Years 4-6
- ✚ Violin, clarinet and flute lessons available to children in Years 4-6
- ✚ Recorder club for Year 3
- ✚ Football for Years 5 and 6
- ✚ Gaelic Football for Years 3-6
- ✚ Netball for Years 5 and 6
- ✚ Athletics Club for Years 3-6

- ✚ Tag Rugby for Years 5 and 6
- ✚ Tri-Golf for Year 1
- ✚ Pottery Sessions – Whole School
- ✚ Hula Hoop Fitness Club – Whole School
- ✚ Kwik Cricket for Year 6
- ✚ Gym Club for Years 1-6
- ✚ Gardening Club for Year 4

In addition to the above, all year groups take part in some form of 'school production' during the course of the year on a given theme and perform to the whole school as well as parents.

Year 6 are involved in the 'Crucial Crew' – a range of activities organised by the Hertfordshire Constabulary in order to provide children with a variety of 'life skills' in relation to the PSCHÉ curriculum.

Parents/Community

- ✚ Parental consultation evenings held in the Autumn and Spring Terms along with an 'Open Evening' in the Summer term
- ✚ Parent Questionnaires sent out on an annual basis
- ✚ Learning Platforms introduced to Years 4 and 5
- ✚ Internet Access Questionnaire sent out in Autumn term
- ✚ Annual reports sent to parents in the Spring term informing them of their child's progress and areas for development. Progress towards these targets is then reviewed towards the end of the year
- ✚ Various activities/clubs organised by Cheshunt Extended Schools (CHEXS) provided in school and advertised for other locations
- ✚ Newsletters sent to parents on a monthly basis (these are also posted on the school website)
- ✚ Parents receive Cheshunt Extended Schools Newsletters on a regular basis.
- ✚ New 'Year Group' books were sent out at the beginning of this academic year. These provide parents with curriculum overviews so they know what their children will be learning over the course of the year. They also include the programme of study for RE and other key information regarding the year group their child is currently in, including how to help with homework, useful websites and key vocabulary in the core subjects.
- ✚ All Key Stage 2 children have a homework diary which is used as a two way communication tool between home and school.

- ✚ From Reception through to year 6, children also have a reading journal which is sent home on a daily/regular basis.
- ✚ A variety of Masses (both whole school and class) are regularly held in the school hall to which parents and parishioners are invited.
- ✚ Class assemblies/masses/prayer services are all occasions to which parents are welcomed.
- ✚ A wide variety of PFA events are held in the school hall and the Christmas and Summer Fetes are also held at the school.
- ✚ Year 6 undertake carol singing in the town centre and a local senior citizens home in December.
- ✚ CAFOD and Catholic Children's Society fundraising events are held annually.
- ✚ All classes and the staff/Governing Body sponsor a child/community from an economically developing country through the charity 'ActionAid'
- ✚ Parents are actively encouraged to provide support at various sporting events.
- ✚ The Gaelic Football club is run by parents.

What Have Pupils Told Us About The School

Pupils are always encouraged to have an active voice in the in all aspects of the school. The School Council and Class Reps provide many new and exciting ideas to further improve our school. Children are able to tell School Councillors/Class Reps in their classes about issues they want discussed via suggestion sheets placed in every class and these are brought to further School Council/Class Rep meetings which are held on a regular basis.

Year 6 pupils are also given a questionnaire each year to complete asking them for their opinions on our school and the activities provided. The overall responses to these were very positive. Various other questionnaires regarding specific subject areas have also been completed this year and provide children with the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas.

There is now a 'Pupil Voice' noticeboard in the school hall on which different classes have the opportunity to share their thoughts about the school.

What Do Our Pupils Do After School?

The majority of our children attend a Catholic secondary school after they leave St. Joseph's.

Past pupils regularly visit informally to see their teachers and inform us of their progress.

Several secondary school links report positively about attainments, attitudes and behaviour of our pupils and it is always pleasing to hear about the positive contribution that they are making in their new schools.

What Have We Done In Light Of Ofsted

Our most recent OFSTED inspection took place in November 2006 and our only key issue was to improve the standard of the teaching and learning of *Control and Monitoring* in ICT to raise it to the standard of the other strands of the ICT curriculum.

In order to address this issue, a variety of actions have been taken as follows:

- ✚ The ICT subject leader has completed the BECTA Self-Review using the Matrix on-line tool and this has highlighted the areas for development in ICT in all its forms throughout the school.
- ✚ The ICT subject leader attended a course on the use of the Log-it data-logger and various peripherals.
- ✚ The ICT subject leader and the Head attended the BETT conference and the Hertfordshire ICT conference.
- ✚ The ICT subject leader and two other members of staff attended the annual RM conference
- ✚ The ICT subject leader has analysed the list of specific topics which incorporate *Control and Monitoring* and the discrete skills required within these topics have been highlighted to enable teachers to plan appropriately to meet these requirements.
- ✚ Purchase of a variety of data-logging equipment to assist teachers in monitoring changes in sound, light and atmospheric conditions. (Further INSET planned)
- ✚ Purchase of further Bee-bots to enable children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 to develop control and programming skills.
- ✚ An ICT Team involving three other members of staff has been set up and they meet on a regular basis to discuss various initiatives/developments.
- ✚ The ICT Team have been involved in various Control and Monitoring activities with children throughout the school.
- ✚ Two cam-corders and two 'Flip Mino' cameras have been purchased.
- ✚ Use of *ICTA/live* software, including integrated assessment tasks, to deliver all aspects of the ICT curriculum effectively.

✚ ICT has been a high priority on the School Plan for the last three/four years. This is reflected in the investment of a considerable amount of capital to further develop the ICT provision throughout the school.

Glossary of Terms

CVA - Contextualised Value Added

SLT - Senior Leadership Team

ICT - Information Communication Technology

INSET - In Service Training

TA - Teaching Assessment

MFL - Modern Foreign Languages

SEN - Special Educational Needs

PSCHE - Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education

PFA - Parents and Friends Association