



## SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2017-18



“Our Lady of the Visitation is an outstanding Catholic school”

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*Comment from Westminster Diocese Inspection Report – October 2010*

**Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Primary School**

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Chair of Governors: Mrs. Hilary McKenzie

**Diocese**

Westminster Diocese Education Service

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## ‘We Learn, Love and Grow through Christ’

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*Core Purpose – School Mission Statement*

# Welcome

Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Nursery, Infant and Junior School provides a welcoming, lively and stimulating atmosphere in which young children may grow, feel secure and realise their full potential. Able, dedicated and experienced staff use the best of current educational practice to provide a stimulating and balanced curriculum using a comprehensive range of up to date resources that includes a fully equipped Computer Centre ‘housing’ 30 computers and interactive whiteboard technology in each of the classrooms including a classroom dedicated to music.

Acquisition of the basic skills in conversation, reading, writing, mathematics, science and computing are considered of central importance in our commitment to the raising of achievement of all children.

Religious Education occupies a position of particular importance

befitting our essential identity as a Catholic School. All children receive instruction and participate in religious worship. Religious Education is given full expression in the prayer life of the school, its acts of worship and its preparation for the Sacraments.

The beliefs and values communicated through Religious Education inspire and unify every aspect of school life. It provides the context for and substantially shapes the school curriculum and offers living experiences of the life of faith in its practical expression. Links with the Parish are very close – members of the Parish team visit the school regularly.

We aim for the children to thoroughly enjoy their time in the school, make significant academic progress and grow up with a positive self-image and respect for individuality. We work toward developing children to think for themselves and feel for others.

“The school’s work to promote pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good”

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*Comment from Ofsted Inspection, October 2014*



“Relationships within the school are outstanding.”

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“The school is a welcoming and inclusive community.”

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“The pupils value and praise the friendly, caring attitude of the teachers who listen to them, help them to solve any problems and make learning fun”

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*Comments from Westminster Diocese Inspection Report, October 2010*



# Curriculum

We view the eight years the children spend with us as a developmental process, whereby the curriculum gradually acquires greater depth and expands as the children mature. The curriculum aims to increase their knowledge, develop concepts and skills and encourage positive attitudes towards learning. It encompasses the following areas – aesthetic and creative, human and social, linguistic, mathematical, moral, physical, scientific, spiritual and technological. Above all else, we aim to make the curriculum enjoyable and accessible to all.

The school's curriculum is broad and balanced and includes the National Curriculum, the National Literacy and National Numeracy Strategies.

The following subjects are included: Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Design & Technology, Drama, French, Geography, History, Information and Communication Technology, Music, Personal, Social Education including Sex and Health Education, and Physical Education. All pupils in Years 3 to 6 have the opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument.

Teachers in the Nursery and in Reception use the EYFS Profile to assess pupil progress. All children in Years 1 to 6 undergo ongoing testing, the results of which inform teacher assessment.

“The quality of the curriculum is outstanding and suitable for the age of all learners”

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*Comment from Westminster Diocese Inspection Report, October 2010*



“Pupils have a strong sense of right and wrong and a deep understanding about social justice”

*Comment from Ofsted Inspection ,October 2014*

## pastoral care

The Pastoral system which is very well developed between the home, school and the parish, provides for the well being of the children. Every member of the staff is concerned with the welfare and well being of every child in the School. The school employs a part time School Counsellor who works through the arts to facilitate exploration of difficulties or problems a child may be facing in his/her life. Parents are encouraged to inform the class teacher of any anxieties they may have concerning

their child. As children progress, they are encouraged to develop a growing independence and self-confidence, which is nurtured in a caring and loving school atmosphere. The children are led to develop self-respect and self-esteem, so that they more readily respect each other, their teachers and all associated with the school. Pupils are expected to take pride in their work, their appearance, the School's successes and of course, in the School building itself.



## school uniform

Parents are expected to send their children to school wearing the correct school uniform and to provide suitable clothing for physical education and swimming lessons. A uniform list is given

to parents when children are accepted for admission. The school uniform suppliers have a shop in Hanwell – they also visit the school regularly, when all items of uniform are for sale.



The school successfully celebrates the diversity of its pupils and works well to foster good relations, tackle discrimination and prepare them for life in modern Britain. The curriculum is enhanced by a good range of visits and visitors to the school”

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“There are good procedures in place to ensure that pupils are safe”

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*Comment from Ofsted Inspection, October 2014*



## parent/school partnership

“The school has good relationships with parents and carers, who are positive about how approachable the staff are.”

*Comments from Ofsted Inspection, October 2014*

The support, co-operation and involvement of parents continues to be an essential ingredient in the success of our school. We believe that parents are the first and foremost educators of their children and that we are called upon to support them in their given task. When pupils are admitted to the School, parents are requested to sign the Home-School Agreement.

Parents join the staff and pupils in our celebrations, including liturgies and masses, class assemblies and sports days. Regular family learning workshops are very well supported and provide an important means of helping parents understand what primary schooling is about in the 21st century.

We have an active and very supportive Friends of the Visitation Association, which gives invaluable support to the school through its various fund raising activities and social events that provide

opportunities for parents to get to know one another in an informal setting.

Parents help out in school in various ways, such as with computers, accompanying children and staff on school visits and with reading. We are always grateful to those parents who are able to spare some time each week to help in school.

All teachers are always available to talk to parents about their child's progress. In addition, two Open Evenings are held annually when parents have the opportunity of talking about, and looking at their child's learning. Parents receive a detailed written report on their child's progress at the end of the school year with the opportunity to discuss this if requested.

Communication between parents and the school is furthered through regular circulars, newsletters and a SMS texting system.



# admissions

The Governing Body, who has overall responsibility for the control of admissions to the school, has a planned admission of 26 pupils to the morning and afternoon sessions of the Nursery, and 60 pupils in each year group of the Infant and Junior Departments.

A meeting of the Governors' Admissions panel is held in the Spring Term and all applications from children who would be eligible to start in the Nursery and in the Reception classes during the next academic year are carefully considered using the admissions policy and criteria.

Parents of Reception and Nursery class children are invited to an 'open morning' or 'open afternoon' during the term preceding the child's admission. It is at this time that a general evening meeting is held for parents where the aims, organisation and rules of the school are explained and discussed.

Prospective parents are warmly invited to visit the school by first telephoning the school or coming to the school office to make an appointment with the Headteacher.



"In the playground, pupils look after each other and ensure that no one is left out of games. Pupils aspire to be members of the school council, become sports ambassadors, be part of the international committee or just to 'look after the younger ones'."

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*Comment from Ofsted Inspection, October 2014*



## nursery unit

If your child is under school age, you may apply for a place in our purpose built Nursery.

Children attend the Nursery on a part-time basis, either five morning or five afternoon sessions per week.

The Nursery provides a happy, secure and stimulating environment where independence from and co-operation with other children and adults is encouraged. The Nursery aims to foster in every child a positive self-motivating attitude towards learning and relating to other people. The progress of every child is carefully monitored.

Parents are reminded that admission to the Nursery does not automatically guarantee admission to the Infant School – please refer to the Nursery Admissions Criteria.

**“Pupils achieve well in Nursery and Reception because provision is good”**

*Comments from Ofsted Inspection, October 2014*



“Parents value the opportunities provided by the school, to share any concerns and find out about their child’s learning and progress.”

*Comments from Ofsted Inspection, October 2014*





**OUR LADY OF THE VISITATION CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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