OUR LADY OF THE VISITATION • CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL •

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

A member of

ST CARLO
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

"Pupils explained how important it is to look after each other and they have a great sense of personal responsibility."

Westminster Diocese Inspection Report, July 2023

Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Primary School
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‘We Learn, Love and Grow through Christ’

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 mission statement is a living witness for all staff in the school and as a result, it has a significant impact on the life of the school which excels at being a community of togetherness based on Catholic tradition and practice.”

Westminster Diocese Inspection Report, July 2023

"All pupils study the broad and ambitious curriculum that leaders have worked hard to design. Pupils enjoy the range of subjects on offer, such as computing, music and design and technology, and they achieve high standards.."

Ofsted Inspection, October 2022

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, French, Geography, History, Computing, Music, Personal, Social Education including Relationship 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.

"Leaders make sure that everyone has the chance to attend after-school activities. Pupils enjoy clubs, such as 'Active Me', and taking part in sports competitions with local schools. They have opportunities to showcase their musical talents in the school's popular choir and in concert performances."

Ofsted Inspection, October 2022

"Staff and pupils are proud to be part of this close-knit school community. Staff look after pupils well and keep them safe. Pupils are happy here."

Ofsted Inspection, October 2022

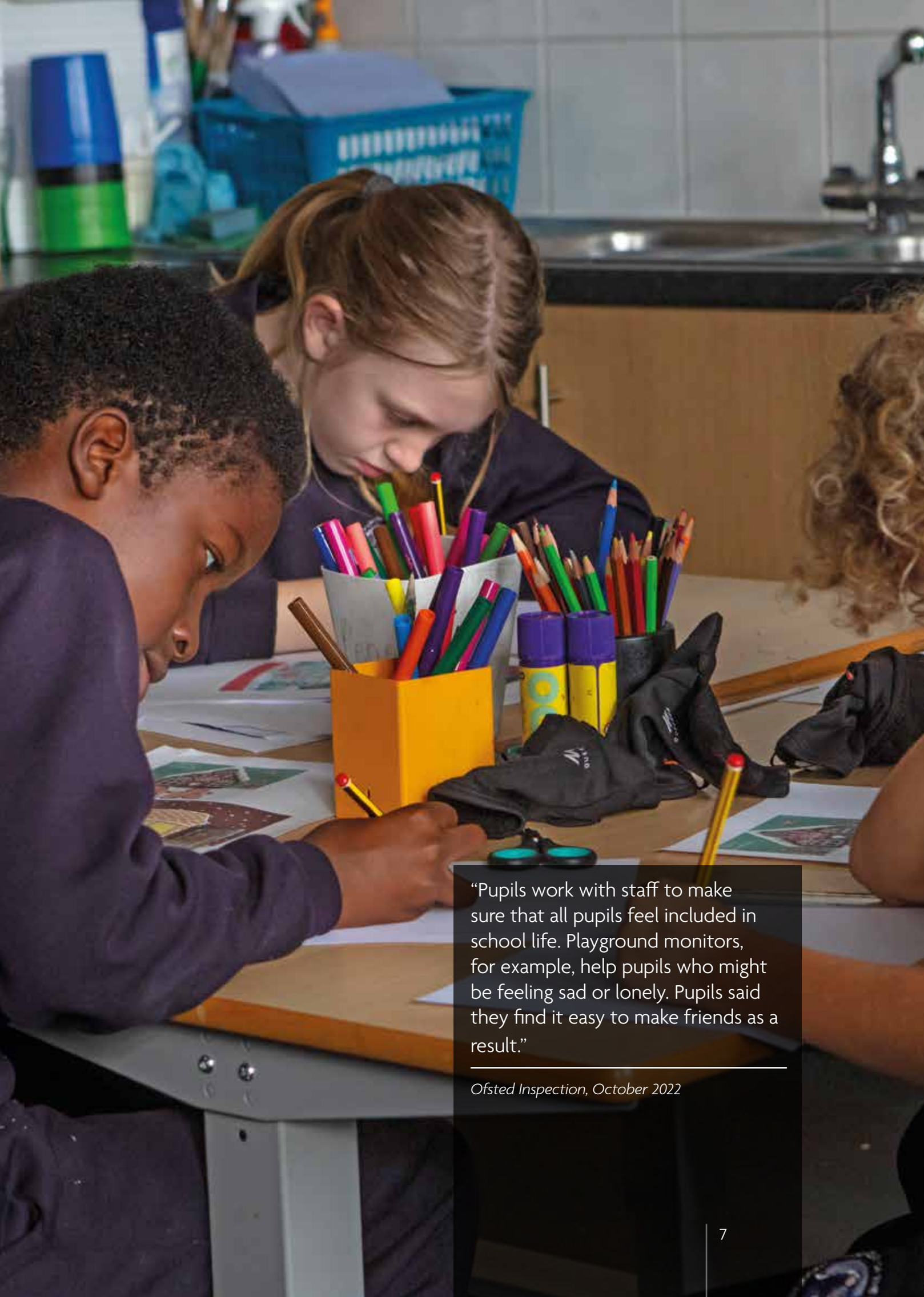
Pastoral care

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. 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 is available from Kevin's Schoolwear in Greenford.



"Pupils work with staff to make sure that all pupils feel included in school life. Playground monitors, for example, help pupils who might be feeling sad or lonely. Pupils said they find it easy to make friends as a result."

Ofsted Inspection, October 2022

Parent/Carer/School partnership

"Relationships with parents are excellent. Parents were overwhelmingly positive about their children's experience...."

Ofsted Inspection, July 2023

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. We also offer 30 hour free childcare places.

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'."

"Pupils spoke about how important it is to look after each other. They work hard to achieve the 'citizen of the week' award for being kind and helpful to their teachers and classmates."

Ofsted Inspection, October 2022

Nursery unit

"The school environment effectively bears witness to its Catholic identity through beautiful stained-glass windows, vibrant displays and impressive stations of the cross.."

Westminster Diocese Inspection Report, July 2023

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. We also offer 30 hour free childcare places.

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.

"Parents were positive about the arrangements for the children to start school."

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HEALTHY SCHOOLS
LONDON

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