

# Our Lady's Catholic Primary School Profile

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## **Our Lady's Catholic Primary School**

Oxford Road, Cowley

Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX4 2LF

Telephone: 01865 779176

Children's Service Authority:	OXFORDSHIRE
Age range:	5-11
Number of pupils:	312
Head teacher:	Mrs Hilary Webb
Chair of governors:	Mr Chris Bevan

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## **What have been our successes this year?**

Our school is first of all a community of faith open to embrace all & is at its best when this faith is celebrated in liturgies, assemblies & sacraments and when this faith is passed on to the children through chaplaincy & RE programmes. Success is measured for us when children achieve their full potential within the secure Catholic ethos of our school epitomised in the words of St John Bosco, You are young, you are precious, you are loved.

The key successes this year were two inspections, the results of both were very good. There was an Ofsted Report in November 2006 and a R.E. Inspection by the Diocese the following month. Highlights were as follows;

1. This is a good school which is getting better, levels of achievements are rising.
  2. Good teaching standards with skilled assistants.
  3. Pupil behaviour can be outstanding.
  4. Attitude to work is exemplary.
  5. The school is led and managed well, with experienced staff.
  6. Quality of collective worship is outstanding, the Catholic ethos is strong.
  7. Provision for prayer contributes to the spiritual and moral development of pupils.
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## What are we trying to improve?

1. Our school achieves good standards of social, moral & academic education. Our aim is for every child to reach their full potential. Small group intervention programmes are in place throughout the school to boost childrens learning including.

- Early Literacy Scheme
- Reading Quest Scheme
- Springboard maths programme
- Synthetic Phonics Programme to assist SEN key stage 2 to improve reading and spelling.
- Gifted and talented children have carefully planned individual programmes of work & tight targets which are regularly monitored. An innovative school magazine has been produced as a project organised by pupils.

2. Improvement, maintenance and refurbishment of the buildings & facilities have the following priorities.

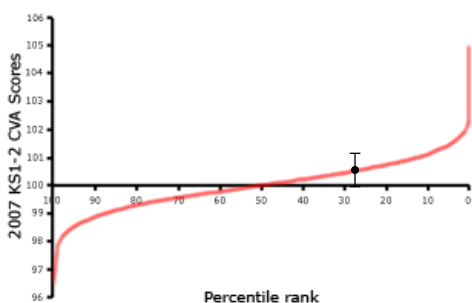
- rewiring of substantial part of school
- 5 year redecoration cycle is being implemented.
- car parking requires investment
- security access to school buildings is undergoing review

3. The Governing Body is being revitalised and links to the wider community are being made by an effective Parents Association.

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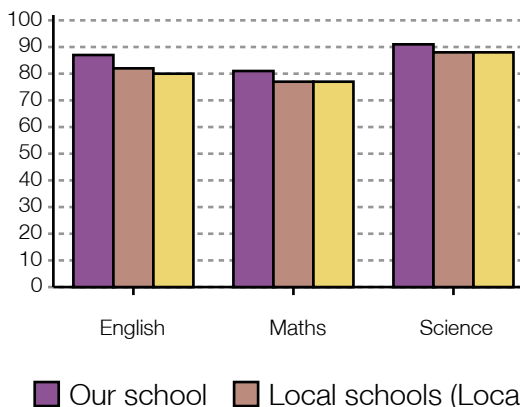
## How much progress do pupils make between age 7 and 11?



- Our school
- I Confidence interval

The chart shows our school's contextual value added (CVA) score relative to that of other primary schools. CVA is a statistical means of assessing how effective a school is, by measuring pupils' progress using their test and examination results. The confidence interval shows the range within which we can be confident the score (calculated on the results of only one year group) represents the overall effectiveness of a school. The percentile rank shows the percentage of schools with a score equal to or higher than ours.

## How well do pupils achieve at age 11?



This chart shows the Key Stage 2 results for 2007. It indicates the percentage of pupils eligible for KS2 tests (usually 11 year olds) who achieved or exceeded the expected level (level 4)

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## How have our results changed over time?

Our school results are showing sustained improvements

ENGLISH - % achieving over level 4

2005 - 81%

2006 - 92%

2007 - 87%

MATHS - % achieving over level 4

2005 - 78%

2006 - 70%

2007 - 81%

SCIENCE - % achieving over level 4

2005 - 89%

2006 - 90%

2007 - 92%

Science has shown a dramatic increase in the proportion of pupils attaining level 5, from 39% two years ago to 47% currently

## **How are we making sure that every child gets teaching to meet their individual needs?**

Children with Special Education Needs (SEN) are formally monitored three times a year.

Pupils on SEN register have targets set through an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and receive extra support depending on need.

Children for whom English is their second language are well supported.

Positive comments were made in the recent OFSTED report to this effect.

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## **How are we working with parents and the community?**

We are proud of the strong links we have with the local parish and Salesian community, and we get a lot of help from volunteers from the parish volunteering to help the school.

We are supportive in the preparation and celebrations of the sacraments.

We work closely with the ISIS partnership schools, and have strong links with St Gregory's Secondary School to which nearly 100% of our pupils transfer.

The Parents Association is vibrant, and they have organised bingo events, line dancing, quizzes and school fetes which has raised substantial funds which has helped the school with extra IT equipment. The summer fete was a notable success this year.

Our weekly newsletter keeps parents informed of policies and events in the life of the school.

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## **What have pupils told us about the school, and what have we done as a result?**

The School Council has been established as a forum for effective communication between pupils and teaching staff. It has grown in prominence in the last academic year. It meets six times a year and the following suggestions and ideas have been acted upon;

- cycling proficiency training for Year 6.
- curriculum themed weeks; eg dance days and story tellers. Visitors were invited.
- extra equipment for playground and break time activities.
- illustrated school magazine has been produced and circulated to parents and the community.

OFSTED Inspection team gave our school a favourable report, and commented that this is a happy school, where pupils feel well supported and where they learn well.

## How do we make sure our pupils are healthy, safe and well-supported?

Daily prayer is central to the christian life of our Catholic community, and the Diocesan Inspection judged that group worship as outstanding in our school. We enjoy singing in our vibrant assemblies.

Nutricious and well balanced hot school meals are prepared on site by our experienced cook.

Pupils are encouraged to bring fruit and water into school.

New parents are invited to attend an induction evening, when the school routines are explained.

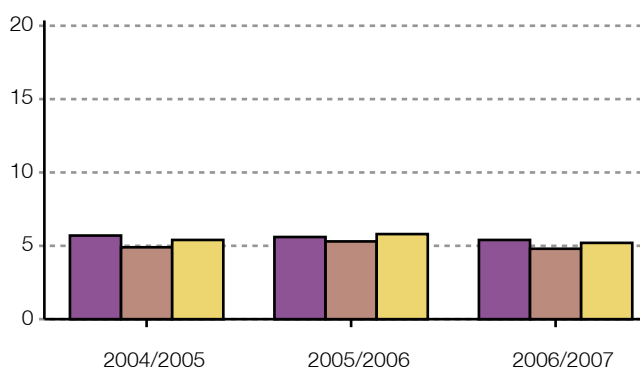
Security is constantly being re-assessed and some improvements in the access to the site is being discussed at recent Governors meetings.

Positive behaviour is recognised and rewarded by an award system.

Year 6 pupils are involved in the Junior Citizen Scheme.

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## How do our absence rates compare with other schools?



This chart shows the percentage of half days missed through authorised and unauthorised absence by all pupils at the school. Information is given for the school, for schools within the local authority and for all schools.

■ Our school ■ Local schools (Local Authority) ■ All schools

## What activities and options are available to pupils?

Extra curricular activities available are as follows

- French Club is run 4 evenings a week
- Inter-school netball, football and athletic tournaments
- Guitar and recorder lessons are offered which support our school choir
- Concerts are performed at Bayards Hill Music Centre with other schools; eg Festival of Voices
- School drama productions with parents invited
- The Story Museum spent a day at school
- Participation in Isis School Partnership Festival

Every class has educational trips organised, eg

- trips to Pitt Rivers and other local museums
- residential visit to South Wales for Year 6
- residential visit to Kingswood, Isle of Wight

The well trained school choirs perform regularly within the school and local community. Recent events participated include;

- 40th Anniversary Parish Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Church
- Dorchester Abbey's Festival of Voices
- Christmas services at the school and church

## What do our pupils do after leaving this school?

Nearly 100% of our pupils go to St Gregory's school, a spectacular new school building which only opened in 2006.

Catholic retreat days, science projects and musical events have been shared.

There are plenty of opportunities for Year 6 pupils to visit St Gregory's and familiarise them with their new surroundings.

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## Ofsted's view of our school

This is a good school that is led and managed well. The governors, who have a good understanding of the school, rightly told the inspectors that a major strength is the care of children as individuals, because they are respected, listened to and loved.

Achievement is now good overall and rising. Standards are average. Provision is good in the Foundation Stage. Achievement in the younger classes has been good for some time. Children start in the Reception class with standards that are below average overall, and consistently reach standards above average by the end of Year 2.

Standards at the end of Year 6 are average. Standards in national assessments in 2006 were above average in English, but below in science, where too few pupils reached the higher levels. The reason for the apparent decline in progress in older classes is that many of this group had their teaching disrupted by changes of staffing when they were in Years 3 and 4, resulting in inadequate progress. The school's good tracking records show plainly that these pupils made up most of the lost ground during Years 5 and 6, when they made very good progress in English and mathematics. All pupils are now making good progress in lessons, because staffing is stable and teaching is more consistent. Progress in science is just satisfactory, because of too few opportunities for pupils to plan and carry out their own investigations.

The good care, support and guidance provided for pupils strongly support their pastoral and academic development. Their individual progress is tracked carefully, and help is provided if they start to fall behind. Teachers are starting to set targets for pupils to guide them in their learning, but this is inconsistent. Pupils' personal development is good, and has improved significantly since the last inspection. Behaviour is good and pupils get on well with each other and with staff. Pupils work hard and have positive attitudes to school. They make good progress in lessons because of good teaching.

Teachers manage lessons well, so the pace of learning is good. They work hard to provide challenging and interesting work, often matched to the specific needs of different groups of pupils. This is a particular strength in English and mathematics. In science lessons, however, pupils too often all have the same work and too rarely have opportunities to plan and carry out investigations. Pupils say they find lessons fun. Good use is made of the skilled teaching assistants to help pupils make progress, particularly those who have learning difficulties or disabilities.

The headteacher gives clear direction to an effective team of staff. Together, they have worked successfully to improve pupils' personal development and to raise achievement since the last inspection. They have a realistic and accurate view of the school's strengths and weaknesses. Coordinators have good systems to monitor provision in their subjects, particularly in English, mathematics and science. In other subjects, they are providing effective help to colleagues, but lack systematic procedures to give them a clear overview of standards.

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Date of last inspection: 14-Nov-2006

Ofsted graded our school as good

Inspectors made judgements on a scale: outstanding (grade 1); good (2); satisfactory (3); inadequate (4).



[View the Ofsted page for Our Lady's Catholic Primary School](#)

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## What have we done in response to Ofsted?

Since January 2007 a Post Inspection actions include;

- focus on attainment of our gifted scientists through open ended investigations
- involve parents understanding in Religious Education
- to further develop assessment recording and reporting procedures for Religious Education
- focus on Healthy Lifestyles within the curriculum
- enhance collaborative teaching and learning projects
- to build on "pupil voice" by further developing the School Council

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## More Information

If you would like more information about school policies, including our policies on special educational needs and disability, admissions, finance, school food and our complaints procedure, please contact us:

By telephone 01865 779176

Our website

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