

Inspection of St Dominic Savio Catholic Primary School

Western Avenue, Woodley, Berkshire RG5 3BH

Inspection dates: 11–12 February 2020

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Early years provision

Outstanding

Previous inspection grade

Good

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils cannot praise their school highly enough. They relish coming each day because they learn so much that is new and interesting. Leaders and teachers do not place a ceiling upon what pupils can do and achieve, taking every opportunity to reinforce their high expectations. This gives all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), a tremendous sense of purpose and ambition.

Pupils are fascinated by the world around them. They debate the big ideas that shape the way people think, respecting the views of others. Leaders provide excellent opportunities for pupils to develop their talents and hobbies. One pupil commented, 'There is something for everybody.'

The school is highly inclusive. All feel they belong to the 'St Dominic Savio family'. Pupils also make a strong contribution to school life. For example, they clear dishes at lunchtime, contribute to the active school council and support their peers with staying safe online.

Pupils are very courteous to each other and to staff. They behave exceptionally well in class and during playtimes. Pupils and staff do not accept any form of bullying, including the use of unkind words. Pupils feel safe and well cared for.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

Teachers and leaders are dedicated to providing an excellent education for all. They are determined that all aspects of their work contribute to this goal. Governors ask penetrating questions about pupils' learning and achievement. As a result of the above, pupils achieve highly in national tests and assessments.

The school's curriculum, including in early years, is top-notch. Children get off to a flying start from their earliest days. The strong early years curriculum means that children embed essential knowledge about numbers and letters. Children also participate in play activities, which inspire them with new words and ideas. In key stages 1 and 2, the ambitious curriculum enables pupils to build a sophisticated web of knowledge, skills and key concepts in a range of subjects. Pupils apply these concepts to make meaningful connections between topics. For example, in history, pupils could explain how the growth in the cotton trade in Victorian times contributed to the Industrial Revolution. Pupils leave school with a very good grounding in a broad range of subjects. They are extremely well prepared for the demands of the secondary curriculum.

Teachers, including those in early years, use their excellent subject knowledge to explain new vocabulary and bring abstract concepts to life. To embed knowledge in pupils' memories, teachers skilfully use a variety of assessment methods. Teachers and assistants also support pupils with SEND exceptionally well. They remove any barriers to these pupils participating fully in learning. For example, teaching staff

provide them with daily additional support in reading so that they can read fluently by the end of Year 2. This means that they can better access the key stage 2 curriculum.

Leaders rightly see reading as the doorway to learning, enjoyment and success. They make sure that all pupils learn to read as soon as possible. Pupils accurately apply their phonic knowledge to books that are well matched to their capabilities. Last year, every Year 1 pupil reached the expected standard in the phonics check. The key stage 2 curriculum is stimulating. It includes rich and challenging texts, such as 'The Hobbit'.

The school is a close-knit community, nurturing all its members. Everyone matters and no concern is too small. Leaders and governors promote the well-being of teachers along with that of pupils. They ensure planned changes are based on well-tested evidence and do not add unnecessarily to teachers' workload.

Pupils take great pride in their school. They delight in the extensive opportunities provided for them to fulfil their potential. Many, including disadvantaged pupils, take part in activities that are new to them, such as ballroom dancing and golf. Some go on to pursue these at a higher level. Because pupils are so keen to learn, they often regulate their own behaviour and that of their peers. Leaders are not complacent. They work well with the small proportion of pupils whose behaviour does not meet their expectations. It is noticeable how positive pupils' attitudes to learning, the staff and each other are.

Through the impressive personal development programme, pupils build a deep understanding about society and relationships. The school's religious ethos is deep rooted, with all pupils feeling included within it. Through discussion and assemblies, staff promote the importance of being humble and caring for others. Pupils understand that these values are celebrated across many cultures and traditions.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The designated safeguarding leader and members of the team are highly trained. They ensure that concerns are dealt with swiftly and pupils receive the support they need, including from staff with expertise in well-being. The team keeps up to date about the risks children face, such as those from social media. They share this information very well with parents and carers and pupils through regular updates.

Leaders have very high standards, which they apply to this aspect of their work. They have recently commissioned an external audit that covers all aspects of safeguarding, including checks made on staff.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use Ofsted Parent View information when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

If you are the school and you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

Unique reference number	110041
Local authority	Wokingham
Inspection number	10133943
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	418
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Dr John McKendrick
Headteacher	James Broadbridge
Website	www.stdominicsavio.co.uk
Date of previous inspection	2 May 2019, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- Since the previous inspection, the deputy headteacher has left and the senior leadership team has been restructured. There are now three assistant headteachers who work alongside the headteacher.

Information about this inspection

We carried out this inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

- We met with the headteacher and senior leaders, members of the governing body (including the chair of the governing body and vice-chair), and the special educational needs coordinator.
- We met a range of staff individually, including staff who run the breakfast club and lunchtime supervisors. We also met with a group of staff to discuss their professional development.
- We reviewed 118 responses to the Parent View survey and 66 free-text comments. We also took 35 replies to the staff questionnaire and 24 responses made to the pupil survey into account.

- On the second day of the inspection, we met with two groups of pupils, one to discuss their learning across subjects, and another to discuss their experiences of school. Throughout both days of the inspection, we observed pupils at play and spoke with them informally.
- As part of the inspection of early years, we met with the early years leader and reviewed records of children's development and learning.
- We held a telephone call with a representative from the local authority who has been supporting the school, and separately with the local authority designated officer (LADO).
- As part of our inspection of safeguarding, we met with the designated leader, deputy designated leader and parental support worker. We also reviewed records and documents relating to safeguarding, including checks made when staff are appointed.
- We undertook deep dives in reading, history, mathematics, computing and science. As part of these, we met with curriculum leaders, pupils and class teachers. We also looked at pupils' work and heard pupils read. In addition, we met with the curriculum leaders for art, geography, physical education and French. We scrutinised their curriculum plans and sampled some pupils' work in these subjects.

Inspection team

Sarah Hubbard, lead inspector	Her Majesty's Inspector
Michael Green	Her Majesty's Inspector
Mineza Maher	Ofsted Inspector

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