

**INSPECTION REPORT**

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**Inspection carried out Under Canon 806  
and in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005**

**Name of School:** Holy Name Roman Catholic Primary School, Denmark Road, Moss Side, Manchester M15 6JT

Inspection date 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

Reporting Inspectors Anne Heard and Sue Molloy

Type of school	Primary
URN	105516
Age range of pupils	3-11
Number on roll	186
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Liz Gonzalez
Executive Headteacher	Catherine Gordon
Head of school	Damian Regan
Religious Education Co-ordinator	Maria Hackman
Date of previous inspection	December 2012

<b>The Inspection judgements are:</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Explanation of the Grades</b>
Overall effectiveness of the school	1	1 = Outstanding
The quality of Catholic Leadership	1	2 = Good
The Catholic Life of the school (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness)	1	3=Requires Improvement
The quality of Religious Education (incorporating Word)	1	4 = Inadequate
The quality of Worship	1	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

## **CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL**

Holy Name Catholic primary school is a one-form entry school with 183 pupils on roll; this is slightly fewer than the average primary school. In September the Early Years Foundation stage will be full. 31% of the children are baptised Catholic. 94% of pupils are from minority ethnic groups. 42% of the school's population speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for pupil premium funding is 39%. There are five children with EHCP plans and 18% of pupils are on the Special Educational Needs list. There is an executive headteacher who is currently leading both Holy Name primary school and Our Lady's primary school. Eleven of the twelve teachers are Catholic. Two teachers hold the CCRS. The school is based in an area of significant deprivation.

## **THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:**

- **Exceptionally strong, committed and caring leadership, including governors who have ambitious aspirations for all members of the family of Holy Name Catholic school**
- **Inspirational and exceptional teaching and pastoral care is tailor made to meet the needs of all pupils**
- **All those belonging to the family of Holy Name school live out the gospels in a truly authentic and Christ-centred way. They act as “Builders of the kingdom of God” and disciples of transformational change**
- **Children are challenged to engage with Big Questions. Sacred Scripture is known, lived and witnessed by them**
- **Children and their families are at the centre of all decisions. They are nurtured, valued and respected for their diverse contributions to school life**
- **Praise and worship are of outstanding quality, providing inclusive opportunities for this diverse school community**

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING**

Holy Name Primary School continues to be an outstanding beacon for Catholic education. The hard-working leaders, supported by the committed governing body, are continually seeking new challenges and opportunities to enhance the already excellent provision provided for all at Holy Name. The school continues to seek out new ways of reaching out to others who feel marginalised or forgotten. Numerous opportunities are taken to ensure that all children are given experiences which take them beyond what they know. As part of the work carried out by leaders and children in recognising and caring for our world, the school has been successful in designing a garden at the prestigious Tatton Flower Show. Year 6 children visit Spain, whilst more local visits are provided to ensure that children in this deprived area of the city are given opportunities which not only enhance their experiences but give them wider goals to aim for. They engage in Shakespeare with the Contact Theatre, perform at the Royal Northern College of Music and leaders seek funding and sponsorship to ensure that children are provided with the greatest experiences in order to have the highest aspirations they can. All staff are committed to this goal. Their care, love and dedication are witness to a truly remarkable school. All staff walk daily in Jesus's footsteps, acting as true role models of what Christ would do. The compassion and dedication of the whole team ensures that not only are Gospel values witnessed on a daily basis, but they are passed on to the pupils and their families. Pupil leaders are given the skills and knowledge to carry out tasks with enthusiasm and thoughtfulness. The care and respect they have experienced during their time at the school has created outstanding role models for their peers and the younger children in the school. Children are encouraged to feel good about themselves and this nurturing environment ensures that the next generation have the skills and determination to evangelise others and to make their mark on society. This haven of outstanding Catholic values shines out as a beacon to all. Sacred Scripture is known and is used as the guiding principle which underpins the mission of Holy Name RC Primary School. The life of faith is the driving force behind every activity in this school.

### **THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING**

The executive headteacher alongside the head of the school and Religious Education subject leader have ensured that the school continues to provide outstanding leadership. Knowledgeable and enthusiastic governors provide support and challenge. They are regular visitors and take part in a variety of opportunities to increase their knowledge of the school. Alongside the dedicated and hard-working parish priest, they have all demonstrated an outstanding commitment to provide the very best opportunities for staff and children to create the special place that is the Holy Name RC Primary School. Leaders at all levels come together as a committed and cohesive team. All within the school community are willing to go the extra mile. The pastoral leader works seamlessly with others to ensure that the needs of the whole child and family are addressed with care and compassion. Leadership is distributed to all staff and through this they feel valued and energised to play their role in continuing to develop this unique, successful and authentic Catholic School. The mission of the school is clearly known and lived by all and is the core that drives outstanding Catholic values and ethos to be truly embedded in all that is achieved. Pupil leadership is promoted through a variety of opportunities e.g. GIFT chaplains, eco team, sports leaders, etc. Pupil voice is taken into consideration when leaders are making decisions. All children leaving the Holy Name School at year six have the knowledge and skills to know that they can make a difference as leaders of the future.

### **THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness) IS OUTSTANDING**

Every child and their family are welcomed into “a second family”, as one parent commented, when they join the Holy Name RC Primary School. The executive headteacher and other leaders ensure that they are there each day at the school gates to high five pupils and parents as they enter the school. Parents spoke passionately about how they are valued and respected for their contribution to the school. In this area of high deprivation and difficult social issues, the school is a welcoming haven where solutions and support are freely offered and where the Gospel values are lived out in a truly caring and compassionate environment. Love and forgiveness underpin the mission of the school. Children and their families are truly held in the hands of God. They are protected and fully nurtured. All staff live out their lives by following the teachings of Jesus; they aim to serve, not to be served. The 5 W's are embedded in the school mission statement; they underpin all the outstanding opportunities and achievements that the school is truly proud of. Excellence in all areas is achieved whilst ensuring that the true message of discipleship is witnessed. The school is one of only three schools in England recognised as a centre of excellence for dyslexia. It has received an International Schools award and bronze level Rights Respecting School award. Children are taught to care for others and they have raised funds for street children in Brazil as well as for other more local charities. Children are taught that respect for each other is a fundamental part of growing together in God's love. Examples of this were witnessed by the inspectors throughout the day. All staff are excellent role models for the children. Volunteers, including the St Vincent de Paul university students who support the breakfast club, are positive ambassadors for children to aspire to in their later lives. Through all this, children are encouraged to have a positive image of themselves, to find their voice and use it for the good of others. When interviewed, the children were very articulate of how proud they were to attend Holy Name school. They recognise the opportunities they have been offered and have high aspirations for their future. All policies are embedded in a truly authentic Catholic nature. Younger children have older role models as buddies. The school grounds are developed by all children, they are taught to care for the environment and are currently growing plants for their show garden at the Tatton Flower Show in July. Children have a developing awareness of their individual duty to support and protect their world for the future.

### **THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS OUTSTANDING**

Religious Education is at the centre of all that is taught at Holy Name. At least 10% of curriculum time is spent on Religious Education and the governors ensure that adequate funding is allocated to this area from the budget each year. The pupils are taught using the “Come and See” programme and inspectors were impressed with the quality of work displayed in the children's Religious Education books. There is a wealth of evidence to support this outstanding judgement. Teachers are highly skilled in delivering outstanding and creative lessons where children are challenged through thought-provoking questions including the regular use of Big Questions. From an early age, children are taught about the Bible and they develop their knowledge of Sacred Scripture as they progress through the school. Pupils are confident to use religious vocabulary because they are taught in a way which builds on previous knowledge and enhances their understanding of religious concepts and teachings. The school strives for excellence in all areas with

Religious Education. at the core of the core. The subject leader has worked tirelessly to ensure that children in the school are given additional opportunities, e.g. attending the Northern Catholic Conference at Liverpool Hope University, she has established Mission weeks and the school takes part in the Marian Walk each year. Staff regularly work alongside other Catholic schools to further develop the children's understanding of the Catholic faith. Faith weeks are held each year to celebrate other faiths and beliefs. The Teachings of Jesus are known and lived by the school community and children aspire to be like Jesus. When talking to the children it is evident that they are familiar with and with older children able to access different books and chapters within the Bible. Purchases are carefully considered in order to meet the needs of all pupils. It was refreshing to see the creative and challenging ways that teachers plan and deliver outstanding lessons that fully engage children in the Religious Education curriculum. Displays and scripture quotes around the school are further testament to the dedication and hard work of staff to ensure that no opportunity is lost to develop the children's knowledge of the life and teachings of Jesus.

### **THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING**

Creativity, joy and prayer are used effectively together to provide children and staff with the highest quality acts of worship. The Praise Assembly was a very moving and spiritual experience where pupils and staff came together to praise God. Appropriate music, hymns and Sacred Scripture were delivered enthusiastically throughout the session. Pupil's behaviour, attention and participation was outstanding. Children are provided with rich and varied experiences of prayer and worship. Regular visits by the parish priest support the children's growing knowledge and relationship with God. He takes part in classroom worship and the ongoing religious life of the school. The hard-working Religious Education subject leader is dedicated to providing a rich and diverse experience of opportunities for worship. Each year she accompanies at least 30 children and their families to attend the Northern Catholic conference in Liverpool. The GIFT chaplains are encouraged to plan and organise worship as well as being ambassadors of faith. They feel privileged to hold such roles and take them very seriously. Both inside the classrooms, corridors and the school hall there is clear evidence of exceptionally high-quality displays and prayer areas which encourage children to pray. A beautiful display in honour of Our Lady took up a prominent position in the entrance area to the school. A child's prayer in response to the Manchester bombing asked that all true faiths be recognised and valued. Outside, the prayer garden and Stations of the Cross provide children with a constant reminder of opportunities to build a relationship with God. From an early age, children begin their faith journey through creative and engaging planned activities which encourage children of all or no faith to participate in recognising, valuing and thanking God for the world they live in. Respect for other faiths is paramount in the school. Parents talked about how staff are sensitive to the needs and traditions of other faiths and how they encourage children to participate in worship in a way which does not cause offence. The head of the school with the support of the executive headteacher ensures that continuous opportunities to praise and celebrate in prayer and worship are developed. Staff are provided with continuous professional development to ensure that the outstanding practices that exist in the school continue to flourish.

### **AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- **To develop further the outdoor environment; to enhance the already high quality creative learning experience**
- **To develop further the GIFT chaplaincy team, seeking new opportunities every year to strengthen the school and wider community**
- **To share with other schools the truly authentic and outstanding Catholic ethos of the Holy Name RC Primary School**