

INSPECTION REPORT

Telephone: 0161 817 2204

Email: education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

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

The Cathedral School of St Peter and St John RC Primary, Salford, M3 6LU

Inspection date: 18th June 2018

Reporting Inspectors: Brendan Hennessy and Pam Macro

Type of school	Primary
URN	105964
Age range of pupils	3 -11
Number on roll	227
Appropriate authority	The Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Iain Clarke
Headteacher	Diane Hanley
Religious Education Subject Leader	Diane Hanley
Date of previous inspection	May 2013

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

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

The Cathedral School of St Peter and St John serves the parish of St John the Evangelist as well as drawing from surrounding parishes. This is a smaller than average sized primary school with 227 pupils on roll including 30 full time pupils in the school's nursery, 66% of pupils are baptised Roman Catholic. The school is situated in an urban area of Salford. On entry to school the children's starting points are below the national average. The school currently has 35% of the children eligible for Pupil Premium, 26% with Special Educational Needs, 41% with English as an additional language and 11.4% belong to the "Showman's Guild" of fairground families. There are 10 teachers in the school which includes the head teacher, 8 of whom are Catholic and 7 hold the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies with one starting the course in September 2018.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- **The clear vision for Catholic education in the school provided by the headteacher and governors.**
- **Religious literacy is well developed across all phases of the school.**
- **Sacred Scripture is woven throughout the school curriculum and is recognised as being important in school.**
- **The dedication and commitment of all staff to provide a caring and nurturing school that impacts positively on children's well-being.**
- **The quality of the relationships across the school community and the respect, dignity and care shown to every individual within the school family.**

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD

The Cathedral school is a good Catholic school with Christ clearly at the centre of all that it does. This warm and friendly school offers the children a true Catholic education in a caring and supportive setting. Gospel values are clearly evident and lived out by all in the school. A strong Catholic ethos is evident throughout the school helping to create a caring community where the happy children thrive as they learn, play and pray together. The school's mission statement impacts on and is central to everything that happens in the daily life of the school. The dedicated headteacher, committed leadership team and hardworking staff do all that they can to ensure that the spiritual and pastoral needs of all in the school family are met. The parish clergy and governors are very supportive as they strive to ensure a true Catholic education is provided for all in this inclusive school. Teachers and support staff have created a caring and safe environment for children where they are encouraged to always be the best that they can be. The quality of teaching in Religious Education is good, which ensures good standards are achieved across the school; as evidenced in the children's books and work around school. Prayer and worship is at the heart of this school and the many opportunities for worship have enhanced the individual faith journeys of all in school. The children have a positive attitude to learning and want to succeed in all that they do. They demonstrate care and consideration to each other and the older children enjoy the additional responsibilities they are given. Parents feel that they are valued, included and listened to. The school works hard to build on the links with the parish and home. The school has acted on the areas for development outlined in the last inspection.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS GOOD

The headteacher and governors have a clear vision for Catholic education at the school. The headteacher has a deep spiritual commitment and as Religious Education subject leader provides valuable guidance and support to all in the school community. She is supported in this by a dedicated leadership team and enthusiastic staff. The governors share with the leadership team a commitment to provide high quality Catholic education for all the children. They are actively involved in the life of the school providing both support and challenge. The school is supported in their mission in education by the parish clergy team who are actively involved in school and all in school value their contribution to the spiritual life of the school. Pupil leadership is established in school through the GIFT chaplaincy team, Caritas ambassadors, school council, stewards of creation eco team and playground buddies.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is clearly evident across the curriculum and permeates all aspects of school life. School encourages a climate of openness where the staff team are willing to share with each other the strengths of the school and what needs to be done to develop even further. Continuing professional development for staff is making a positive impact on the quality of provision in religious education. All leaders in school demonstrate a deep commitment to the church's mission in education and they do what they can to ensure that the development of the Catholic life of the school is at the heart of the school's thinking and practice.

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

A warm, friendly welcome is extended to all visitors from the moment you enter the school. Respect for the dignity of the individual is clearly evident across the school and all staff set the example for children to follow. The staff team clearly demonstrate a caring nature for the children, parents and each other. This gives a sense of belonging and an affirming ethos throughout the school. The school welcomes parents and encourages their contribution to the life of the school. Parents commented that they feel valued and included in all that their children do. They recognised that Religious Education was "Ingrained" in the everyday life of the school and that "Jesus was at the front of all that they do". The welfare of the children is of paramount importance to all staff and governors. The highest priority is given to procedures to safeguard and protect, consequently children and staff feel safe and well cared for. The children are encouraged to make the right choices and treat each other with care and respect. Additional support for children is provided by dedicated and much valued learning support assistants and external providers. Children with additional needs are extremely well supported with learning support plans for those who need extra provision. The children are happy, enthusiastic, polite and well behaved. They stated that they feel safe and know who to turn to if they are worried. The older children speak with great enthusiasm about their role in supporting and caring for the younger children. Excellent relationships are evident across the school community clearly based on the Gospel values of love, care and respect. The recently reviewed Mission Statement underpins every aspect of school life and helps the school focus on the unique aspects and growing diversity within the school community. The children understand that it is important to help others and show compassion for those less fortunate as they support many local and international charities. The children demonstrate care and good stewardship for God's creation. There is a wide range of opportunities available for parental involvement in school. Good links have been established with the parish and wider community. The school provides a nurturing environment that supports children and their families on a daily basis sharing Gospel values in all their actions.

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS GOOD

Religious Education is at the centre of the school's core curriculum and is woven through all areas of the curriculum. Vibrant, high quality displays, featuring appropriate references to Scripture, are a feature of the school in every classroom, on walls, doors and in outdoor spaces. Sacred Scripture is a strength of the school, it is made relevant and meaningful to the children in many ways and it too is woven throughout all areas of the curriculum. Religious literacy is developed at all key stages and children were confident in their use of religious terms. Good teaching and productive learning was observed across the school. Teachers have good subject knowledge and overall lessons were well planned with clear learning objectives, reasonably good pace, some differentiated activities and good use of questions to challenge the children's learning. Good standards of work were evident in the children's books although this was not always consistent, and in some cases there was a lack of high expectation and challenge in Religious Education. The Come and See programme has been introduced to enhance the religious education curriculum and support assessment. The children are motivated and engaged, they show a real interest in Religious Education and were happy to share their understanding of their faith. They know how to improve their work and where constructive marking was used it provided challenge and enabled them to reflect on and improve their learning. The children learn about other faiths in lessons, assemblies, from visitors, fellow pupils and their families. This helps them to understand and respect the beliefs and cultures of others. The use of Caritas in Action has increased the children's awareness of social justice. Teaching assistants have a good knowledge and understanding of the teaching of Religious Education, they effectively interacted with pupils to support their learning and they contribute significantly to Religious Education across the school. The school prioritises Religious Education on their continuing professional development programme and it has a high priority on the School Improvement Plan. Parents were very positive about the quality of religious education provided for their children.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS GOOD

The spiritual life of the children is of high importance, and prayer and worship forms a central part of life at the Cathedral School of Saint Peter and Saint John. Prayer focus tables are evident in each classroom and there are further examples across all other areas of school stimulating the children to pray, reflect and develop their personal relationship with God. Key Stage 1 and 2 classes also have their own designated prayer trees for outside prayer and worship. A developmental, age-related prayer programme is in place, however children are encouraged and given many opportunities for personal prayer. On the day of the inspection inspectors witnessed a range of prayer and worship opportunities. Older children reflected on their move to high school composing prayers asking for God's help with any worries or fears they may be experiencing. Other classes reverently reflected on the need to open their hearts and let Jesus in and on how to show love in their actions. In a particularly spiritual session, EYFS children sang the school mission statement and promised to follow Jesus' rule to love one another. During all sessions the children were reverent and respectful. Further prayer and worship opportunities are provided through rosary club in October and May, Stations of the Cross in Lent and the weekly prayer club organised by Sister Brenda, a very good friend to the school. Parents are often invited to join the children for special assemblies. Links with the parish community are strengthened when children attend Mass at the cathedral on a weekly basis and at special times during the liturgical calendar. The sacramental programme is another example of school and parish working together to support the children on their faith journey. In order to develop further in this area school now needs to enable the children themselves to become more confident not only in leading acts of prayer and worship but in actually preparing them too.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- **Further develop pupil leadership in prayer and worship.**
- **To continue to build and strengthen the positive links already established with the parish community.**
- **To inspire all pupils and promote exceptional teaching across the school by modelling and coaching good and outstanding teaching that will further enhance the development of curriculum Religious Education.**