

**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:** **Our Lady and St Paul's, Sutherland Road, Darnhill, Heywood,  
Rochdale, OL10 3PD**

**Inspection date** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Reporting Inspectors** Fiona Robinson James Graves

Type of school	Primary
URN	105819
Age range of pupils	3-11
Number on roll	221
Appropriate authority	Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Jayne Gregson
Head teacher	Marie Gavin
Religious Education Co-ordinator	Rachel Daly
Date of previous inspection	June 2012

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the Grades
Overall effectiveness of the school	3	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)	2	
The quality of Religious Education (incorporating Word)	3	
The quality of Worship	3	

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

Our Lady and St Paul's Roman Catholic voluntary aided primary school is situated in Darnhill on the outskirts of Heywood. The school belongs to the parish of Our Lady and St Joseph's, Heywood. This is a recent change as the church of Our Lady and St Paul's was closed in February 2018. It is a one form entry school with 221 pupils on roll. 75% of the children are of the Roman Catholic faith. 80% of the teaching staff are baptized Roman Catholics. The majority of the pupils are of white British heritage. The proportion of pupils with English as an additional language (EAL) is 21%. The number of pupils receiving pupil premium funding is 18%. 17% of the children are on the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) register. The school has been through many changes in leadership since the last RE inspection in June 2012. There have been five acting head teachers since the OFSTED inspection of 2015. The current head teacher has been in post for 2 years. The deputy head teacher was appointed to her post in September 2016.

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

- **The commitment and drive of the leadership of the school and the impact of the journey taken so far.**
- **The care and guidance provided by all staff of the school to support the education of the children.**
- **The warm welcome received by everyone who visits the school**
- **The support of the wider school community including parish priests, parents and parishioners**

### **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT**

Although Our Lady and St Paul's has many good qualities and offers a warm welcome to all, overall the school requires improvement. The children are very positive about their school and say they enjoy attending every day. Parents are very supportive of the school and have remained very loyal during some turbulent times. The leadership team including the governance is good and they have high aspirations for the school. There is a clear focus for the direction of the school and the dedicated head teacher and leadership team are all striving to ensure that they provide the best education for the children in their care. They clearly recognise that Christ is central to all aspects of school life and all staff are committed to creating a loving and nurturing learning environment for the children. The GIFT team is leading new initiatives to enhance the spiritual life of the school and they are keen to extend their role even further. A high priority is given to safeguard and protect all pupils and staff. However, the quality of Word and Worship requires improvement. There were some good teaching and collective worship sessions observed however the quality is not consistent throughout the school. The teachers should visit other schools to witness outstanding teaching and high expectations and thus further develop their own practice. However, all members of the school community must be praised for the journey they have taken in recent years to move the school to its present position, though they recognise there is further work to be done.

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

The quality of Catholic leadership is good. The dedicated head teacher, well supported by her senior leadership team, has led the school on a tough journey since her appointment two years ago. During a challenging period, a review of governance took place which allowed new governors to be appointed. This has ensured the governing body has the correct skills and expertise to take the school forward. Key issues and areas for development for the school have been correctly identified, appropriate strategies and actions in place and outside help sought. The impact of some of this work can already be seen. The parents recognised that the school had been through a turbulent past but felt that the leadership now was strong. There is a deep commitment to the Church's mission in education and the faith life of the

school is seen as a priority. Throughout the inspection, leaders were witnesses to Gospel Values. The parish priest is very supportive of the school. The leadership of the school has worked very hard in ensuring that the legacy of the parish of Our Lady and St Paul's is incorporated into the life of the school and parishioners are seen as an integral part of this.

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

Our Lady and St Paul's is a warm and welcoming school. The school's mission statement has been developed by all members of the school community and is known by everyone. Parents feel they are very valued in the life of the school and receive great support from the staff. Parents were extremely positive and commented, "you feel the warm welcome when you come in". They feel that any concerns are dealt with effectively. The children are well cared for and it is very evident that relationships are based upon tolerance, respect and understanding. A "before and after school club" is provided for working parents and a social worker is employed for a day a week to work with children with social and emotional needs. A sanctuary room is provided for those children who sometimes find the start to the school day difficult. The school has been very fortunate in becoming part of a research project –Philosophy for Children (P4C) and feel this project enables the pupils to discuss and raise questions about their lives and the lives of others. The staff have just embarked on the diocesan programme "The Image Maker" for sex and relationships education. All safeguarding procedures are in place and staff receive regular training. The children spoke about their involvement and support in charities such as Caritas, Christmas shoe box appeal, The British Legion and the parish SVP. The children and staff were very polite and courteous to the inspectors. Children are given opportunities to learn about other faiths and religions. Pupil voice through the school council and GIFT chaplaincy team are encouraged to be proactive citizens; to make decisions and take responsibility.

### **THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT**

The quality of Religious Education requires improvement. In the best lessons, teaching was focussed on what staff wanted children to learn; clear learning objectives were discussed and displayed and the teachers had effective behaviour strategies. The books, in the classes where children made the best progress, were marked up to date, had plenty of evidence of regular, quality learning and children were challenged. However, the quality of teaching and learning is not yet consistent across all classes in the school. The quality of the presentation and marking in some books needs improvement and there needs to be evidence of challenging work for the more able. There appears to be some gaps in the children's religious knowledge. The leadership of the school acknowledges that these are issues. However, it can be evidenced that a huge amount of progress has been made to get to this current point on the school's journey. Assessment in Religious Education is in its early stages and the Religious Education co-ordinator recognises this is an area for development. Parents were clear about the importance of Religious Education and said that their children often came home and talked about the work they had been doing in school. The main strap line of the school's Mission Statement is known by the children who are able to articulate what this quote means in the school. SMSC is clearly evidenced, such as one session that allowed children to explain how they could help those in need. Sacred Scripture formed a part of lessons observed, and displays in communal areas had many quotes, pictures and passages from the Gospels.

### **THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT**

The leadership of the school have taken an active role in the provision and training of staff for prayer, worship and liturgy. Outside providers have worked alongside the staff and they are becoming increasingly confident in leading class collective worship. However, this area does need further development. Where class collective worship was effective it was age appropriate, well planned, incorporated elements of children's previous learning and knowledge but was also a quiet, reflective time. Liturgical celebrations take place throughout the year particularly during Advent and Lent. There are very strong links between home, school and parish and particularly with the Sacramental Programme. Parents are very complimentary about how well the programme is organised. The GIFT chaplaincy team are developing in their role

and they meet regularly with the Religious Education co-ordinator to work on their plans and activities. Children need further development in this area by leading and being involved with the class collective worships. Families are welcomed into the school to take part in assemblies and liturgies. Items from the recently closed parish church have been incorporated into the school building such as the Stations of the Cross which are displayed along one corridor and the plaques of Our Lady and St Paul placed inside the entrance hall. During the inspection mass was celebrated in the newly renovated sanctuary room and parishioners were invited. Prayer areas are established in every classroom but some of these need further work and development.

#### **AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- **To ensure that the teaching and learning of is of a high quality Religious Education and is matched to the needs of all pupils across the school to ensure that they make good progress.**
- **To develop further the staff's knowledge and understanding of collective worship and the children's leadership role within it.**