

INSPECTION REPORT

Christ the King RC Primary School, Calderbrook Rd, Burnley, BB11 4RB.

Inspection date 23rd November 2016

Reporting Inspectors Mr Andrew Sowerby
Mrs Marie Kwiatkowski

Inspection carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School Roman Catholic Primary
 URN 119488
 Age range of pupils 4-11 years
 Number on roll 216
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body
 Chair of Governors Mrs Stephanie Balko
 Headteacher Mrs Catherine Barnes
 Religious Education Subject Leader Mr Sam Stell
 Date of previous inspection September 2011

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the Grades
Overall effectiveness of the school	2	
The quality of the Word	2	1 = Outstanding
The quality of the Welcome	1	2 = Good
The quality of Welfare	1	3=Requires Improvement
The quality of Worship	2	4 = Inadequate
The quality of Witness	1	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

Christ the King RC Primary School is a one form entry school with 216 children on roll of which 88% are Roman Catholic. It serves the parishes of Christ the King and St Teresa's Burnley. The percentage of children eligible for free school meals is currently 9%. 90% of the children are of white British origin with the remaining split between Polish children and other mixed backgrounds.

The school has 4 children who are diagnosed as being on the autistic spectrum. The number of children who receive pupil premium is 39, which equates to 20% of the school community. The school has 7 children who have been adopted from care, 2 under special guardianship orders, 2 service families and 2 looked after children.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD

Christ the King is a good Catholic Primary school with some outstanding features. There is a genuinely warm and caring welcome given to all. Children are offered a Catholic education in a friendly and supportive environment where differences are welcomed and celebrated. The Word of God is central to the life of the school. Christ the King works collaboratively with the parish priest and the school is firmly at the heart of the parish. This ensures the pastoral and spiritual needs of the learners and their families are well met. The hard working headteacher and her staff work hard to meet the needs of all children. The children enjoy coming to school and all parents spoke of the happy and caring environment that the school has created. The children expressed how very proud they are of all the opportunities given to them. Pupils are friendly, polite, welcoming and their behaviour at all times is exemplary. They work hard to achieve the expectations of the adults who work with them. They enjoyed every opportunity to share with the inspectors their work and thoughts about the school. The staff and pupils demonstrate a very high level of respect, care and service to others. The quality of relationships is a notable strength of the school.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- Everyone is made to feel exceptionally welcome at Christ the King School.
- The welfare of the children is of paramount importance and every individual member of the school is made to feel valued and respected.
- Strong home, school, parish links help to ensure that children are provided with a variety of opportunities to bear witness to their faith.
- The quality of relationships between all members of the school community is outstanding whilst the behaviour of the children is exemplary.
- The headteacher, staff and governors work very hard to ensure that every child receives a good Catholic education in a warm and caring environment.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS GOOD

The headteacher, along with the senior leadership team and an effective governing body, strive to ensure that there is effective leadership across all areas of the school. The school's SEF is generally accurate and reflects the school's determination to ensure that children receive the highest possible standard of Catholic education. The school uses its pupil premium money well, as an additional teacher is assigned to monitor the provision for these children in order that they receive best possible provision. This is managed well by the headteacher and the school's SENCo. However, further improvements could be made to ensure the subsequent school improvement plans and RE action plans clearly reflects the next steps for improvement. For example, the school should ensure that there is a clear link between the areas for improvement outlined on the school's self-evaluation form and the RE action plan. The governance of the school, which is very good, could also be further strengthened by ensuring that governors are actively involved in the scrutiny of standards of teaching and learning in RE through the regular monitoring of children's work and the use of learning walks.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD IS GOOD

The school's mission statement and the recently developed school motto are clearly displayed throughout the school. It is known, lived and witnessed to and is evident at every level. It is reflected in all school policies, which have an impact on learning and the life of the school. The religious education of the pupils is the core of the core curriculum. The staffing and resources devoted to RE are of a high standard, reflecting its significance and importance in the school.

Based upon an evaluation of the work scrutiny, lesson observations, discussions with pupils, teaching and achievement, the quality of RE is judged to be good. Pupils are challenged to engage with the 'big questions' of the purpose and meaning of life throughout the curriculum. This could be seen particularly in those lessons where children were challenged to implement the gospel message in their own lives. Examples of this were seen in both key stages when children were asked to reflect upon what their vocation is and how they in their own lives could improve things for others.

Marking and feedback to pupils is consistent and supports pupils in understanding how they could improve their knowledge and work in RE. Scripture is clearly known, understood and made relevant throughout the school. There is evidence on the displays in the classroom and halls of the importance of this. However there is a need to ensure that all members of staff have a clear understanding of the Catholic faith so that children are taught accurately both in RE lessons and during acts of collective worship. As the school is situated in an area of mostly white British families the school has made a strenuous effort to educate the children in the understanding of different faiths and backgrounds. This has been done not only through the teaching about different faiths in religious education lessons but also through the establishment of links with schools that have a very different ethnic mix. The home, school and parish links are very effective and help to ensure that all children receive a good all round catholic education. Pupils are actively encouraged to support the less fortunate in the local community and to become active Catholic citizens. This is reflected in the number of charities that the school supports. These are not just the Catholic charities such as CAFOD and St Joseph's Penny, but also other local charities such as Macmillan's nurses.

THE QUALITY OF WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

Christ the King Primary School provides an exceptionally warm welcome for all pupils and parents. Parents were keen to express how they all feel included and that any concerns they have are quickly and sensitively dealt with. A clear witness to Christ being at the heart of this community is evident through excellent communication, relationships, and a joyful approach to daily life. This was evidenced at the start of the school day when the inspectors witnessed the happy and confident way in which the children entered the school. The development of the school's new motto was undertaken by all members of the school community. Children love come to school. As one child put it "I love Christ the King as everyone looks after each other and no one is left out". Parents spoke very highly of the way in which the school made new parents feel welcome. They stated that the "seeds and gardeners" programme in which each Year 6 child takes responsibility for a new reception child when they enrol at the start of the school year has helped to create lifelong friendships. Transition to high school is managed well as the school actively liaises with the local Catholic high school and other schools in the area so that all children are provided with the opportunity to visit their chosen school before the end of year 6 and those children who need additional support are provided with extra opportunities to either visit the school or become familiar with the staff who are to teach them.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

The staff and pupils demonstrate a very high level of respect, care and service to others. This was witnessed in all classes where children feel confident and secure enough to tend to their personal needs without interrupting the learning. The school ensures that all pupils and staff feel safe and are treated with respect and dignity. This was evidenced in the way that members of staff cared for children who were hurt or unwell. The outreach support provided by the school is such that the needs of parents and young families are met in a structured and sensitive manner. All pupils and staff feel safe and free to express their opinions and know that these will be valued. This was seen during discussions with the children who expressed their opinions about the variety of opportunities provided for them and how they felt empowered to express their opinions.

Calm support is offered by sensitive adults when children have difficulty remaining on task. Such role models ensure learning and good relationships, develop. The school stresses the importance of reaching out beyond its own community so that children feel part of God's world. The charity work is a living example of this as children support CAFOD, St Joseph's Penny as well as providing ongoing support to Macmillan's and other charities chosen by the children themselves. The children from Polish families are supported well in school through the use of pupil premium funding which has been used to appoint Polish speaking teaching and welfare assistants. Sex and relationship education is taught using the recently introduced "Journey in Love" scheme. The school provides additional support for looked after pupils and SEND pupils through the provision of bespoke packages, the use of outside agencies, in one case, support from a Caritas social worker.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS GOOD

Prayer is at the heart of the school community and pupils are provided with a range of opportunities to develop and enrich their prayer life. This was evidenced in the celebration the school had for the feast of Christ the King where all children were presented with a set of rosary beads. All staff are trained and supported in furthering the prayer life of the school, so that teachers are confident at leading collective worship. However, this could be further enhanced by ensuring that all staff thoroughly understand and know traditional prayers of the Church. There is clear evidence that children are becoming more involved in the planning and delivery of their own acts of worship. This was seen in Year 5 where children were helped to plan and develop appropriate child led acts of collective worship. The parish priest is a regular visitor to the school and he provides opportunities for children to actively participate in the celebrations of the Mass. The children pray with reverence and have knowledge of both the traditional prayers of the church as well as being able to create their own. The GIFT pupil chaplaincy team are also beginning to play a more significant role in the development of the prayer life of the school. This was seen both during the morning act of collective worship and the key stage assembly witnessed during the inspection. Here the pupils recited familiar prayers, reflected quietly and sang joyfully. They also composed their own prayers and took part in drama activities to illustrate the gospel.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

All staff act as excellent role models for children and help them in recognising that God is with them in every aspect of school life. Adults and pupils witness to the mission statement of the school, which informs everything and is explicit in policies and the lived experience of the whole community. Adults act as role models of the school's mission and values and as key promoters of the ethos of the school for the pupils and the school community's witness to the wider community. The staff and pupils feel confident and secure in their witness to Christ, the Gospel and the teachings of the Church. Pupils are confident in witnessing to the beliefs and values of a Catholic community and are actively encouraged and supported in being proactive citizens who participate in the decision-making processes at a local and national level. This is seen in the way the school promotes support for various charities so as to promote support for the 'common good'.

Relationships are outstanding at Christ the King and a strong sense of teamwork and belonging exist. The inspectors noted at all times that children are very respectful of each other and that their behaviour was outstanding.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- To continue to implement the "Come and See" and the new sex and relationship education scheme.
- To develop of a more coherent SEF and RE action plan.
- To enhance the work of the governing body through the provision of additional opportunities for them to be involved in the monitoring of standards in religious education.

Department for Education

23rd November 2016

Dear Pupils

Thank you for making our visit to Christ the King so enjoyable when we came to inspect your school for the Bishop. We really enjoyed being with you. Thank you for looking after us so well and helping us to feel very welcome. Christ the King is a good Catholic school.

We enjoyed being part of your lessons and were sorry not to see everyone. Thank you for showing us so much of your work and activities. We could see that you are very proud of your school and all that you have achieved together. We were particularly impressed that you thought that the most important part of your learning and life together was that you *'felt connected to one another as all part of God's family'*. I know the Bishop will be delighted to hear this.

Your teachers are really helping you to learn very well and we were very impressed by your excellent relationships and behaviour. It was good to see so much of your new motto coming through everything you are learning; your relationships and the special way you make everyone feel valued. It is wonderful to see a school made up of pupils and adults who get on so well together so that everyone is cared for as a member of God's family. This is a true reflection of being part of a Catholic community where everyone is welcome and has a place.

You have started using your new RE programme and are doing very well. You are a very creative school and we were most impressed by the way you work together co-operatively in lessons. The prayer services we saw were good and uplifting experiences. Your teachers have started to develop an excellent way of teaching RE using the 'Come and See' scheme and we have asked them to continue this with you so as to help you all understand more about your faith and relationship with God. We have also suggested that the school governing body continues the work they do to help improve your knowledge of the Catholic faith.

God bless you all

Yours sincerely,

Mr A J Sowerby
Mrs M Kwiatkowski
(Section 48 Inspectors)

Department for Formation, Office for Education

Summary Report to Parents

On 23rd November 2016 the school was inspected in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

The full report has been made available to the school and can also be accessed via both the school website and the Education section on the website of the Diocese of Salford.

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