

**INSPECTION REPORT Holy Trinity RC Primary School**

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Inspection date 11th July 2014

Reporting Inspector Sister Judith Russi  
Mrs Diane Bohan

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

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Type of School Catholic Primary  
 URN 119652  
 Age range of pupils 4-11 years  
 Number on roll 105  
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body  
 Chair of Governors Mrs Suzanne Barnes  
 Head teacher Mrs Mary Lyle  
 Date of previous inspection 2008

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<b>The Inspection judgements are:</b>	<b>Grade</b>	Explanation of the Grades  1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3 = Satisfactory
Overall effectiveness of the school	2	
The quality of Catholic Leadership	2	
The quality of the Word of God community	2	
The quality of the Welcome community	1	
The quality of Welfare	1	
The quality of Worship	1	
The quality of Witness	1	

*The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements*

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

Holy Trinity is a smaller than average-sized Roman Catholic primary school which serves the parish of Holy Trinity and surrounding area. The greater majority of pupils are of White British background. 84% of pupils are Roman Catholic. The majority of staff are also Roman Catholic. The proportion of pupils supported through school action is average. The proportion supported through school action plus or with a statement of special educational need is below average. The proportion of pupils eligible for the pupil premium grant is below the national average. The school meets the government's current floor standards, which sets the minimum expectations for pupils' attainment and progress. The school has gained an award for being a Healthy School and achieved an Eco Award for its focus on stewardship and care for the environment.

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

The Governing body and staff of Holy Trinity have made significant progress since the last inspection in the building up a Catholic learning community which is good with many outstanding features. The school has developed considerably since the previous inspection offering the children a Christ centred learning community which permeates all aspects of school life. The recently revised Mission Statement *"To go forward together in Christ, respecting our neighbour and striving for excellence"* is clearly a driving force for the community. The children receive a Catholic education which provides a global focus so that they recognise their place in the world as future stewards who can influence, change and contribute to the common good for all people. The leadership team's passion for learning and personal development ensures that all pupils receive an integrated Gospel based formation and education. The leadership of the school are clearly striving for excellence. Parents pointed out that they felt there had been significant improvements over the past two years especially in the very good relationships, warm of welcome and access to the school. Parents felt that the ethos of the school was seen by the wider community as being a *"School which is an oasis of hope for the community"*.

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

- The behaviour, warmth of welcome and general climate of the school is outstanding.
- The care and welfare of all within the school is outstanding.
- The development of prayer, worship and the newly formed pupil Chaplaincy team is outstanding.

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

The Governors and leadership team have made significant improvements since the last inspection in the learning environment as a whole. The strong leadership of the Head teacher is recognised by staff and parents as being of a very high standard and has resulted in her team being highly motivated, focused and driving up standards in a creative and often inspirational manner. Their unity of purpose and focus is a great strength for the whole school, resulting in a joyful and very hard working team of teachers and support staff. The Governing body are highly committed to taking the school forward. Governors recognise the importance and need to be more rigorous in their monitoring and ongoing evaluation of the progress of the school. The Chair of Governors clearly recognised the need for further

training and support from the diocese for governors to help in their task of moving the school from good to outstanding in all areas.

Continuing professional development, mentoring/support at all levels has improved and developed significantly since the previous inspection. Pupil leadership has been further enhanced through the introduction of pupil Chaplains who are now ready to take on a greater degree of leadership. The school has identified that pupil leadership will be further developed through pupil involvement at Governor and senior leadership levels through appropriate attendance at meetings.

The leadership of RE is recognised as being of the utmost importance and is presently led by the Head teacher. A member of staff is being trained up to assumed this key area of leadership in the new academic year.

### **THE QUALITY OF WORD IS GOOD**

The school is using the RE scheme, *The Way, The Truth and The Life* as its main framework along with a wider range of support materials to further enhance the children's learning. Teaching and learning was found to be at least good and in some cases outstanding. A review of the use of assessment for learning, success criteria and diagnostic marking in RE linked to personalised targets would enable pupils to have a clearer understanding of how to achieve their next steps for learning. In the best lessons learning was clearly differentiated and highly creative teaching and learning strategies enabled pupils to work independently. In the majority of cases teaching assistance were purposefully engaged in the teaching and learning of the class. The development of language in RE and higher order questioning skills would enable all pupils to achieve at a higher level. A greater degree of challenge for the most able pupils would also assist learning and enable progress from good to outstanding. Pupils were confident in using Bibles and researching passages on their own. Pupils learn about a range of other faiths through the RE scheme. Good progress has been made in mapping and evaluation of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education across all key stages and is being delivered in an appropriate manner across the curriculum. Pupils were readily able to talk about the beliefs and values of the Catholic community and were proud to explain or refer to the 5W's without prompting. Behaviour for learning was found to be outstanding in all lessons and around the school. The Religious Education budget is set according to the needs of the curriculum and the Catholic life of the school. All classes receive a minimum of 10% RE curriculum time.

### **THE QUALITY OF WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING**

Holy Trinity school is outstanding in its welcome and care for one another and visitors. The school actively seeks to engage with and support members of the community and this is particularly appreciated by the parents who attended assemblies and school activities in large numbers. Parents spoke of their love for the school. They said "*We are always treated as family and with respect.*" Parents felt they were well informed and very appreciative of the welcome that was being extended to them. They particularly appreciated the fact that the school was so confident about its Catholicity. The pupil's sense of ownership and responsibility for what happens in their school was outstanding as they were clearly very proud of their school. Pupils play a key role supporting the younger children and those newly arrived in the area. Hospitality, said parents is always outstanding. They felt that they were heard and their views welcomed. Members of staff at all levels were found to be proactive in ensuring a respectful and warm welcome. Frequent activities take place where Holy Trinity

welcomes the local community into the school such as, concerts for senior citizens, past pupils on work experience and the Building Bridges project who assist with pupils understanding and appreciation of other faiths and cultures.

### **THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING**

Holy Trinity demonstrates a high level of respect and care for each other and gives priority to ensuring that every child feels safe and valued. The strong emphasis on the theme “Who is my neighbour?” is lived out across the school and seen through the buddy system with the Year 5 and 6 pupils caring for the younger children. The recent development of the “Gardener” initiative has developed the buddy system even further. When asked about bullying, pupils stated that it was not an issue as everyone knew exactly what to do if there were any problems. The school’s provision for safe-guarding and keeping children safe is outstanding. The provision for SRE is mainly through the ‘In the Beginning’ programme, which is further enhanced in Year 6. Pupils and parents spoke highly of the pastoral support for all. Parents felt that whenever an issue arose it was dealt with quickly and when needed other agencies engaged to assist. Quality before and after school care is provide for families needing extra support. The school actively reaches out to those in need at home and abroad, through a wide variety of charity work which includes St. Josephs Penny (Caritas), Medi equip, Sunshine Homes for blind children and CAFOD. Grandmas have formed a knitting group in the school to teach the children to make blankets for the local hospice.

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

The Head teacher has invested considerably in the development of prayer and worship throughout the school. Prayer and worship is creative, and of a high quality. Times of prayer and reflection during RE lessons, lunch time is being led by pupils and pupil chaplains. Staff and pupils are confident in leading prayer and worship. All year groups have a clear understanding of the liturgical life of the school. A wide variety of opportunities exist to enrich the prayer life of the school such as lunchtime Rosary club, personal prayer books and the Friday meditation time. The parish priest is a frequent visitor to the school and supports the pupils liturgical and prayer development. Pupils, staff and parents expressed their commitment to the school especially in the outreach to families through experiences such as school Masses and creative liturgical celebrations at key points of the year. The school actively support parents and parish in the sacramental programme. Prayer and worship are well resourced and training and support is ongoing for both pupils and staff.

### **THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING**

Staff and pupils are clearly very confident in witnessing to their faith. The confidence and background knowledge of staff concerning the beliefs and values of the Church has been significantly strengthened through the CCRS programme undertaken by all teaching staff. This was clearly evident in the outstanding relationships across the school, displays and children’s work throughout. Children were found to be confident and willing to speak about their faith and why it was important to them. They were able to link home, school, parish with ease. This was clearly evident from the parents who spoke of the way in which their children talked about their faith and even challenged them at home. *“My daughter soon tells me if I am not taking care of God’s creation!”* Parents were enthusiastic about the impact of the pupil chaplaincy programme and how it had significantly influenced their children. The high level of investment in the new chaplaincy initiative is clearly impacting on pupil

perceptions of the importance of witnessing to their faith. Holy Trinity clearly witnesses to Christ's love, justice, forgiveness and compassion.

#### **AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:**

- In order to take the leadership from good to outstanding further develop the understanding of roles and responsibilities for all governors so that they are able to engage at a deeper strategic level.
- Continue the development of assessment in the RE programme, through the setting of personalised pupil targets for each topic, success criteria and open ended topic challenges to allow for greater challenge for all pupils.
- Continue to develop the already very good pupil Chaplaincy programme to enable the team to play a great part in the life of the parish.



July 14<sup>th</sup> 2014

Dear Pupils

Thank you so much for the wonderful welcome you gave us when we came to visit you. Much of what is happening in your school is good and in many areas it is outstanding. This is because you are really striving to live up to your challenging mission statement.

Your work is of a good standard and we could clearly see that you take your learning very seriously and are proud of your achievements. To help you develop even further your teachers are going to help you with your RE targets and assessments making sure that everyone is being challenged to be the very best they can be.

You are working hard in your RE lessons and your families told us how seriously you take your learning. We could see that you can make connections between what you are learning in RE with other areas of the curriculum and your daily lives. Pupil Chaplains you are clearly growing and developing in your new roles. We hope that you will also be able to take an active leadership role in your parish.

Thank you for letting us share so much of what you are doing. We were very impressed by your beautiful grounds and the way you care for your school.

Thank you for inviting us to take part.

God bless you all.

Yours sincerely

Sr Judith Russi

(Section 48 Inspector)



### **Summary Report to Parents**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014 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.

### **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL**

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