

**INSPECTION REPORT**

**Holy Family RC Primary School**  
**Longfield Street, Wigan, WN2 1EL**

Inspection date 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013

Reporting Inspectors Mrs Jackie McNally

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

Type of School Catholic Primary  
 URN 106491  
 Age range of pupils 4-11 years  
 Number on roll 137  
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body  
 Chair of Governors Mr Paul Anderton  
 Headteacher Mrs Julie McDonald  
 Religious Education Co-ordinator Mrs Collette Hawkrigg

<b>The Inspection judgements are:</b>	<b>Grade</b>	Explanation of the Grades  1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
Overall effectiveness of the school	<b>1</b>	
The quality of Catholic Leadership	1	
The quality of the Word of God community	1	
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 Family RC Primary School is a smaller than average primary school which serves the parish of Holy Family. There are 137 pupils on roll, the majority of whom are white British. The most significant faith group is Roman Catholic. The number of children entitled to free school meals is below the national average at 12% and the percentage of children on the additional needs register is 19% which is in line with the national average. The majority of children reside in the Whelley Ward. Although levels of mobility are low, this has increased in recent years due to the construction of new housing in the area.

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL**

Holy Family is an outstanding Catholic school where the uniqueness of every child is valued and nurtured. The Headteacher and Governors lead the school with a clear vision and they are supported in their mission by a dedicated and committed staff. A calm, positive, welcoming atmosphere permeates every aspect of the school and this creates a secure and happy learning environment which all members of the community are justifiably proud of. Children's behaviour is exemplary and at all times during the inspection the children were a credit to the school and their parents. The teaching of Religious Education is outstanding and the children are provided with a rich variety of learning experiences. Links with the New Hope Orphanage in Kenya provide the children with opportunities to appreciate how they can help others who are less fortunate. The Governors, staff, parents and children all see themselves as belonging to a family and this is a strength of the school.

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

- **The ethos, relationships, behaviour and care for all within the school is outstanding.**
- **The leadership and vision of the school at all levels is outstanding.**
- **The school environment which reflects Holy Family as being a school which bears witness to the Catholic faith.**

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

The quality of Catholic Leadership at all levels is Outstanding. Governors of the school are well informed on the Catholic life of the school through the Headteacher's reports and through regular visits into school. The school is aware of its strengths and its next steps through rigorous monitoring and evaluation. The leadership of the school clearly recognises 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 school successfully fulfils its mission to develop the potential of each individual by valuing their uniqueness and celebrating their talents. The mission of the Catholic Church in school is a priority and is clearly evident. Teamwork is central to the school's success and this is a strength of the school. The mission statement is clearly displayed and understood and underpins the work of the school. Similarly, the children's 5 W's are displayed around the school and the children have a good understanding of what they mean. Pupil leadership has been developed through the School Council and Eco Club. Pupils were found to be confident and enthusiastic about taking on responsibilities. Parents feel that the staff and headteacher care about the children a great deal, and value their hard work.

## **THE QUALITY OF THE WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY IS OUTSTANDING**

Teachers and teaching assistants are enthusiastic and committed to teaching RE and demonstrate creative and interesting teaching and learning strategies. There was evidence of good questioning skills by teachers which challenged pupils to think more deeply. Pupils were keen to learn and demonstrated good subject knowledge. The children had excellent independent strategies and throughout the school they approached

Religious Education activities with confidence and enthusiasm. In the Foundation Stage the children demonstrated excellent levels of subject knowledge and teaching was well planned with excellent use of resources. Levels of attainment in Key Stage One are outstanding due to inspirational teaching, high expectations and the provision of engaging activities. In Lower Key Stage Two, behaviour for learning was excellent and children demonstrated high levels of independence when engaged in the group activities. The use of ICT in Upper Key Stage 2 was excellent, providing children with the opportunity to consider how they spread the word of God through email, writing an article for the website and videoing their interviews. These interesting and engaging activities clearly motivated and engaged the children. In all classes the children produced work of high quality, shared their views and listened to each other with respect and interest. In every class, support staff were used effectively to support children and promote further learning.

Various samples of children's work from across the school were looked at during the inspection. Evidence from children's books and the class evidence file showed that children were provided with a rich variety of activities. Work set was at an appropriate level of pupil development and standards were broadly similar to those of literacy. Links were being made with the Church's liturgical year and the Sacramental Programme. The school correctly identified that they need to develop differentiation further. All books were marked but in order to further develop marking, children need to be provided with comments which invite them to explore their faith further or provide them with next steps in their learning. Behaviour for learning throughout the school is outstanding. Pupils are clearly enthusiastic and keen to learn. Pupils clearly enjoy talking about their faith background and felt at ease doing so.

The RE co-ordinator, fully supported by the Headteacher, Governing Body and Parish Priest has enabled the school to develop a vision about how RE should be taught in the school. Standards in RE are monitored and the senior leadership team observe lessons and provide constructive feedback. The co-ordinator has collected evidence of work in RE and has correctly identified the strengths of the school and the priorities of development. Links between home and school are strong and the parents, Governors and children are proud to be part of Holy Family school.

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

There is a positive, welcoming culture which permeates the whole school and this is clearly demonstrated by the staff, governors and children. All members of the school community are proud of their school and it is clear from discussions with staff, parents and children that they feel they are valued members of the school family. The staff are a strong cohesive team and their support for each other is exemplified through their actions. As a result of the strong Catholic ethos the children show respect and consideration for each other and the importance of the dignity of the individual is clearly evident.

A calm, caring atmosphere pervades the school, yet children are excited about their learning and keen to share their knowledge with visitors. Children's behaviour is outstanding and relationships between children and staff are strong, bearing witness to Christ being at the heart of the community. The development of pupils' personal qualities is of paramount importance to the staff.

The displays throughout the school assist in contributing to the warm and welcoming atmosphere, whilst at the same time celebrating children's work in the religious curriculum. Parents are regularly invited to school assemblies and as such they feel that they play an integral role in the spiritual and academic life of their child.

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

Staff and children demonstrate a very high level of care and respect for others. The Christ-centred ethos of the school fosters a culture where children feel confident enough to express their views and share their experiences, knowing that others in the class will value and respect them. There is a genuine concern from all staff for the welfare of all pupils and every individual is valued and nurtured. Parents praised the support and guidance that was given to children, particularly those with additional needs.

Children learn that it is important to help others, particularly those less fortunate. The school supports local, national and worldwide causes and has a link with the New Hope Orphanage in Kenya. The children regularly fundraise, write letters and send essential items to the children in the orphanage. The most recent project the children have been involved in was to raise money for a watering hole. The children are also involved in environmental projects both in the school grounds, the church garden and the local community. These are supported by the Eco Club and encourage stewardship of God's creation.

Behaviour in the school is consistently outstanding. Pupils spoke about how much they enjoy being at school and how much they like their teachers and friends. Children have a clear understanding of procedures for addressing any bullying or unkind behaviour and the school council talked about how they had organised a 'worry box' so that children could highlight their worries. Parents said that any minor issues raised with the school were dealt with quickly and efficiently.

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

Prayer and worship form a central part of school life and all members of the school community gather together to celebrate collective worship during assemblies and school masses. In each classroom there is a focal point for worship and during the day there are a range of prayer opportunities for children. The Early Years and Key Stage 1 staff have worked with the children to create a beautiful Easter Garden in the outdoor area and this provides an additional focal point for the younger children.

Parents say that they enjoy having the opportunity to be part of the worshipping community during school masses and assemblies. The staff, children and parents all commented upon the excellent support provided by Fr. Kevin Foulkes who is a regular visitor to the school.

The school assembly that was observed was an excellent example of the quality of worship within the school. The assembly was creative and imaginative and provided opportunities for role play, singing, prayer and reflection. The older children talked about how they had been involved in the planning and organisation of the assembly and they clearly enjoyed this responsibility. The class based collective worship was of a high quality and provided the children with the opportunity to pray in a calm, reflective environment. In order to develop worship further the school now needs to increase pupil involvement so that by the end of Key Stage 2 the children are able to plan, write and deliver acts of daily collective worship within the classroom.

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

The staff and children clearly demonstrate and witness to justice, compassion, reconciliation, love and forgiveness in their relationships. Throughout the inspection the children were observed to treat each other with respect and consideration and at all times the children's behaviour was outstanding. The relationships between staff and children are positive and children state that they feel safe and happy in school. The staff and pupils feel confident and secure in their witness to Christ, the Gospel and the teachings of the Church. The Gospel values are central to the life of the school and throughout the inspection the relationships between the staff and children bore witness to these values.

The school Mission Statement: 'We are all a caring family. We pray, learn and grow together' underpins the whole ethos of the school and is shared by the whole school community. This school clearly celebrates and bears witness to the fact it is a 'family'.

### **AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- **Further develop marking so that children are provided with opportunities to reflect upon their next steps in learning.**
- **Provide pupils with the skills to take on a greater leadership role in the planning and delivery of collective worship.**

Holy Family Catholic Primary School,  
Longfield Street,  
New Springs,  
Aspull,  
Wigan  
WN2 1EL

Dear Children,

Thank you so much for welcoming me into your school. I really enjoyed spending the day with you and I am pleased to be able to tell you that you have an outstanding school.

I really enjoyed watching your lessons because your teachers planned such exciting activities for you. You have excellent teachers and teaching assistants who are helping you to achieve the highest standards in everything you do. They work extremely hard and you told me that you really like your teachers and the lessons they plan for you. Your behaviour in lessons and around school is excellent and it is obvious that you all care for each other.

I particularly enjoyed watching your assembly. Well done Year 5 and 6 for working so hard to plan and produce the assembly; you included drama, singing and a time for reflection. You told me that you really enjoyed planning this assembly and I have suggested to the school that you could have more opportunities to plan your own collective worship.

Your school has a lovely Catholic atmosphere and both the staff and children show that they care for each other. You should be very proud of yourselves and your school.

God bless.

Mrs McNally

## **SUMMARY REPORT TO PARENTS**

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 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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## **AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:**

- Further develop marking so that children are provided with opportunities to reflect upon their next steps in learning.
- To provide pupils with the skills to take on a leadership role in the planning and delivery of collective worship.