

INSPECTION REPORT

Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School,
Urmston, Trafford, M41 5AH

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Inspection date 4th December 2013

Reporting Inspector Mrs Susan Gedzielewski
 Mr Brendan Hennessy

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

Type of School	Primary
URN	106358
Age range of pupils	4-11 years
Number on roll	210
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Mr Stephen McGrath
Headteacher	Miss Sue Molloy
Religious Education Co-ordinators	Miss Sue Molloy
Date of previous inspection	June 2007

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the Grades 1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
Overall effectiveness of the school	1	
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

Our Lady of the Rosary is a Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School in the Diocese of Salford situated in Urmston, Trafford. The school serves the parish of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Urmston. There are 210 pupils on roll of whom 93% are baptised Roman Catholic. Although there is no nursery provision, there is a privately run pre-school that operates on site. The majority of pupils in the school live in privately owned property with a small number living in rented accommodation. There are ten teachers all of whom are Catholics; seven have the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. A significant building project has been ongoing since 2011 to improve the learning environment and school grounds. However, there continues to be a lack of internal space and the school works effectively within the restricted accommodation.

Attainment on entry is average, but children leave having made good progress and results are significantly above national average. The school is predominantly White British with only 3% of pupils having English as an additional language. 3% of learners claim free school meals. The school currently has 30 children on the special educational needs register. The school has recently been awarded the prestigious Leading Parent Partnership Award, NACE challenge Award, Healthy Schools Award, Active Mark, Arts Mark, International Schools Award, Quality Mark amongst many other areas of recognition.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING

Our Lady of the Rosary is an outstanding Catholic school offering children a rich faith experience which permeates all aspects of school life. The school is well led by a very committed Headteacher and is supported by an effective governing body. The school thrives on a distributed leadership model, where all members of the school community have an impact on the success of the school. There is a strong sense of ownership and vision across the community, governors, staff team and pupils and their families who are unified and guided by a living and interactive Mission Statement. Good relationships exist between the school and the parish.

The children receive a Catholic education that is inspirational and challenging. Monitoring of the Religious Education curriculum has ensured that there has been significant development since the last inspection. The celebration of Mass, prayer services and assemblies is well prepared and gives the children many opportunities to develop and enrich their prayer life. Parents expressed a high level of commitment to the school because it is a Catholic school recognising that their children were respected and valued for their unique gifts and qualities. The development of the chaplaincy team has enhanced the spiritual life of the school through thought provoking presentations and activities.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- Inspirational Leadership at every level is outstanding.
- Consistently high expectations in Religious Education and pupils are inspired by exceptional teaching.
- Outstanding Chaplaincy is having a significant impact on the life of the school.
- Pupil voice and leadership is seen as an essential part of decision-making at every level and is outstanding.
- Reflective and meditative prayer life within the school is outstanding.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

The dedicated Headteacher is energised by the task of leading this school and is a source of inspiration for the whole community. The school thrives on a distributed leadership model, where all members of the school community have an impact on the success of the school. There is a strong sense of ownership and vision across the community, because pupils and staff are empowered to lead and contribute to the decision making process. Senior leaders are committed to supporting staff in their professional and spiritual development. New members of staff are warmly welcomed and supported as they are inducted into the school family. The governors are supportive, proactive and committed to the aims of the school. Their responsibilities are undertaken effectively and they ensure that the mission of the Church is evident in all aspects of school life. Alongside the Headteacher, they have effectively managed finances to ensure significant improvements have been made to the premises. The Chair of Governors works closely with the Headteacher to ensure all the governors are aware of school improvement priorities and standards of attainment. The views of the parents are sought through informal discussion and questionnaires. Rigorous monitoring has led to improvements in curriculum RE, learning, collective worship, marking and assessment. SMSC education is fully embedded across all areas of the curriculum.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD OF GOD IS OUTSTANDING

The school has adopted a flexible approach to the RE scheme, The Way, The Truth and The Life. They use the scheme in a creative way to enhance their outstanding RE curriculum. Pupils are inspired by exceptional teaching and consistently high expectations across the school. From an early age, children are challenged by the big questions and the majority demonstrate a deep understanding of religious concepts. For example, in lower key stage 1, where the children were studying the Holy Trinity, they demonstrated an excellent understanding and they were able to share this understanding with others in class and around school. They made a Trinity bracelet and were encouraged by the teacher to share their knowledge of the Trinity in school and at home using the bracelet to illustrate. The majority of learning in school is practical in nature and collaborative group work is a strong feature. Pupils are secure at leading their own learning; cooperation, tolerance and listening to others are strengths. Working in groups, the children in lower key stage 2 for example, took one of the ten commandments, wrote a group Homily on their commandment and then presented it to another group. The listening group then had to present what they had heard to the class. Religious language is promoted effectively and pupils were confident in their use of religious terms. Teachers have strong subject knowledge and lessons are effectively organised and managed. Teachers' talents are used wherever possible to enhance the curriculum. For example, a talented linguist in upper key stage 1 prayed with the children in French during the inspection. Teaching Assistants effectively interacted with pupils and supported their learning to a high standard. Marking is moving the learning on and pupils are given time to respond to teacher comments, although more could be done in this area to ensure best practice. Pupils Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education was found to be outstanding and throughout all aspects of school life. Pupils learn about other faiths through religious education and assemblies.

THE QUALITY OF WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

Our Lady of the Rosary is a very welcoming community where everyone feels valued and included. Pupils and parents stated that they feel individually important within the community. Parents feel able to come into school to discuss concerns both informally and at the parents meetings. The school continually evaluates its links with parents and sets challenging partnership targets; and has recently been awarded the prestigious Leading Parent Partnership Award. Parents praised the school ethos, "What can we do for your child" that is constantly being communicated. New families and pupils are welcomed into the school community through a variety of activities to ensure a smooth induction. The vast majority chose to send their child to the school because they knew from other parents that as well as high academic standards their children will be cared for in an atmosphere of love and inclusion. The children are happy and secure within the school. The pupils' sense of ownership and responsibility for what happens in their school is outstanding. Children know what to do if they have worries and all felt bullying was not an issue because of the clear procedures in place. The Chaplaincy team is inspirational and they work extremely hard to

welcome and support others. Pupil budding of younger children is exemplary. All members of staff demonstrate a keen sense of community affiliation and the quality of relationships exemplifies respect for all members of the school community.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

Parents spoke highly of the pastoral support their child receives in school. The mission statement reflects the ethos of the school by showing love and respect for everybody in all they say and do. Behaviour in the classrooms and around the school is exemplary. Pupils are very happy in school and feel safe and secure, they are proud of their school. They are confident that teachers will treat their concerns seriously. Excellent attention is given to conflict resolution and reconciliation, so children maintain good friendships and relationships. All staff follow procedures set out in the schools behaviour policy and there are a various reward schemes in operation and celebrated in assembly. The school promotes high attendance and punctuality.

The quality of transition is such that all children quickly feel part of the school community. The Reception / Year 6 budding system is very well regarded by parents and pupils. Provision for Sex and Relationship Education and drugs education is integrated into the curriculum and delivered in partnership with health professionals, but more needs to be done to share this work with parents and governors. Teachers are approachable and parents feel able to talk with them about issues that concern them. The school works closely with external agencies to support those parents who need extra support. Pupil Premium funding is used to nurture pupils and to help them overcome social barriers. All statutory policies and procedures are in place and rigorously adhered to due to regular training for staff and monitoring of practice. Playtimes and lunchtimes are peaceful and calm. The promotion of pupil responsibility is a strong feature of the school, pupil voice and leadership is evident at all levels.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

Children are provided with a range of opportunities to develop and enrich their prayer life including a class attending a parish mass every fortnight and mass being celebrated in school every half term, class assemblies, the rosary and classroom prayer. The spiritual life of the children is held in high regard with pupils afforded opportunities every day to be involved in collective worship. All classes pray together in the morning, at lunchtime and at the end of the day. During the inspection, the Rosary group that meet each Friday before school was well attended by pupils, staff and parents. Organised by the School Chaplaincy Team, this group meet on an additional Wednesday morning during Lent and Advent. Children are reverent and respectful during prayers. All children are encouraged to speak to God in their own way. There are focal points in classrooms for prayer.

Whole school assemblies reflect on personal faith, moral issues, festivals, special occasions and other religions and cultures. Children respond in an extremely positive way to collect worship opportunities. During inspection the assembly led by Headteacher and Chaplaincy Team was awe-inspiring and presented with confidence. The Story and prayers were accompanied by appropriate pictures on the whiteboard and the hymns sung and reflections read, enhanced the quality of collective worship. Teachers are confident in planning and leading prayer and worship. Year 6 and Year 1 collective worships were pupil-centred, creative, inclusive and relevant. The school actively prepares pupils to take a leadership role in engaging with families and the parish in prayer and worship. The religious life of the school has been enhanced by the established Chaplaincy team. The adult Chaplain is having a high level of impact on pupils' spiritual development and is well regarded by the whole school community.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

Staff and pupils feel confident and secure in witnessing to the beliefs and values of a Christian community and are actively involved in shaping and evaluating the Catholic life of the school. The Senior Leadership team and governors demonstrate a deep commitment to the Church's mission in education. An explicit Catholic culture permeates the whole of the school and this is extended out into the wider community, although the school would like to build upon good practice and extend the work they do as 'builders of the kingdom'. Pupils are actively involved in the decision making process at Our Lady of the Rosary and proactively support activities in the parish and local community. The school is very effective in encouraging and supporting its pupils to develop a relationship with God. Holy Week is the highlight of the school year with all members of the school community bearing witness and taking part in collective and reflective prayer sessions including The Stations of the Cross and Passion Plays in the school prayer garden. It fosters a spirit of awe and wonder through religious education and the broader curriculum. The children clearly demonstrated justice, compassion and love in their daily lives and it is clear that they are witnesses to Christ's forgiveness and reconciliation. The pupils are keen supporters of local and international charities. Observations during the inspection showed that children treated each other with respect, care, patience, concern and with dignity. The Year 5 and Year 6 Chaplaincy Teams are having an outstanding impact on the life of the school and are extremely well led by a dedicated adult chaplain.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Continue to develop best practice in marking by ensuring improvement comments impact on the learning.
- Further develop the work undertaken as a witnessing community by building upon activities already initiated locally and internationally.

Wednesday 4th December 2013

Dear Pupils

Thank you so much for the wonderful welcome you gave us when we came to visit you. We really enjoyed learning about all the wonderful things you do at Our Lady of the Rosary. Your school is an outstanding school in every way. This is because you and your teachers are working so hard to always do your very best.

We enjoyed being part of your lessons and were sorry not to see everyone. Your creative ideas are very good and we could see that you work very cooperatively in groups. We particularly enjoyed talking to you about your wonderful school and looking at your work. Thank you for showing us so much of what you have been doing.

It was wonderful to see how you participated in Collective Worship, the drama and singing, and the excellent work of the Chaplaincy team. Your behaviour was exemplary and your prayers were uplifting. We were very impressed with the number of children, parents and teachers who attended the Rosary service before the school day began. The prayer and Stations of the Cross gardens are a special feature of your school and we are delighted you use them regularly.

Your teachers are keen to help you develop the Catholic life of your school even further and to do this they are going to invite you to consider how you can develop the work you do in the local community and at home to teach others about Jesus. We are extremely pleased with the presentation and the work in your Religious Education books. However, we have also asked your teachers to make changes to the marking in your RE books to help you understand a little more how to improve your work. Continue to work hard in school.

God bless you all and have a really happy term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Susan Gedzielewski and Mr Brendan Hennessy

(Section 48 Inspectors)

Summary Report to Parents

On 4th December 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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