

INSPECTION REPORT

ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOLBOMBE DRIVE, BURNLEY. BB104BH

Inspection date	17th June 2013
Reporting Inspector	Sister Judith Russi Mr Martin Johnson

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

Type of School	Catholic Primary
URN	105347
Age range of pupils	4-11 years
Number on roll	295
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Mrs Ellen Daley
Head teacher	Mr Ian Jones
Date of previous inspection	March 2010

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	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

St Mary's is an above average sized Catholic primary school serving the parish of St Mary's. The Governing body is newly appointed and there has been a change of parish priest since the last inspection. The school is situated in an area with a high level of social and economic deprivation. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for the pupil premium is above average. The proportion of pupils supported at School Action is well below average. The proportion supported by School Action Plus or with a Statement of Special Educational Needs is well above average. 1 pupil is statemented and 34 are on the SEND register. 21 pupils have English as an additional language. The school is home to the 'Place 2 Be', a charity that provides support services for families in need. The majority of pupils are White British but the school draws from a wide range of minority ethnic groups. The school exceeds the government's current floor standards.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD

The recently formed Governing body and staff of St Mary's have dedicated themselves to the building up of a Catholic learning community which is good with many outstanding features. The overall Catholic life of the school has developed considerably since the previous inspection offering the children a faith experience which permeates all aspects of school life. The recently revised Mission Statement '*Love one another*' and aims and objectives, are clearly a driving force for the community. The option for those in the greatest need is considerable and a strength of the school. The children receive a Catholic education which enables them to understand their place in the world as future stewards who can influence, change and contribute to the common good for all people. The Governors, Head teacher and leadership team lead the school with a vision and sense of purpose recognising the dignity and value of every member of the community. The passion for learning and personal development ensures that all pupils receive an integrated Gospel based formation and education. The leadership of the school have a clear understanding of their next steps as the school strives for excellence. Parents pointed out that they felt there had been significant improvements over the past two years especially in the very good relationships at all levels. Parents felt that the ethos of the school '*comes home*' with the children who are at ease talking about their faith in relation to daily life.

KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- **The Chaplaincy provision is outstanding and inspirational.**
- **Relationships, behaviour and care for all within the school are outstanding.**
- **The outreach and support for parents and families in the local community is a strength of the school and the welcome for all is outstanding.**

THE QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP IS GOOD

The mission of the school is clearly lived as part of the Church's mission in education. The leadership team have made a significant option for those on the margins of society and in the greatest need. The recently formed Governing body are highly committed to taking the school forward. Governors are beginning to be part of the more rigorous monitoring and ongoing evaluation of the progress of the school. The newly appointed 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 and support at all levels has improved and developed significantly since the previous inspection. The new Mission Statement is known and lived throughout the school. Pupil leadership is developing rapidly through the Chaplaincy team. 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 therefore led jointly by the Head teacher and RE coordinator. Processes and procedures are in place for assessment for learning which are being further developed through a more consistent approach to diagnostic marking, success criteria and the introduction of personalised targets to move all teaching and learning to an outstanding level across the school.

THE QUALITY OF WORD IS GOOD

The school is developing the RE scheme, The Way, The Truth and The Life. Teaching and learning was found to be good over time. A review of the use of assessment for learning, success criteria and diagnostic marking in RE would enable pupils to have a clearer understanding of how to achieve their next steps for learning. In the best lessons, highly creative teaching and learning strategies, the development of language in RE and higher order questioning skills, enabled many pupils to achieve at a good and in some lessons, very high level. Pupils had a good understanding of scripture and were often able to make the links between the scripture passage they were using and their own personal lives. The school has fully embraced the Year of Faith themes through a wide range of activities engaging the whole school and parish community.

Pupils learn about a range of other faiths through the RE scheme and the school is planning to develop this further through Inter-Faith days and events. The proposed mapping and evaluation of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) education across all key stages will further develop and enhance the already good and very good learning seen in art, maths and literacy. 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

The welcome extended to all visitors is underpinned by a common vision built on Gospel values and the Mission Statement. The school actively seeks to engage with and support members of the community and this is particularly appreciated by the parents. Parents spoke of their love for St Mary's and the long standing family links with the school. They said they *'felt at ease coming to the school'* and were *'listened to, respected and valued'*. Parents felt they were well informed and were very appreciative of the welcome that was being extended to them. The pupils' sense of ownership and responsibility for what happens in their school was remarkable. Pupils play a key role in hosting events with friends and families and ensure that hospitality is always outstanding. They felt that they were heard and their views welcomed. Members of staff demonstrate a keen sense of community affiliation and the strength and quality of relationships exemplifies respect for the dignity of all members of the school community. Children, parents and staff are proud of their school.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

St Mary's staff and pupils demonstrate a high level of respect and care for each other and the school gives a high priority to those in the greatest need. This is provided through the excellent nurture programme, chaplaincy and the P2B centre which also provides a Parent Counsellor to support a small number of parents. Chaplains support children and parents with issues of self-esteem, bereavement and trauma. 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 and the open attitude of the school to listening to others' needs. Quality before and after school care is provided 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 such as reaching out to local OAPs, Three Kings – Women's Refuge, St. Josephs Penny (Caritas), supporting a school in the Gambia and CAFOD.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

The whole school policy for prayer and worship is creative and of a high quality which ensures a wide range of opportunities to develop and enrich the prayer life of the community. The Chapel and quiet reflection points around the school highlight the centrality of prayer in the daily life of the community. Times of prayer and reflection during RE lessons, lunch time and the whole school assembly, led by the pupil chaplains, offered excellent opportunities for prayer and worship. Staff and pupils are confident in leading prayer and worship. All year groups have a clear understanding of the liturgical life of the school. The active involvement and leadership of the parish priest is a significant asset for the school and greatly appreciated by all. Pupils, staff and parents expressed their commitment to the school especially in the outreach to families through experiences such as the Sacramental Programme and creative liturgical celebrations are key points of the year. Prayer and worship are well resourced and training and support is ongoing for both pupils and staff.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

Witnessing to Christ and the values of the Gospel are central to the life of St Mary's. The confidence and background knowledge of staff concerning the beliefs and values of St Mary's as a Catholic school were outstanding and clearly reflected the leadership's priority of ensuring all staff are supported and trained as educators in Catholic education. This was clearly evident in the outstanding relationships across the school, in displays and in 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 and parish with ease. Displays showing the work on the Year of Faith and in discussion with pupils demonstrated that the values of the school have a very definite impact which extends beyond the school into the global Church community. This was clearly evident from the parents who spoke of the way in which their children talked about their faith and that there is much more '*God talk*' and an insistence on seeing creation as '*God's world*'. Parents were enthusiastic about the impact of the pupil chaplaincy programme and how it had significantly influenced their children. One parent reported that his child had declared that it was now '*Cool to be Catholic*'. The excellent practice of Chaplaincy at St Mary's offers a valuable resource as a model for other schools in the diocese.

It is clear that the school stands as a witness to Christ's love, justice, forgiveness and compassion.

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- **Continue the development of assessment in the RE programme, through the setting of personalised pupil targets for each topic, success criteria and end of topic challenges.**
- **Further develop marking in RE to ensure it is diagnostic enabling all pupils to identify next steps in all classes.**
- **Continue to develop independent learning strategies across all Key Stages.**

June 18th 2013

Dear Pupils

Thank you so much for the wonderful welcome you gave us when we came to visit you. Chaplaincy team, you made us feel so welcome and thank you for showing us around your school and making sure we had everything we needed. We would like to recommend that other schools come and learn from you about how to be pupil Chaplains. Your school is a good school with many outstanding features. This is because you and your teachers are working so hard to always do your very best and you look after one another so well.

Congratulations on the beautiful art work about your mission statement and the life of your school. 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.

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. Thank you for letting us share so much of what you are doing. We were very impressed by your beautiful Assembly, the choir and prayer time in the Chapel. Thank you for inviting us to take part.

God bless you all and have a really happy term.

Yours sincerely

Sr Judith Russi

(Section 48 Inspector)

St Mary's RC Primary School, Burnley

Summary Report to Parents

On 17th June 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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