

**INSPECTION REPORT**

**St. Wilfrid's RC Primary School**  
**St. Wilfrid's Terrace, Longridge, Preston PR3 3WQ**

Inspection date 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Reporting Inspectors Mrs Jackie McNally  
 Miss Clare Addison

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

Type of School	Catholic Primary
URN	119636
Age range of pupils	4-11 years
Number on roll	133
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Mrs G Luff
Headteacher	Mr J McHugh
Religious Education Co-ordinator	Mr J McHugh
Date of previous inspection	April 2008

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

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

St. Wilfrid's RC Primary School is a smaller than average primary school which serves the parish of St. Wilfrid's, Longridge. There are 133 pupils on roll, the majority of whom are white British. The most significant faith group is Roman Catholic. The percentage of children entitled to free school meals is below the national average and the percentage of children supported at school action plus or with a statement of special educational needs is well below average.

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL**

St. Wilfrid's is a good Catholic school with outstanding features. The Headteacher has established a school where the uniqueness of every child is valued and nurtured and together with a dedicated and committed staff and an effective team of Governors he leads the school with a clear vision. A vibrant, welcoming atmosphere permeates every aspect of the school and this creates a secure and happy learning environment in which all members of the community feel welcomed. Children's behaviour is outstanding and at all times during the inspection the children were a credit to the school and their parents. The teaching of Religious Education is good and the children demonstrate a good religious knowledge and faith commitment. Children are encouraged to think of those less fortunate than themselves and they are keen to organise and participate in fund raising activities. The Governors, staff, parents and children all see themselves as belonging to a family and this is a strength of the school. The children themselves said that they loved their school because: "We have the best school".

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

- **The welcome extended to children, parents, visitors and the community.**
- **The ethos, relationships, behaviour and care for all within the school is outstanding.**
- **The dedication and commitment of the staff to the Catholic nature of the school**

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

The quality of Catholic Leadership is outstanding. Governors of the school are well informed about the Catholic life of the school through the Headteacher's reports and they contribute to the self-evaluation of Religious Education. The Headteacher and Governors place a strong emphasis on the development of the religious life of the school, and as such, the School Development Plan always includes an area for development which focuses on religious education. The Parish Priest makes a significant contribution to the Catholic life of the school. The leadership of the school clearly recognises that Christ is the central to all aspects of school life and all staff are committed to creating a loving and nurturing learning environment for the children. The mission statement is clearly understood by all children and underpins the work of the school. The Headteacher has worked with the staff and Governors to introduce the 5W's and they are clearly displayed around school and assemblies focus on each of the 5 W's in turn. The introduction of a 5W award for an adult and child each week is an effective way of recognising the 5 W's in the everyday actions of members of the school community.

Pupil leadership has been developed through the School Council and Eco Club. Pupils are confident and enthusiastic about taking on responsibilities and they were able to talk about how they supported each other and people in the wider community. Children are given many opportunities to care for those less fortunate than themselves and give generously to charities such as CAFOD and St. Joseph's Penny. In order to develop their leadership skills further the children now need to be provided with the skills to take a more proactive role in the organisation of collective worship and other liturgical events.

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

Lessons are based on the scheme, 'The Way, The Truth and The Life', but in order to enhance the Religious Education curriculum further the teachers need to adapt their plans to cater better for the needs and interest of the children. The lessons observed show that the children have a good knowledge of Religious Education, as well as knowing what it means to follow Jesus. During the inspection there was evidence of good questioning skills by teachers but to promote even higher standards the children need to always be given the time to respond fully to questions. Children throughout the school demonstrated excellent independent strategies and they are able to approach Religious Education activities with confidence and enthusiasm. They shared their views and listened to each other with respect and interest and could confidently communicate their ideas. In order to improve Religious Education further the children now need to be provided with opportunities to learn about other faith traditions.

Various samples of children's work from across the school were examined during the inspection. Work set was at an appropriate level of pupil development and standards were broadly similar to those of literacy. The school's procedures for marking are rigorous and questions are posed to allow the children to reflect further on their learning; this is excellent practice. Behaviour for learning in lessons is outstanding throughout the school and the pupils were keen to participate fully in lessons.

Standards in Religious Education are monitored carefully and the Headteacher observes lessons and provide constructive feedback to the staff in order to continually improve standards. There is clear evidence that feedback from lesson observations is being acted upon by staff.

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

There is a positive, welcoming culture which permeates the whole school and this is clearly demonstrated by the staff, Governors and children. A sense of vibrancy and enthusiasm pervades the school and the whole school community is justifiably proud to belong to such a wonderful Catholic family. The school is fully inclusive and has an active partnership with Hillside Special School whereby children with additional needs are welcomed into the school for short periods during the school week. The children in Year 6 demonstrated their love and care for one child who often joins their class; not only is this a strength of the school but it shows how the children live their faith. Those parents interviewed spoke with deep regard about the welcome they receive in school; new members of the school community are quickly made to feel welcome and valued. 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.

Parents are regularly invited to school masses and other events and they feel that they play an integral role in the spiritual and academic life of their child. Pupils are given a high level of responsibility in creating and sustaining the school's sense of welcome. The welcome extended to new children through the buddy system is outstanding and helps younger children to settle into school quickly.

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

Staff and children demonstrate a very high level of care and respect for others. The school places a high value on rewarding children not only for their academic achievements but for their behaviour and the contribution they make to the whole school ethos; this was evidenced during the praise assembly. The school places a high priority on supporting vulnerable pupils and those with additional needs. The children said that they rarely have worries in school but if they had any problems they could put them inside WILF the worry pig and they were confident that they would be dealt with immediately. Parents commented upon the fact that all the staff were very approachable and behaviour throughout the school was excellent.

The school has an effective induction programme for new pupils and this helps them to feel welcomed into the school community. The parents also commented upon the strength of the induction arrangements. The children act as excellent role models and this is demonstrated by the buddies and school council members.

Pupils spoke about how much they enjoyed being at school. 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.

Children learn that it is important to help others, particularly those less fortunate and they take an active role in the organisation of fund raising events. The school supports local, national and worldwide causes such as CAFOD, the annual poppy appeal, Sport Relief and the Water Fund. Members of the school council are enthusiastic about their responsibilities and feel that their opinions and suggestions are valued by the school. The children were able to talk about how they had made a positive contribution to the stewardship of creation through the creation of a wildlife area and recycling projects.

### **THE QUALITY OF THE WORSHIP COMMUNITY IS GOOD**

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. The staff, children and parents all commented upon the excellent support provided by Fr. David who is a regular visitor to the school. The children said that they enjoyed attending mass because Fr. David encourages them to take an active part in sharing the word of God. There are religious displays in every classroom and these not only reinforce the 5 W's but they provide a focus area for collective worship. These areas display the religious vocabulary used in lessons and children were frequently observed to refer to these in the lessons.

The collective worship and school assembly observed were interactive and engaged the interest of the children. Some of the older children are now developing the skills to prepare their own class collective worship but in order to develop worship further; the school needs to increase pupil involvement so that by the end of Key Stage 2 the children have more responsibility for planning, writing and delivering acts of daily collective worship within the classroom. The children are encouraged to write their own prayers and these are recorded in the class prayer books. The school would now like to develop the role of pupil chaplains and this would further enhance the quality of worship in the school. The school Mission Statement is shared and understood by the whole school community and serves as a constant reminder to all of how Jesus wants us to live.

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

Staff and pupils are confident and secure in their witness to Christ, the Gospel and the teachings of the Church. 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. There is a lovely relationship between staff and pupils and the children obviously feel comfortable sharing their successes and worries with staff. The children stated that they feel safe and happy in school and valued their friends. 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. Many of the staff attend the monthly family mass which provides an excellent role model for the children; this was recognised and appreciated by the parents and Governors.

The school encourages and supports its pupils to be proactive citizens who contribute to the decision-making process; this was especially evident in discussion with the School Council members who were keen to talk about their fund raising activities and how their ideas had been implemented.

### **AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- To provide pupils with the skills to take on a leadership role in the planning and delivery of collective worship and develop the role of pupil chaplains.
- To ensure that teachers have the confidence and skills to adapt the activities in the agreed Religious Education scheme, 'The Way, The Truth and The Life', according to the needs of the children.
- To provide opportunities for the children to learn about other faith traditions.

St. Wilfrid's RC Primary School,  
St. Wilfrid's Terrace,  
Longridge,  
Preston,  
PR3 3WQ

Dear Children,

Thank you so much for welcoming us into your school. We really enjoyed spending the day with you and we are pleased to be able to tell you that the quality of Religious Education in your school is good with outstanding features.

We really enjoyed watching your lessons because you showed a great deal of enthusiasm for the topics you were studying. Your teachers and teaching assistants work extremely hard and you told us that you really like your teachers and the lessons they plan for you. The standard of your work is good and the teachers provide you with opportunities to reflect on how you can improve your learning by asking you questions when they mark your work. To help extend your knowledge further we have asked your teachers to provide you with opportunities to learn about other faith traditions.

Your teachers have created many opportunities for you to pray together and we particularly liked watching your praise assembly. Some of the other children told us that they enjoyed planning their own collective worship and we suggested to the school that you could have more opportunities to plan your own collective worship. We know that Mr McHugh would like to encourage some of the older children to take on the role of school chaplains and we think this is an excellent idea.

Your behaviour in lessons and around school is excellent and it is obvious that you all care for each other. We could see that you are very proud of your school and you are happy to be part of your school family. 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

Miss Addison

## **SUMMARY REPORT TO PARENTS**

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 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.

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