

DIOCESE OF SALFORD

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INSPECTION REPORT

St. Luke's R.C. Primary School,

Inspection date 23rd October 2012

Reporting Inspectors Mr. A.J. Sowerby Lead Inspector
Mr D. Burns Additional Inspector
Mrs J Frazer Additional Inspector

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

Type of School Roman Catholic Primary

URN 105966

Age range of pupils 3-11 years

Number on roll 425

Appropriate authority The Governing Body

Chair of Governors Fr John Williams

Headteacher Mr P. Jameson

Religious Education Co-ordinator Mr

Date of previous inspection May 2006

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

St Luke's Primary School is a larger than average sized primary school with a nursery in Irlam-o-the Heights Salford. It is situated in an area of mixed social and privately owned housing. There are currently 347 children on roll, including 50 part time children in the nursery class, 169 boys and 178 girls. 94% of pupils are baptised Catholics. The indicative admission number is 45. The pupils who are aged 3-11 years are arranged in a mixture of single age and mixed age classes.

Most pupils are from White British backgrounds, with a smaller than average proportion of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds. Currently the school has on roll a small number of non Catholic children. The proportion of pupils for whom English is an additional language is well below average and currently stands at 2%. 4% of children are entitled to Free School Meals which is well below national expectations. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs is 9% which is below average. The needs of these learners range from moderate learning difficulties, to emotional and behavioural difficulties. Currently there are 5 children with a Statement of Special Educational Need who receive individual one to one support. The school context has changed in recent years as there has been a significant rise in the number of children attending the school due to the changing demography of the area. The school has admitted additional children to the school in order to cope with the rising birth rate in the area.

There are strong links with the local high school and the church. The parish priest is a frequent and regular visitor to the school and provides support to all groups within the school. There are 15 members of the teaching staff and 14 of the teachers are Catholic. 5 hold the Catholic Teachers' qualification or equivalent. Level of attendance is high at 95.6% in 2012 and has been consistent for many years. No pupils have been excluded in the last five years.

The school is part of a local learning network with other schools and holds a number of awards, including the Healthy School Status, Bronze Sportsmark and Extended Schools Award

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL is Outstanding

St Luke's is an outstanding Catholic Primary school. There is a genuinely warm and caring welcome given to all. All children are offered a Catholic education in a friendly and supportive environment where differences and diversity are welcomed and celebrated. The word of God is central to the life of the school. There are outstanding parish links. St. Luke's works collaboratively with the parish priest and the school is firmly at the heart of the parish. This ensures the pastoral and spiritual needs of the learners and their families are well met. The dedicated head teacher and his staff have high expectations of adults and children. Together with the hard working staff he has created an ethos where everyone recognises the need to work together as a "family", showing love and concern for all its members. The children enjoy coming to school and the school council expressed how very proud they are of all the opportunities given to them. Pupils are friendly, polite and welcoming and their behaviour at all times is exemplary. They work hard to achieve the high expectations of the adults who work with them. They enjoyed every opportunity to share with the inspector their work. The staff and pupils demonstrate a very high level of respect, care and service to others. The quality of teaching is a notable strength of the school."

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE

- The quality of relationships between all members of the school community
- The high quality of teaching
- The quality of care and guidance provided to the children
- The excellent role models that the staff provide for the children

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP is Outstanding

There is outstanding leadership at all levels of the school community which contributes significantly to the outstanding provision for Catholic Education that the school currently provides. The hard working and dedicated head teacher provides strong and decisive leadership by clearly living his vision for Catholic Education. He is an outstanding role model for the whole school community. He ensures that along with his senior staff R.E and the development of the Catholic life of the school is at the forefront of the school's work. They are supported by a knowledgeable Governing Body, an outstanding R.E. Co-ordinator and a charismatic parish priest who is a regular visitor to the school. They together with the other senior leadership of the school ensure that the teaching of R.E and the development of the Catholic Life of the School have an extremely high priority in school. The school has a clear plan for developing R.E across the school and this is reflected in the priority it is given

Evidence for this can be found in the school's clear self evaluation plan, which is based on the 5Ws model. The school is aware of its next steps and has clear plans for implementing them. As a result the inspectors verify that this evaluation is both accurate and reflective.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY is outstanding

- The Mission Statement is clearly displayed throughout the school. It is known, lived and witnessed to and is evident at every level of the school. The policies and procedures have a significant impact on learning and the life of the school.
- The Religious Education of the pupils is the core of the Core Curriculum. The staffing and resources devoted to RE are of the highest standard, reflecting its significance and importance in the school.
- Teaching is outstanding across the school. Pupils are challenged to engage with the Big Questions of the purpose and meaning of life throughout the curriculum. This could be seen particularly in those lessons where children were challenged to implement the gospel message in their own lives. Examples of this were seen in Years 5 & 6
- Scripture is clearly known, understood and made relevant throughout the school. The staff and pupils demonstrate and can articulate the centrality and importance of the Word of God.
- Religious literacy is developed to a good level for the vast majority of pupils.
- The home, school and parish links are inclusive, creative and effective. Pupils are actively trained in outreach to the local community. This can be seen in the number of charities that the school supports. These are not just the Catholic charities such as CAFOD and St Joseph's Penny but also the Shoe Box for Africa Appeal and the Samaritans.

The Inspectors cite the following evidence to confirm their judgement:

- Overall the standards of attainment, progress and hence achievement are good. As the curriculum is based on the mission it is challenging, interesting and fulfilling. The children are developing the age appropriate knowledge and skills.
- The school has begun to incorporate "The Way, The Truth and the Life" scheme. This is well supplemented by other R.E. resources so that as a result standards of teaching are outstanding. Staff share ideas and coach each other to increase their expertise and create challenge in the RE curriculum. This was witnessed in one of the two outstanding lessons seen where the Year 5 & 6 children were challenged to extend their thinking about Catholic social teaching and how it is relevant in their daily lives.
- Experienced teachers act as mentors and good role models for new staff coming into school irrespective of their faith background.
- Work in R.E is clearly as good as work in other subjects due to the high priority given to it in school. This was seen by inspectors in during their scrutiny of both the R.E and Literacy books. Marking was consistently good in R.E.
- The school also invests in "The Wednesday Word" which is sent home on a weekly basis and is used in many

of the school assemblies so ensuring a consistent approach to the teaching of R.E with the home and parish. This has helped improve the knowledge that many of the parents have of their faith.

- Standards in RE are outstanding. The children are encouraged to take the initiative and lead their own learning thereby developing their independence. This is particularly evident in Year 6. The children use bibles and other resources well and enjoy learning set prayers and special aspects of their faith. There are regular visits into and out of school to enrich the RE curriculum such as participating in joint Diocesan masses and celebrations such as the Cornerstones, CAFOD and Year of Catholic Education Masses.
- The school has worked collaboratively to gather evidence so that the school has a clear strategy that includes all members of the school community in implementing the 5Ws across the school.

THE QUALITY OF THE WELCOME COMMUNITY is Outstanding

- There is a culture of welcome and all the pupils and staff demonstrate a very high level of confidence and outreach to all within the school community.
- Visitors are welcomed with love and respectful care. The importance of the dignity of the individual is clearly evident at all levels. Clear structures and procedures are followed by all staff and pupils who consistently witness to Christ being at the heart of the community through excellent communication, relationships and a joyful, holistic approach to daily life.
- All members of the school community demonstrate a very high level of belonging and ownership of the school. Pupils are given a high level of responsibility in creating and sustaining the schools sense of welcome.
- Parents are very welcome into school and are encouraged to engage in their child's learning. This could clearly be seen in the way that staff from the nursery and reception classes met parents at the start of the school day and discussed with them any concerns that they had.

The inspectors cite the following evidence to confirm their judgement:

- New families are welcomed into the school with warmth by the opportunities which are created to visit the school and meet the whole team. Parents voiced to the inspector how wonderful and special this made them feel. As one parent said "From the moment I came here with my children I've always felt really welcome. The Head Teacher is always available at the start of the day to discuss any concerns I may have"
- In the first few weeks of the school year parents and carers of children in the nursery and reception classes are invited to bring their child into school in the morning and stay until the children settle down.
- Parents are kept informed and up to date about the curriculum and events in school through the use of the school newsletter and school website. The Parents Council also ensures that the views of parents are heard and respected
- The school also ensures that the voice of the children is heard and respected. The School Council were keen to express their opinion about the changes they had brought about in school such as the provision of an outside clock on the school playground.
- Parents reported there are excellent nativity plays and Easter services that are of an extremely high quality.
- Children of other faiths who attend St. Luke's are welcomed with dignity and respect. Currently the school has only a small number of children from other faiths who attend the school. These are made to feel welcome and respected and as a result play a full role in the life of the school. As a result of the strong Catholic ethos all children are taught to respect each other so that everyone at the school feels part of the St. Luke's family.
- Within school relationships are of the highest quality. Older children care for the younger ones, play leaders and buddies work to ensure playtimes are fun and peaceful.
- Movement between classes and to high school are carefully and sensitively planned so that the children feel well prepared for the next step of their learning/life journey.

THE QUALITY OF THE WELFARE COMMUNITY is Outstanding

- The staff and pupils demonstrate a very high level of respect, care and service to others. This was witnessed in a reception class where a child with a nose bleed was cared for with sensitivity and respect. Further evidence of this was seen at the start of the day when a child fell twisting their ankle.

- The structures and procedures ensure that all pupils and staff feel safe and are treated with respect and dignity.
- The Christ-centred ethos is loving, creative, highly positive and fosters understanding, empathy and forgiveness.
- All pupils and staff feel safe and free to express their opinions and know that these will be valued.
- Importance and recognition is given equally to all.
- The budget, staffing and resourcing decisions demonstrate a consistent commitment to Catholic stewardship throughout the school.
- The parents and friends play a highly significant part in school life and their contributions are valued throughout the school.

The Inspectors cite the following evidence to confirm their judgements:

- The physical, spiritual and mental well being of each person is central to the school's mission. The school council discussed with the inspectors the need to reach out with kindness to others for example those less fortunate in the world. Children are caring and have a true sense of right and wrong.
- The school is a very caring community where everyone is valued! Children during lessons listened respectfully to other pupils' ideas. Play partners and buddies look after and care for younger children. They encourage and pray for each other for example in the school assembly when the older children supported them by helping with the singing. Children told members of the inspection team that they have to look after the younger children because when they were once little and the older children were there to look after them and they must follow Jesus' command to treat others as you want to be treated.
- Calm support is offered by sensitive adults when children have difficulty remaining on task. Such role models ensure learning and loving friendships develop.
- Playtime buddies lead play sessions and encourage friendships. The school council reported that on any occasion if a child feels worried there is always a grown up to talk. Pupils felt problems are always resolved very quickly.
- Maturity and self responsibility are strongly encouraged. This is evident in the work of the School Council
- The school stresses the importance of reaching out beyond its own community so that children feel part of God's world. The charity work is a living example of this as children support CAFOD, St Joseph's Penny and many chosen by the children in special circumstances, on their own initiative.
- At Christmas time the school strengthens their special relationship with outside groups such as the Shoe Box for Africa Appeal. The children of the school council confirmed they feel very safe! The school goes to great lengths to ensure as far as possible children are free from worry and a happy, calm atmosphere is the norm. The school provides a variety of activities in order to ensure that this occurs. The mission is continued after school with a host of excellent clubs that are extremely varied hence meeting the needs and interests of all the children.
- Exemplary behaviour underpins the well being of all. This is achieved through the provision of a clear behaviour policy which respects the dignity of all children and is based upon the importance of forgiveness.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORSHIP COMMUNITY is Outstanding

- The school provides a variety of worship opportunities for pupils throughout the school (prayer, reflection, liturgies) including small and large groups – which are appropriate to their backgrounds and faith experiences.
- The development of opportunities for pupils to worship according to their intellectual and life experience needs and stages of faith development is clearly evident.
- Worshipping opportunities promote a strong community sense of service for each other.
- Inclusive worship helps pupils to grow in confidence in prayer and develop a relationship with God.
- All staff are confident and skilled in planning and leading prayer and worship which is pupil-centred, creative, inclusive and relevant.
- Most staff are trained and supported in the formation and education of the prayer life of the school.
- A high level of creativity is evident in the worship, liturgies and celebrations, engaging all pupils and staff.

- The school provides a wide range of reflective prayer opportunities. This could be seen not only in the different prayer services observed by the inspection team but also in the evidence of the classroom and hall displays which were of a very high quality.
- The school provides a clear provision for children to reflect upon some of the difficulties that are faced in life when someone dies. This was seen in the way that the school helped the children to cope with the death of a member of staff during the last year.

The inspectors cite the following evidence to confirm their judgements:

- The parish priest regularly celebrates the Mass which the children attend on a rota, in church. The school shares the celebration of mass with the parish. Key events are celebrated with special masses: the beginning of each school year, the parish and school feast day, Holy Days and at the end of the year.
- During Advent, Lent and the Easter season the school holds assemblies, liturgies and times of reflection/reconciliation that are all shared by the whole school community. The children are encouraged to voluntarily say the rosary during the month of October and the Stations of the Cross during Lent
- There is a daily act of collective worship. These take place in a variety of formats and are thought provoking, uplifting experiences for example those witnessed in Years 4 and Year 5. Children pray in classes, small groups and individually with great reverence, respect and thought. Those children who are not Catholic either join in or show great reverence to the worship taking place.
- Pupils are comfortable with their feelings and have a good and knowledgeable vocabulary. Each class has a special area of focus. The children know many school prayers and compose powerful prayers for themselves. In many classes there were examples of displays of the children's own prayers.
- Attractive displays which were seen around school are used to show and stimulate prayer opportunities. Hymns, music and singing enhanced the quality and enjoyment of prayer in school
- The Gospel values are clearly evidenced throughout all the policies and procedures and have a significant impact on learning and the life of the school.

THE QUALITY OF THE WITNESS COMMUNITY is Outstanding

- All staff act as excellent role models for the children and help them in recognising that God is with them in every aspect of school life.
- Adults and pupils witness to the Mission Statement of the school, which informs everything and is explicit in policies and the lived experience of the whole community.
- Adults act as role models of the school's mission and values and as key promoters of the ethos of the school for the pupils and the school community's witness to the wider community.
- The staff and pupils feel confident and secure in their witness to Christ, the Gospel and the teachings of the Church.
- Pupils are confident in witnessing to the beliefs and values of a Christian community and are actively encouraged and supported in being pro-active citizens who participate in the decision-making processes at a local and national level. This is seen in the way the school promotes support for various charities so as to promote support for the Common Good.
- An explicit Catholic culture permeates the whole of school and is clearly identifiable through relationships, decision-making and actions.

The Inspector cite the following evidence to confirm their judgements:

- The entire school community recognises that God is at the heart of the school in their actions and their relationships. All live the word of God. The mission statement, is the powerful tool which is used to demonstrate how the school bears witness to a loving God. All members of the school family meet God each day and strive to meet all the challenges involved in this witness.
- The school mission is known and understood by all at appropriate levels. It is in 'child and adult speak', but is powerful in its ambition. It is discussed and shared in assemblies, in class and in RE lessons. The statement can be seen displayed in school.
- Relationships are outstanding at St Luke's and a strong sense of teamwork and belonging exist. The school and parish were described by parents as "a big family", where relationships are built on love and trust.

- The children feel a part of a long and rich history. Indeed, many parents attended St. Luke's, and grandparents also have a long association with the school. Friendships are an additional strength to the school.
- Children through reflection and prayer develop an awe and wonder of the love of God. Children showed a clear understanding of the beauty and mystery of God's world. Displays show the school has undertaken projects to enhance the environment and see its place in a global society. This was particularly evident in the way the school has developed its outdoor provision through the provision of a school growing area.
- The children have a highly defined sense of fairness and justice. They know their responsibilities in terms of equal opportunities, stewardship and reconciliation.
- The inspector noted at all times behaviour was outstanding. Children are respectful of each other. Adults working as a committed team have high expectations of the children and in this atmosphere the children thrive.

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- To continue to enhance the prayer life of the school through the provision of:
 - a. Further opportunities for all children to participate in the planning and delivery of prayer services
 - b. The development of further focal points for prayer
 - c. Opportunities for parents to participate more fully in the prayer life of the school


DIOCESE OF SALFORD
Department for Formation, Office for Education

1st November 2012

Dear Pupils

Thank you for making our visit to St Luke's so enjoyable when we came to inspect your school for the Bishop. We really enjoyed being with you. Thank you for looking after us so well and helping us to feel very welcome. St Luke's is an outstanding school.

We enjoyed being part of your lessons and were sorry not to see everyone. Thank you for showing us so much of your work and activities. We could see that you are very proud of your school and all that you have achieved together. We were particularly impressed that you thought that the most important part of your learning and life together was that you *'felt connected to one another as all part of God's family'*. I know the Bishop will be delighted to hear this.

Your teachers are really helping you to learn very well and we were very impressed by your excellent relationships and behaviour. It was good to see so much of your Mission Statement coming through everything you are learning; your relationships and the special way you make everyone feel valued. It is wonderful to see a school made up of pupils and adults who get on so well together and so that everyone is cared for as a member of God's family. This is a true reflection of being part of a Catholic community where everyone is welcome and has a place.

You have started using your new RE programme and are doing well. You are a very creative school and we were most impressed by the way you work together so co-operatively in your lessons. The prayer services we saw were very good and uplifting experiences. We have asked your teachers to help you to do even better by working with you so that you can all help in the planning of them and that your parents can come and join you in them. Many of you have a very good knowledge and understanding of your faith so this should help you to do even better.

God bless you all and have a really happy term.

Yours sincerely

Mr A.J Sowerby
Mr D. Burns
Mrs J Frazer

(Section 48 Inspectors,)

Summary Report to Parents

On 23rd October 2012 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

St Luke's is an outstanding Catholic Primary school. There is a genuinely warm and caring welcome given to all. All children are offered a Catholic education in a friendly and supportive environment where differences and diversity are welcomed and celebrated. The word of God is central to the life of the school. There are outstanding parish links. St. Luke's works collaboratively with the parish priest and the school is firmly at the heart of the parish. This ensures the pastoral and spiritual needs of the learners and their families are well met. The dedicated, head teacher and his staff have high expectations of adults and children. Together with the hard working staff he has created an ethos where everyone recognises the need to work together as a "family", showing love and concern for all its members. The children enjoy coming to school and the school council expressed how very proud they are of all the opportunities given to them. Pupils are friendly, polite and welcoming and their behaviour at all times is exemplary. They work hard to achieve the high expectations of the adults who work with them. They enjoyed every opportunity to share with the inspector their work. The staff and pupils demonstrate a very high level of respect, care and service to others. The quality of teaching is a notable strength of the school."

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