

Inspection date Thursday 25th October 2012

Reporting Inspector Sister Judith Russi
 Mr Vincent Murray

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

Type of School Catholic Primary
 URN 105540
 Age range of pupils 3-11 years
 Number on roll 247
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body
 Chair of Governors Canon Stuart Ansbro
 Executive Headteacher Mrs Margaret Cunningham
 Date of previous inspection January 2007

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the Grades 1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3 = Requiring Improvement
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	
<i>The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements</i>		

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

St Willibrord's RC Primary School is an average-sized school. The Executive Headteacher's role is shared with a nearby Roman Catholic primary school, under a diocesan agreement. The former Deputy Headteacher, appointed as Head of school in September 2009, shares the leadership of St Willibrord's with the Executive Headteacher.

Approximately half of the pupils are White British and half are from minority ethnic groups the largest of which is Black African. A relatively small number speak English as an additional language. The number of pupils who join or leave the school at other than normal times is above average. Almost half of the pupils are known to be eligible for free school meals. The proportion of pupils who are supported at school action plus or who have a statement of special educational needs is above average and includes specially funded provision for up to seven pupils with autistic spectrum disorder and/or speech, language and communication needs. Currently, six pupils attend the Ark special unit which opened in September 2011. The local area has suffered greatly in the last few months due to the very serious crimes that have occurred in the local area. This has had a significant impact on the school community.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL

St Willibrord's is an outstanding Catholic school. The school has experience considerable challenges since the last inspection due to the Headteacher being asked to act as an Executive Headteacher of two schools. Throughout this difficult period she has been supported by the senior leadership team and governors, and leads the school with a clear vision and sense of purpose recognising the dignity and value of every member of the community. The school's priority for those in the greatest need, inclusivity, passion for learning and personal development ensures that all pupils receive an integrated Gospel based formation and education.

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.

KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- Leadership and empowerment across the school community is outstanding.
- The Catholic life, relationships, behaviour and care for all within the school is outstanding.
- The quality of religious education is outstanding.
- The outreach to 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 OUTSTANDING

The need for St Willibrord's to support another Catholic school led to the development of leadership across the school. The commitment to the vision for Catholic education is evident throughout. Delegated responsibility, allowing new ideas and innovation is clearly seen in the outstanding areas of progress and development such as the redevelopment of the buildings, family support and liaison and the inclusion of all children with significant special needs through the development of the Ark project. The leadership of the school strives to ensure that every child is recognised as unique and valued as such. Actions within the School Development Plan are fully supplemented by actions plans

produced by subject leaders. The robust monitoring and evaluation procedures ensure that every area of the school is regularly reviewed and evaluated. Any under performance is quickly addressed. The extensive induction programme for new staff ensures that the Mission Statement is inculcated in all aspects of the life of the school. Pupils and parents spoke openly about being able to share their views and ideas about their school and knew that they were being heard.

THE QUALITY OF WORD IS OUTSTANDING

The school is developing the new scheme The Way, The Truth and The Life to ensure all pupils are able to access their learning. Pupil background knowledge was found to be of a higher than normal level due to significant prior knowledge. Religious education is given a high priority and pupils take their learning very seriously. In all classes pupils were taking responsibility for their learning, being challenged by higher order questioning and allowed to reflect before responding.

Religious language was promoted in the best lessons and pupils were confident in their use of theological terms. Creative, interactive teaching strategies were employed across all lessons. Lessons moved forward quickly and pupils clearly achieved the learning objective. Teaching assistants are used very effectively in supporting all pupils learning. Assessment for learning is matched with literacy and there was evidence that pupils knew what to do to improve their learning. Where marking was very good what the pupil needed to do to improve was clearly outlined and pupil responses were sought. Pupil progress would be further enhanced by this very good practice being more consistently applied across all classes. Pupils Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education was found to be outstanding.

The ability of pupils to make connections with other areas of their learning was clearly visible in Year 5 through their composition of a Creation Rap and the trust activities in Year 2.

The Religious Education budget exceeds that of other core subjects clearly indicating its importance. 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. St Willibrord's actively seeks to engage with, and support members of the school community and this is particularly appreciated by the parents. Those interviewed spoke of, *'a happy school where the children get on with the teachers.'* The vast majority chose to send their child to the school because of the, *'Christian values it promotes'*. There is a clear outreach system in place which facilitates early engagement with families. One parent commented that the work of the outreach worker was invaluable claiming, *'she would be the first person I would turn to if I needed help.'* The children are happy and secure within the school community. They show clear understanding of the mission statement and refer to it often. One child commented that the best thing about school was, *'the teachers because they try to find out why I am upset.'* Another child said school was, *'friendly and loving.'* Children know what to do if they have worries and all felt bullying was not an issue. They recognise that they sit within a wider community of faith and many commented that the school Mass was something they particularly enjoyed. The school's pupil council plays an active part in school development and was instrumental in producing and directing a promotional DVD featuring 'The Ark' unit of the school. They have also influenced other projects such as the provision of Garden toys and furniture. All 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 and parents are proud of their school.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

Staff and children demonstrate respect and care for each other and for the fabric of their school building of which they are justifiably proud. They are able to relate this to the school mission statement and one child spoke of, *'living the mission'*. Children are confident that teachers will treat their concerns seriously. When asked about bullying, one child knew which procedures to follow but added, *'maybe the bully gets it from his mum or dad and also needs help'*. Behaviour and movement of pupils around the building is outstanding. Those children arriving early for school enjoy a breakfast which is heavily subsidised and is often free of charge to many families. Within lessons, teachers and teaching assistants identified those children requiring additional support and planned accordingly. The school develops and fosters an understanding of the needs of others as was demonstrated in a lesson during which the theme of mission made explicit reference to recent collections for the SVP and a local centre for the homeless. The level of support provided by Teaching Assistants at lunchtime play was outstanding and ensured orderly play and appropriate lining up and entry to the building. The school has an established SRE programme which is supplemented by themed weeks including, Emotions Week, Social Skills and Diversity awareness. The specialist provision unit at the school welcomes and supports children from all agencies and is instrumental in integrating these children back into mainstream education. Pupils recognise that they have a stake in the school community and participate in School Voice as well as the School Council. The allocation of resources and finance provided to enhance and develop the Spiritual life of the school is slightly greater than that allocated to other core subjects.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

Children are provided with a range of opportunities to develop and enrich their prayer life including weekly class Masses, class assemblies, collective worship during RE lessons and an annual retreat for Year 2 and Year 6 pupils. There is a focal point for prayer in each classroom and the mission statement is prominent throughout the school. Children enjoy the school Masses and show great reverence. They were able to identify and explain the significance of the symbols and artefacts in Church. During Mass, the children responded well to quite searching questions from the Parish Priest. In particular, when considering where a fifteenth station of the cross might be placed, the children identified the tabernacle as the dwelling of the Risen Christ. One child explained that, *'going to mass is going to God's house and I feel happy that I have the time to pray'*. Children are confident in planning and leading prayer and worship and Parishioners attending daily Mass commented that, *'the children were a credit to the school when attending mass'*. Within class, children readily use drama and song to enhance their acts of worship. In one lesson, a group of girls performed, almost spontaneously, through music and dance, an interpretation of the Story of Creation with confidence and evident enjoyment. Staff training provides opportunities for personal prayer and worship development and this is reinforced during staff meetings. Parents were confident that the school provided for and enriched the prayer life of their children with one parent commenting that although he worked away from home and was often absent, he was, *'confident that the school provided the Christian values that his family needed'*. Parents praised the school's approach to supporting families through the Sacramental Programme.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

Staff and pupils are confident in actively shaping St Willibrord's as a Catholic learning community. There were frequent references to the Mission Statement in daily life and in the pupil's learning. The work on the sacraments as seen in Year 3 resulted in pupil's linking their learning to the choices they would make in the light of their understanding of the Mission Statement. Witnessing to Christ and the values of the Gospel are evident in displays and children's work throughout the school. The values of the school have a very definite impact which extends beyond the school into the community. Although the recent very troubled times in the local community have clearly been a source of considerable concern, it is clear that the school stands as a witness to Christ's love, forgiveness and compassion when all around them is very challenging. The support for families in difficulty or any trouble is exceptional. The school actively encourages an earth care ethic through Eco weeks, recycling and the gardening and wildlife clubs. The work of CAFOD and CARITAS are fully supported and outside speakers visit the school to raise awareness of social justice issues.

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- Further develop the already active Chaplaincy work through the introduction of pupil chaplains in order to further develop pupil leadership in the worship and celebrations linking home school and parish.
- Continue to share best practice in diagnostic marking in all classes.
- Continue to support the Senior Leadership team through providing opportunities for spiritual renewal.

DIOCESE OF  **SALFORD**
Department for Formation, Office for Education

November 1th 2012

Dear Pupils

Thank you so much for the wonderful welcome you gave us when we came to visit you. 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.

You have a beautiful school. Your work is of a very high standard and we could clearly see that you take your learning very seriously and you are proud of what you are achieving. Your RE is especially good. Your creative ideas are very good and we could see that you can make connections between what you are learning in RE with other areas of the curriculum. Thank you for showing us so much of what you have been doing. Please send your Creation Rap and any other creative ideas you have to the diocese for us to share with other schools.

You are so lucky to have the Ark. This is a very important part of your school. Thank you to the children who showed us what they are learning there.

Mr Murray was delighted to go to Mass with you and said how well you behaved and joined in all the responses. Your teachers are keen to help you develop the Catholic life your school even further and to do this they are going to invite you to consider how you can develop Chaplaincy in your school.

God bless you all and have a really happy term.

Yours sincerely

Sr Judith Russi

(Section 48 Inspector)

Summary Report to Parents

On 25th 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.

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