

**INSPECTION REPORT**

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**Inspection carried out Under Canon 806  
and in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005**

**Name of School**      **St Luke’s RC Primary School, Swinton Park Road, Salford, M6 7WR**

Inspection date      2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

Reporting Inspectors      Julie Frazer, Brendan Hennessey, Lesley Pemberton

Type of school	Primary
URN	105966
Age range of pupils	3 – 11 years
Number on roll	448
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Rev Fr. John Williams
Headteacher	Paul Jameson
Religious Education Co-ordinator	Paul Duigan
Date of previous inspection	October 2012

<b>The Inspection judgements are:</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Explanation of the Grades</b>
Overall effectiveness of the school	2	1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
The quality of Catholic Leadership	2	
The Catholic Life of the school (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness)	1	
The quality of Religious Education (incorporating Word)	1	
The quality of Worship	1	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

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

St Luke's is a Roman Catholic Primary School with 448 children currently on roll including nursery children. The school serves the parish of St Luke and part of the parish of Ss Peter and Paul. 94% of the children are Baptised Roman Catholic and 13 of the 16 teaching staff are Roman Catholic. 5% of the children are eligible for free school meals, which is significantly below national average. 9% of pupils have English as an additional language. 12% of pupils are on the Special Educational Needs register, which is far fewer than the national average; 2 children have an Education, Health and Care Plan. Mobility of children is low. Governors have approved the appointment of an Inclusion and Learning Support Assistant to work alongside The Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator and the school has been awarded Dyslexia Friendly Status.

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

- **The deep commitment of all staff to provide a caring and nurturing environment that impacts positively on pupils learning and wellbeing.**
- **Prayer and worship is at the heart of the school community and pupils are proactive and confident in planning for and leading worship.**
- **The positive atmosphere of teamwork amongst all the staff and the mutual respect they have for each other.**
- **The polite, confident, happy and well behaved children who engage enthusiastically in their learning.**

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD**

St Luke's is a good Roman Catholic school with many outstanding features which has seen the school population increase significantly since its last inspection. To this end the school has built an additional building, housing a number of classrooms. The identified area for development in the last inspection has been addressed and met fully and effectively. The school's recently reviewed mission statement clearly places Christ at the centre of its work and gives a clear and unambiguous vision of the aspirations for every child in the school. Governors are supportive of the school and its mission in Catholic education. The school provides an inclusive environment and warm welcome for all children, parents and visitors alike. A great sense of care and support for the welfare of all exists within the school. Children bear witness to Gospel Values and they place Christ at the centre of their school life. There has been a significant change in Religious Education through the introduction of a new scheme of work. Rigorous monitoring and high expectations of all have impacted positively on pupils' learning and levels of attainment in curriculum Religious Education. Children are extremely confident in planning for and leading acts of worship and are enthusiastic about this. Senior leaders have made a clear commitment to provide a Catholic school which places their children at the centre of all they do; they are very proud of their children and the way they behave. As such, St Luke's is a school where children can grow and develop as individuals within a flourishing Catholic environment.

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

The headteacher and deputy headteacher have worked hard to ensure that the school bears witness to Gospel Values ensuring that the Religious Education curriculum and the Catholic life of the school are at the heart of all they do. The mission statement has been recently reviewed and is known by everyone within the school community. The children view the mission statement as a prayer which they have learnt and regularly include it as part of their acts of worship. Governors spoke very passionately about the school and they support its Catholic life. They are very keen for St Luke's to be an inclusive school and to ensure that those children within the school community who have identified needs are well catered for. To this end, on the recommendation of the headteacher, governors have ensured that there is sufficient budget allocation for the development of two quiet areas in school where children can retreat to, if needed. The school also employs an Inclusion Learning Support Assistant to help those children who find some aspects of school life more challenging than others. The school has also been awarded Dyslexia Friendly Status, indicating the school's commitment to include all, especially those with additional needs. Governors promote the school as a Catholic learning community and they have an emerging understanding of their role within the school. The next step is for the Governing Body to take a more assertive role in the self-evaluation of the school. The Religious Education subject leader, with the help and support of senior leaders, has worked hard to introduce effective schemes of work for Sex and Relationships Education and curriculum Religious Education, which

adheres to the Religious Education Catholic Directory. These are now fully embedded throughout the school and there is an effective action plan as well as monitoring systems in place. CARITAS in Action has been introduced throughout the school and is also firmly embedded across all age ranges. Effective assessment has been a challenge but now a series of 'I can' statements are used to assess children's knowledge and understanding of their faith. The children have clear leadership roles within school and have a strong voice which is listened to and heard. Members of the school community speak very highly of the parish priest who plays an active and inspirational role for all.

### **THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness) IS OUTSTANDING**

St Luke's is a very happy learning environment and on the day of the inspection children were seen running in to school where they were greeted by senior members of staff as they came in to the school grounds and by their teachers as they entered the school buildings. The school opens its doors at 8:30 am so that children can be settled in their learning environment and any concerns are addressed by staff. Parents say that teachers are always available to speak to them and that the headteacher is very supportive of his staff. The school has appointed an Inclusion and Learning Support Assistant to support vulnerable children. She is passionate in her endeavour to support identified pupils by creating a calm and safe space for those children who would otherwise have difficulty in accessing all aspects of school life. As a result of the work that she does and that senior leaders have embedded, there are effective structures and procedures in place that ensure all pupils and staff feel safe and are treated with respect and dignity. The school recognised the need to review its Sex and Relationships Education policy and have now secured and implemented a very effective scheme of work which fully addresses issues of sexuality and morality based on the Church's teaching. Pupils' voice is listened to carefully at St Luke's. There are many examples of their voice being heard and responded to. An explicitly Catholic culture permeates through the whole of school life and staff and pupils are confident in bearing witness to Catholic values. The Gospel Values are clearly evident and prayer leaders meet with the headteacher on a weekly basis to prepare worship based on gospel readings. Senior leaders work constantly to provide a school environment which clearly demonstrates witness to justice, compassion, love and forgiveness. The children are calm and secure in the knowledge that they are highly valued within their school community.

### **THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS OUTSTANDING**

The school's mission statement has been reviewed recently and is known and witnessed by all staff and children as a meaningful part of their school life. Religious Education is the core of the Core Curriculum. The recently introduced scheme of work was well researched by the Religious Education subject leader and all staff had high levels of training ahead of its implementation and as a result of this there is very high quality learning and teaching throughout the school. There are high expectations of all children and the work in pupils' books is of the highest quality. Children are clearly provided with time and encouragement to develop their learning by being creative and independent learners. Throughout the school there are higher levels of attainment in Religious Education than in English. Whilst assessment has been a challenge for the school the Religious Education subject leader has worked hard to ensure that it is effective with clear expectations and targets to further develop pupils' learning. Pupils' work in books is responded to effectively by teachers who guide the children in deepening their thinking and understanding. Sacred Scripture is central to pupils' work and the children are able to use it well so that it has a relevance to and impacts upon their daily lives. Senior leaders are able to allocate budget for Religious Education curriculum according to need as it is given the highest priority throughout the school. The 'Wednesday Word' is sent home with the children each week and families are encouraged to share this resource together as a family. Throughout the school there are many very high quality displays relating to Sacred Scripture. These along with working walls in classrooms encourage children to talk about and engage with Sacred text.

### **THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING**

The children in St Luke's school are very confident in preparing for and leading worship at all levels. On the day of the inspection inspectors observed a whole school act of worship which was of the highest standard. Children were very confident in saying that they had planned this by themselves. Prayer is at the heart of the school community and the pupils' prayer journals are beautiful; the children have clearly been given time and inspiration to reflect on issues that have touched and inspired them. There is a systematic and developmental prayer programme that runs throughout the school which includes a range of traditional prayers and prayer opportunities, as well as giving the children the skills to write their own

contemplative prayers. In doing this the children have clearly developed a sense of spirituality and a relationship with Jesus. All the children refer to the school's mission prayer and during a whole school act of worship they were able to say this together as a community. The parish priest celebrates weekly Mass with the children within the parish community. There are strong links between the parish and the school and throughout the liturgical year there are shared Masses and services of celebration. Whilst the school fully supports the Sacramental Programme by preparing the children, the formal sessions of preparation are held in church and are led by parish leaders. During these sessions the children lead prayers as part of their development and preparation for receiving the Sacraments. The parish priest is placed in very high regard by all members of the school community. The Catholic life of the school is given the highest priority and as such senior leaders work hard to ensure that high levels of funding and resourcing are available in order to fully develop prayer and worship throughout the school.

#### **AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- **To develop further and strengthen the involvement of the governing body so that they have a better understanding of their role in the self-evaluation of the school.**