

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 **Holy Family RC Primary School, Great Gates Road, Rochdale OL11 2DA**

Inspection date 2nd May 2018

Reporting Inspectors Marie Kwiatkowski, Pam Macro

Type of school	Primary
URN	105830
Age range of pupils	3-11
Number on roll	238
Appropriate authority	The Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Maureen Conlon
Headteacher	Helen Arnold
Religious Education Co-ordinator	Gwyneth Walker
Date of previous inspection	July 2013

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

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

Holy Family RC Primary School is a one form entry primary school with a part-time Nursery provision in Rochdale. There are 238 pupils on roll and the school is oversubscribed. The proportion of baptised Roman Catholics is 66%. 70% of the teaching staff are Roman Catholic. The percentage of pupils with EAL is 27.2%. 42.9% of children have been entitled to free school meals in the last six years (Pupil Premium) and 32% currently receive free school meals. The proportion of children with SEND is 10%. Children enter the school at a low attainment point but leave broadly in line with national averages. The school is in the 3% most deprived areas in England.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE: (5 max)

- **The highly regarded headteacher, governing board and staff share a collective vision and demonstrate a deep commitment to the Church's mission in education.**
- **The outstanding behaviour of the children who are polite, loving and respectful of each other and adults.**
- **The high levels of care, guidance and support the school provides for the welfare of the children, their parents and their families.**
- **There is a living Catholic faith at the heart of this school.**
- **The delightful children who confidently articulate their pride and happiness as members Holy Family.**

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL

Holy Family is a good Catholic school with many outstanding features. The highly regarded headteacher, governing board and staff share a collective vision and demonstrate a deep commitment to the Church's mission in education. The governing board is supportive, challenging and committed to their role in the Catholic life of the school. The headteacher, senior leadership team and governors have a clear view of the school's strengths and areas for development. A calm, positive and welcoming atmosphere permeates the school and there is a high level of outreach to all those in the school community. Children's behaviour is outstanding and they show a high level of respect and care for each other. They are clearly enthused by the work of the various pupil voice groups. Overall the standards of teaching are good providing well matched work that leads to the children producing a good standard of work. The school provides a high level of care and guidance for the welfare of the children and their families. The pastoral lead is available to offer assistance to those in need. As a result, the children are able to grow and develop as individuals. A caring and supportive environment has been created by the hardworking teachers and support staff. There are a variety of opportunities for prayer and worship across the school and the Chaplaincy Team know their roles and continue to develop and grow. The staff and pupils clearly demonstrate and witness to justice, compassion, reconciliation, love and forgiveness. The children are actively encouraged to be proactive citizens. They are delightful and are able to articulate confidently their pride and happiness as members of Holy Family.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

Leadership at all levels at Holy Family is outstanding. The hardworking, dedicated headteacher is committed to her mission to provide the very best Catholic education for all children. She is held in very high regard and enormously respected by the entire family of Holy Family. She is supported by a very able leadership team who share her vision for the continual development of the Catholic ethos and spirituality. The very experienced Religious Education subject leader supports the headteacher in her vision and is dedicated to her role in improving both the quality of Religious Education and the Catholic life of the school. Staff are also committed to the school's mission. Governors are deeply committed to the success of the school and are rightly very proud of it. They have a very clear vision for the mission of the school and make a highly significant contribution to its work through their challenge and support. The very supportive priests of the parish are regular visitors and all value their contributions to the spiritual life of the school through whole school masses, class masses, masses with the parish and various liturgies and celebrations. Pupil

leadership is very well established at Holy Family. Children feel they are listened to and their contributions are valued. The eco team, the GIFT chaplaincy team, the school council, the sports ambassadors and the mediation team are very articulate and confident in their contributions to ensuring the school continues to move forward.

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

The welcome provided by Holy Family is outstanding and truly reflects the school's mission to place Christ at the centre of its community. A warm, friendly welcome is extended to all and can be felt from the moment you enter this school. A real sense of belonging permeates throughout and all are deeply proud to be part of this. Parents spoke overwhelmingly about the welcome offered; the "wonderful" headteacher and the "friendly and approachable" staff who never judge but continually offer advice and support. They value the welcome offered when joining school at numerous events and feel they are kept very well informed through regular newsletters, website, learning logs and the school app. At the weekly family morning in the reception class, inspectors witnessed the friendly and welcoming atmosphere where parents engaged in activities with their children and spoke to staff in a mutually supportive environment. In the words of one parent, "You guys are putting all your heart and soul into your job." The welfare of all is of paramount importance at Holy Family and staff are pro-active in getting to know and value the children and their families. Within the school's calm and nurturing environment children feel safe, secure and well cared for. They speak confidently of the good relationships across the school and know there is always someone to help them. Children with special or specific needs are hugely valued, treated with dignity and afforded the highest possible level of care. The pastoral lead, children's counsellor, learning mentors, family support worker, speech therapist and rainbows group are all examples of the school's commitment to the care of others made in the image and likeness of God. An explicit Catholic culture is evident in all aspects of school life and the children's attitudes and behaviour are exemplary. The school's mission statement and statements to live by, ensure all witness to this culture. Children are motivated to help others and fund raising and charitable work is a significant feature within school. Springhill Hospice, Living Streets, Caritas, Med-equip 4 Kids, Poppy Appeal, Rochdale Food Bank, Water Aid, Suubi Children's Home and Oasis Dementia Unit are some of the numerous charities supported by this very caring school.

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS GOOD

The quality of Religious Education at Holy Family is good. The Mission Statement is known and understood by all members of the school family and has been recently reviewed. Pupils enjoy their Religious Education lessons; teachers have high expectations within lessons and Religious literacy is promoted. Teaching and learning is well matched to the needs of the pupils. Overall, the teaching observed is good and the school is working to build on this to ensure an increased percentage of teaching and learning is outstanding. In most cases, the standard of work in books is broadly comparable to literacy work. Marking of pupils work is mostly good, but varied in consistency. In the best instances, it provides next steps for learning. Children are motivated, challenged and engaged in lessons; they are confident in talking about their Religious Education work and their faith. In all lessons, children are willing to share their views and listen to others with care and respect. Support staff are used effectively to support children's learning and promote progress. Progress and attainment are good and children gain a deeper understanding of the Word of God through their Religious Education lessons. Lessons are planned from the 'Come and See' scheme which is further supported by a variety of other resources. The Religious Education subject leader has provided training for the implementation of the scheme and monitors teaching and learning in Religious Education regularly. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is clearly evident across the wider curriculum. There are many references to Sacred Scripture around the school and children are able to talk about these. Links between home and school are strong and the parents, governing board and children are clearly proud to be members of Holy Family.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS GOOD

Worship is good at Holy Family and will be outstanding when the children are more active in planning prayer and worship. The spiritual life of the children has high importance and prayer and worship forms a central part of life at Holy Family with the promotion of prayer in different places and at different times. The children enjoy gathering for a variety of relevant, age-related prayer and worship opportunities; they are given opportunities for personal prayer. There are set times for prayer in each classroom and children are taught the importance of the Sacraments and entering into the closest relationship

with God. The school chaplains are enthusiastic about their role and are confident to lead worship in school. The Chaplaincy Lead has recently introduced Prayer Stations led by the school chaplains and is developing links with the local Hospice. Throughout the day, inspectors witnessed a range of different prayer opportunities including class worship, prayer stations and a liturgy in the Friendship Room; children showed reverence and respect in all these occasions. Parents and carers are positive about the opportunities the school offers for prayer and worship and said that the class assemblies and school masses are, "Wonderful and prayerful experiences which are peaceful and calm." They feel the Sacramental Programme is good, with the school and parish working together. The school has clearly invested time and resources into developing the worshipping community of Holy Family. They have developed a Peace Garden and the school chaplains have created a space in the Friendship Room for quiet prayer and meditation to which they invite children at playtimes and lunchtimes. Each classroom has an age appropriate and relevant focal point for prayer with children's work displayed.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- **To ensure that exceptional teaching is evident across the whole school and that this is reflected in the quality and quantity of work in Religious Education books.**
- **To develop further the high quality worship already evident to ensure children are more actively involved in regularly planning and leading liturgies.**