

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. Boniface R.C. Primary School, Yew Road, Salford M7 2HL**

Inspection date 15th March 2018

Reporting Inspectors Jackie McNally and Julie Frazer

Type of school	Voluntary Aided
URN	105962
Age range of pupils	3-11 years
Number on roll	227
Appropriate authority	The Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Victoria Davies
Headteacher	Julie Bainbridge
Religious Education Co-ordinator	Neil Price
Date of previous inspection	March 2013

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	2	
The Catholic Life of the school (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness)	2	
The quality of Religious Education (incorporating Word)	2	
The quality of Worship	3	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

St Boniface RC Primary is located in Lower Broughton, in the inner-city area of Salford. The school is part of the parish of the Three Martyrs: St Boniface, St Sebastian and St Thomas of Canterbury. It is an average sized primary school with 227 pupils on roll. The majority of teaching staff and support staff are Catholic and 7 members of staff have the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies. The school is situated in an area of high deprivation and 50% of pupils are eligible for pupil premium funding. Currently 35% of children have English as an additional language; this has increased significantly over the last three years. 28% of pupils have special educational needs, the majority of whom have speech, language and communication as their primary need. The school was last inspected by Ofsted in 2016 and was graded 'good'.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- **The high level of care school provides for children and families. There are many clear examples of this care throughout all aspects of children's school and home life.**
- **The behaviour of the children is exemplary. They are loving and respectful of each other and adults in school.**

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD

St Boniface RC Primary is a good school which places the children at the heart of everything it does. A positive and welcoming atmosphere permeates every aspect of the school and the uniqueness of every child is clearly valued and nurtured. The children's behaviour is exemplary; they are well mannered, confident and enthusiastic and a credit to the school and their parents. All children demonstrate confidence and their positive feelings towards their school shine through. The whole school staff reaches out to support those who are vulnerable and as a result children and parents feel well supported. The mission statement is a living statement and is clearly evident in all aspects of school life. The school has worked hard to develop links with the three local parishes and has ensured that children have access to the sacramental programme by delivering it in school. The relationships between staff and children are excellent and the governors and senior leaders show a deep commitment to the school. The quality of teaching is consistently good and staff have high expectations of behaviour and learning. This will improve further with increased monitoring by all levels of leadership. Teaching throughout the school is good and children enjoy their lessons. The children take part in collective worship with enthusiasm and they are now ready to plan and deliver their own worship with increased independence.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS GOOD

The Catholic leadership demonstrates a deep commitment to the church's mission in education. The governors are fully supportive of and promote the school as a Catholic learning community. They are actively involved in the life of the school and the governor responsible for Religious Education regularly visits the school but the information shared with governors needs to be more comprehensive so that they can provide appropriate levels of challenge and support. The headteacher and senior leadership team bear witness to Gospel values and provide an excellent role model for other staff. Parents praised the commitment of the headteacher and the fact that she endeavours to support every individual child. The subject leader for Religious Education is passionate about his role and is committed to improving the religious life of the school. There is some evidence of monitoring and evaluation but these activities need to be carried out more regularly in order to bring about continuous improvement. There also needs to be more opportunities for the whole leadership team to be involved in the monitoring of Religious Education to ensure consistency of judgements and effective sharing of information. The school has written a lovely self-evaluation document but in the future this needs to be informed by monitoring and evaluation outcomes so that judgements are more rigorous and secure. Children are given many opportunities to care for those less fortunate than themselves and they were able to talk about how they supported each other and people in the wider community. The members of the GIFT team were able to talk with enthusiasm about their role and they are beginning to develop the skills to lead worship. 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 CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness) IS GOOD

St Boniface's provides a nurturing and supportive environment for all children and this is a strength of the school. Every member of staff works hard to help children overcome barriers to learning and as a result the children are confident and well behaved, demonstrating a great deal of care and respect for each other. The behaviour of the children is excellent because the school has clear expectations which are rooted in the Gospel values and children are frequently reminded about how we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Pupils and parents are proud to be members of St Boniface's school and parents truly appreciate all the support and guidance they receive from the staff. The parents praised the support children receive when they are facing difficulties and the positive impact this has had upon their social, emotional and educational well-being. The school's commitment to supporting children is demonstrated in the fact it employs a Caritas worker who works with families and Catholic Family Care works with the children during lunchtimes. Parents feel welcomed into school and spoke about the opportunities they had to participate in worship, parenting courses and school events. There are clear systems and procedures in place for safeguarding and children know that there is always someone available if they are worried or concerned about anything. The school encourages the children to reach out to others in the community and the children carry out fund raising activities for charities such as Loaves and Fishes, CAFOD and Caritas. Christ is placed at the centre of school life and the school mission statement is a living statement which is known and understood by all children. It was lovely to see the nursery children using actions to accompany the mission statement. The high quality relationships between staff and children bear witness to the values of a Catholic community.

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS GOOD

The school places Religious Education at the heart of the curriculum and the children's books include a good variety of work which shows a range of different teaching strategies. The quality of pupil's work is good and effective marking praises children's understanding as well as providing next steps for learning. The standard of work in the Religion books is similar to the standards observed in the English books, although this is not reflected in the assessment data. The school is using assessments to inform their teaching and learning but some additional training and moderation is required to ensure that the judgements are accurate. During the inspection the lessons observed were consistently good. Teachers used open ended questions and talking partners to encourage the children to share ideas and during these sessions the children demonstrated confidence and respect for others. If a big question is posed by a child during the lesson, the teachers must use this opportunity fully and provide the time for children to explore and share ideas. There were many opportunities for children to share the Word of God and in many lessons there was a period of reflection. The children were able to talk about how the Word of God influences their lives and one child said, "We have to find the brightness in our hearts to forgive everyone like Jesus did." Children are well supported in lessons and teaching assistants are used appropriately to support children. In order to further support and help parents the school includes information about the Religious Education curriculum on the website and parents felt they were well informed about the curriculum.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT

The children participated in acts of worship by listening attentively and responding with prayer and singing. The GIFT team are enthusiastic about their roles and responsibilities and during the lunch time they were keen to help the younger children learn about the saints. The role of the GIFT team could be developed further by providing the children with more opportunities to prepare independently worship or lunch time sessions. During the Key Stage 1 collective worship the children participated with reverence, listening attentively to the word of God, then placing a pebble in the centre to represent something they were sorry for. This reverence and respect was also observed throughout the assembly and the KS2 collective worship. At present the acts of worship are mainly prepared and led by adults and in order to develop the quality of worship further the children need to be provided with the skills and ideas to plan and lead high quality and creative acts of worship independently. Throughout the year there are regular masses to celebrate the liturgical year and the children attend mass at either St Sebastian's or St Thomas of Canterbury on holy days or major feasts. The school reaches out to all children and actively supports their spiritual journey; an excellent example of this is how the school staff lead the sacramental programme to ensure that all children have access to the preparation sessions. Parents are regularly invited to

attend the class collective worship and the excellent attendance at the Key Stage 1 collective worship demonstrated how much the parents value this opportunity.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- **To ensure that all levels of leadership are involved in rigorous monitoring and evaluation procedures in order to bring about further improvements in curriculum Religious Education and worship.**
- **To improve the quality of worship so that all staff and children have the skills to plan and lead high quality and creative acts of worship.**