

INSPECTION REPORT

Telephone: 0161 817 2204

Email: education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

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

Name of School **St. Willibrord's R.C. Primary School, Vale Street, Clayton, Manchester M11 4WR**

Inspection date January 23rd 2018

Reporting Inspectors Anne Heard
 Pam Macro

Type of school	Primary
URN	105540
Age range of pupils	3-11
Number on roll	256
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Gerard Broughton
Headteacher	Carl McIver
Religious Education Co-ordinator	Cath Finlay
Date of previous inspection	October 2012

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the Grades
Overall effectiveness of the school	1	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)	1	
The quality of Worship	2	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

St Willibrord's is a one-form entry Catholic School which also has an on-site unit of specialist provision for children on the autistic spectrum and those with a specific language development diagnosis. Approximately half of the children are from a White British background and half are from a wide range of other ethnic backgrounds, the largest of which is Black African. 46% of children speak English as an additional language. 45% of pupils are known to be eligible for free school meals. The deprivation factor for the area is 0.5. The proportion of pupils who are supported with special educational needs is 9.3% of which 4.3% have an Education, Health and Care Plan. Children enter the nursery at a low attainment point but achieve well throughout their school years. Pupils leaving in year 6 attain well above the national average in their SATS results. The school has undergone significant changes in leadership over the last few years.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- **Leadership at all levels has significantly contributed to the outstanding practice witnessed in this truly Catholic school**
- **Pupil voice is highly valued through the Caritas ambassadors, pupil parliament and GIFT team**
- **The outstanding pastoral care provided for all children by the caring and committed staff members**
- **The outreach work provided to parents, families and the local community**

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING

St Willibrord's is an outstanding Catholic Primary School that has been orchestrated by the drive and determination of the hard-working and committed Catholic headteacher. The leadership team, alongside the proactive and supportive governing board, have created a Christ-centred school with the teaching of Gospel values and "Building the Kingdom" at the centre of all that happens at St Willibrord's. The mission statement "Grow in God" is known and lived by all. Strong links between the church, school and home are fostered through a variety of celebrations, the sacramental programme and the celebration of Holy Mass. The children are happy, confident and articulate; they speak of how they are inspired by their Religious Education lessons. The staff team work well together and are fully committed to ensuring that each child reaches their potential. This is a truly inclusive school where all feel valued for the contributions they give. Children are taught to respect and care for each other, with staff acting as excellent role models. High expectations and ambitious goals are set ensuring the children make excellent progress. The quality of teaching is at least good, with many examples of outstanding practice observed through creative and ambitious lessons. Whilst standards and achievements are high, the staff are equally concerned for the welfare and care of each member of the school community. Pastoral care is outstanding. Families and pupils recognise they are valued and supported by a very dedicated and hardworking team who regularly go the extra mile, living out the phrase "What would Jesus do?" Worship in all forms is witnessed throughout the week. The children's singing during these times is uplifting and joyous.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

The outstanding Catholic leadership of the school has had a significant impact in driving forward a truly Catholic and distinctive ethos. The hardworking and dedicated headteacher has worked tirelessly to ensure that St Willibrord's school is a shining beacon of Catholic mission within the local community. High expectations of behaviour and attainment are clearly paramount, and these contribute significantly to the success of the school. Leadership at all levels is outstanding. The headteacher and the senior leadership team share a core desire to spread the Gospel values. The dedication shown for children, staff, parents and governors to grow in their faith and commitment to the true purpose of Catholic education is to be commended. Senior leaders are excellent role models to other members of staff and have created a warm, welcoming and nurturing school. Pupil leaders are confident and proud of their school and the roles they play in providing a pupil voice in decision making. The children speak with passion about the significant impact they are encouraged to have in all aspects of school life. Members of the governing board are regular visitors to the school; they are well informed and have a very thorough knowledge of all aspects of school life. The governors undertake their varying roles with enthusiasm and show a strong commitment to the role of "critical friend". They are proud of the achievements attained by the school. They support the headteacher fully in his desire to develop the

Catholic nature of the school.

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

St Willibrord's is a truly inclusive school where all are welcomed and nurtured for their unique gifts and qualities. Parents speak positively about how they feel welcomed and valued for the contributions they bring to the school community. This was evidenced in the large number of parents and grandparents attending the class assembly on the day of the inspection. The school is outward looking and encourages other agencies such as Just Youth, Global Policing and Caritas to enhance the provision provided to the children and their families. A family support worker is employed to support families experiencing difficulties. There is a strong sense of teamwork and all staff work together to provide a warm and welcoming environment. They act as positive role models and children act similarly in supporting younger pupils. Gospel values are lived out each day; the fully inclusive nature of the school is evidenced in the genuine love, care and respect shown to each other. Children are encouraged to think about others and to use their voice to be witnesses to Christ's teachings. One child commented: "When you show kindness, it grows like a seed." The staff lanyards and children's wristbands encourage them to think 'What would Jesus do?', and these are worn with pride and conviction. The children's behaviour throughout the inspection was exemplary. High expectations in R.E. was evidenced in the children's workbooks and their knowledge of the Bible. Through Caritas in Action, the children are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves and others. The school regularly provides charitable contributions to worthwhile causes such as Cornerstones and CAFOD, but the children are also encouraged on a developmental journey of how they have an important role to play in witnessing to the teachings of Christ and how even at a young age they can make a difference. The mission statement of the school which encourages all "To grow in God" - is truly in action at St Willibrord's School.

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS OUTSTANDING

Having adopted the 'Come and See' programme, the school is committed to ensuring that the children are given opportunities to develop their knowledge and religious literacy in ambitious and creative lessons. All lessons observed on the day of the inspection were at least good with outstanding features, and others outstanding. The school has shown a commitment to providing training and support for non-Catholic teachers in the delivery of the RE curriculum through weekly staff development provided by Just Youth. There is a cohesive strategy in place that ensures that the highest ambitions to deliver high quality teaching across the school are adhered to. Regular monitoring, scrutiny of books and assessment have led to some high-quality feedback and identify next steps to be taken. The effective use of the Bible and the development of religious literacy in lessons shows progressive learning at appropriate ages is taking place. It is evident from the high-quality resources and materials used for displays and prayer focus areas in the classrooms that the governors and senior leaders share a commitment to providing the best to support the children's journey to knowing and loving God and his son Jesus Christ. The development of the curriculum and quality of Word throughout the school is outstanding. On the day of the inspection the children demonstrated a strong knowledge of a variety of Bible stories. One class were discussing how the story of the loaves and fishes was represented differently in the four Gospels and they were encouraged to interpret what the reasons for this might be. In many lessons previous learning was referred to in order to develop the pupil's ability to make links. Knowledge and skills learnt in other curriculum areas were used to enhance learning in Religious Education. Parents and carers receive a weekly newsletter which refers to the 5 W's and contains the Gospel reading at Mass on Sunday. The school looks for many opportunities for children and their families to know and understand the Word of God.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS GOOD

Prayer and worship are an important aspect of school life and part of the mission statement "What would Jesus do?" - permeates all areas of the school. The staff have been supported in developing the prayer life of all the pupils, parents and themselves as they develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Throughout the day inspectors witnessed a range of different prayer opportunities, some prepared by the children and others led by the class teachers and other members of staff. Holy Mass was celebrated in the parish church. The children were reverent and eager participants. A class Mass is planned for each week and children are encouraged to have an active role in the celebration. The singing of children and staff is to be commended. This is seen as a strength of the school and is a joyful form of prayer that engages pupils, staff and parents. Prayer focus tables are evident in each classroom. The large prayer room and

prayer garden is used throughout the week for family, group and class sessions. Seasonal acts of worship are also organised to provide opportunities for personal and practical ways to develop the participant's prayer journey. The children and staff have developed a good knowledge of traditional prayers and these, alongside the children's own prayers, provides a good basis for developing the prayer life of the whole school community. The school and parish work closely together to encourage families to be active members of St Willibrord's church community. The Sacramental programme is one example of this, where the school and parish priests work closely together to promote opportunities for community worship. The work of Just Youth within the school alongside the regular visits of the parish priests to support the prayer life of the school, has had a significant impact on prayer and worship. Whilst the school is committed to this, there are still areas for development e.g. giving the pupils more responsibility to plan prayer opportunities.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- **To ensure that all pupils and staff become highly confident and skilled in planning and leading prayer and worship**
- **To continue to provide opportunities for staff to develop their own knowledge and spiritual awareness**
- **To continue to ensure that pupils respond to marking and feedback consistently, in order to improve their work**