

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 Patrick’s R.C. Primary School, Livesey Street, Collyhurst, Manchester, M4 5HF**

Inspection date 24th May 2019

Reporting Inspectors Patricia Ganley and Helen Sullivan

Type of school	Primary
URN	105535
Age range of pupils	3-11
Number on roll	211
Appropriate authority	The Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Peter Aulton
Headteacher	Anne Clinton
Religious Education Subject Leader	Zara Betney
Date of previous inspection	9 th July 2014

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

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

St. Patrick's R.C. V.A. Primary school serves the parish of St. Patrick's & St. Malachy's in Collyhurst, Manchester, an area of high social deprivation. There are 211 pupils on roll (including Nursery). 55% are baptised Catholic. Pupils come from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. The percentage of EAL pupils is much higher than average. 9% of pupils are on the SEN register. 38% of pupils are eligible for Pupil Premium Grant. Mobility is less than 2%. Children enter the Nursery below or significantly below age-related expectations. 10 out of 11 teachers are Catholic; 3 have the CCRS. 3 Teaching Assistants are Catholic. Since the previous inspection, St. Patrick's has federated with St. Edmund's R.C. Primary and share an Executive Headteacher, appointed to St Patrick's in September 2015. The federated governing body was formed in September 2018 with a new Chair of Governors. The Deputy Headteacher and Religious Education subject leader were appointed in September 2017. Ofsted judged the school as RI in the last inspection in March 2018.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- **The visionary and passionate leadership of the Executive Headteacher, which permeates leadership at all levels, effectively supported by a highly skilled and aspirational Governing Board.**
- **A welcoming family atmosphere in which all children, staff and members of the community are cherished and valued for who they are.**
- **Families receive outstanding care and support, especially the most vulnerable in the community.**
- **The daily life of the school is driven by the example and message of Christ.**

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD

St Patrick's is a Catholic school that has much to celebrate, as despite the many challenges it has faced in recent years, it is now an effective community; a beacon of hope to the children and families in Collyhurst. Driven by the faith-filled determination of the Executive Headteacher, senior leadership team and Governing Board, the school is carrying out its mission in Catholic Education fully. The welcome given to all members of the school community is outstanding and the pastoral care for families, especially those most in need, is exemplary. The children are thriving in the nurturing family atmosphere that exists in the school. Pupils' behaviour is of the highest standard and they carry out their leadership responsibilities with great commitment. Parents have a high regard for the work of the school. A radical review of the whole curriculum during the last eighteen months, with the Gospel of Christ at its heart, is affecting the overall Catholic life of the school in such a positive way, transforming every aspect of provision for pupils and their families. Staff have high aspirations for pupils and are finding creative ways to develop their teaching of Religious Education. Standards of teaching and learning in Religious Education have therefore been raised since the last inspection, including the quality of marking and feedback. As a result, children are having more access to the Word of God and are able to put their faith into action by the way they are encouraged to 'Go forth', building good relationships with each other and working on a wider range of social justice projects. Teachers are working hard to provide further opportunities for prayer and worship including some pupil-led activities and links between the school and parish are developing through involvement in the 'Hope in the Future' project.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP

Leadership at St Patrick's is outstanding. The deep commitment and passion of the Executive Headteacher for her vision of what a truly outstanding Catholic community should be is driving all those around her to achieve success. She has a strong leadership team, including her experienced and effective Deputy Headteacher and knowledgeable and highly skilled Religious Education subject leader. The newly formed governing board demonstrates a deep level of understanding of their role and the developmental needs of the school. The leadership team, supported by the governors, accurately evaluates the school's effectiveness and has ambitious plans to move forward in fulfilling its mission to serve its children, offering them the best life chances and nurturing them spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. Particularly impressive is the motivation, shared by the leadership, staff and governors to reach out to those most in need and this drives decision-making in a way

that is having a clear and positive impact on families. The Mission Statement of the school has been recently reviewed, involving the whole community. This is embraced by the whole staff team and there is a clear sense of direction in all that is developing. The parents have great respect for the leadership and appreciate all the school is striving to do. They could articulate that the actions of the leadership and staff are rooted in the Catholic faith. Pupil leadership is strong at St Patrick's, with an active and enthusiastic GIFT team as well as a range of other leadership opportunities for children.

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

St Patrick's is undergoing a journey of transformation as a community. There is a warm, friendly welcome for all and relationships are strong. Parents describe the school as "a home from home" and remark that their children are cared for as individuals and their needs are catered for. Parents talked about the good systems in the school and felt they were listened to. Children with extra challenges are particularly cherished. Foster carers spoke in glowing terms that the staff "put their heart and soul" into their work with children and have "worked miracles" with them. One example showed that a young child with selective mutism is now communicating confidently at home as well as at school and this was attributed to the work of staff. The behaviour of the children at St Patrick's is outstanding. They are respectful, hardworking and considerate to others. The school has, therefore, an atmosphere of calm and security. Despite financial constraints, the school environment is being transformed and the Gospel values that are such an important part of the fabric of life in the school are proclaimed clearly from the walls. The leadership and governors have made sure that the provision for those with SEND and families needing extra support is of the highest quality. The highly skilled SENDCo and CARITAS Social Worker employed by the school gave evidence of the lengths the school goes to in order to make children's lives better. Children can articulate their understanding of how they can be missionary disciples by living their lives with reference to Gospel values and the 'Ambassadors for change' work that has been established is raising their awareness of their need to be engaged with social justice initiatives. Various pupil groups address the need to care for others; Urban Crew, Debate Mate, Year 5 buddies, Year 6 prefects and Junior leadership Team. The children think their school is special; they gave glowing reports about the values shared, the high expectations and the care shown to everyone.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS GOOD

There is a strong sense at St Patrick's that Christ and His message is at the centre of all that is done and experienced. The leadership has committed to an overall review of the whole curriculum, involving training of senior leaders in the 'Building the Kingdom' programme and intensive planning with the rest of the staff to ensure that it is rooted in a Catholic vision for education with Religious Education at the core. The Religious Education subject leader has played a vital role in driving up standards by robust monitoring of teaching and learning, followed by coaching and mentoring of teachers, which is clearly evidenced by observation reports and book scrutiny which shows the impact of this leadership on standards. She has put in place effective systems of assessment in Religious Education, including knowledge assessment grids, related to the 'Come and See' scheme and 'I can' statements to track skills progress. Observation of lessons across the school shows clearly the emphasis on Sacred Scripture and children are challenged to look deeply at how they relate it to their own lives. In a Key Stage 2 lesson, children had a mature understanding of modern witnesses; one pupil said they were "People who want to help others because they want to follow Jesus and what he did". In Early Years Foundation Stage, a children's bible was being effectively used to bring the story of the 'Upper Room at Pentecost' to life and the teacher was questioning the children skilfully to build their knowledge. Though outstanding teaching was observed, consistency across the school needs to be ensured. The work done on the 'Big Questions' as evidenced through the 'Ambassadors for change' books was impressive. Marking and feedback is now consistent and is further evidence of the impact of leaders in raising standards. Religious Education books were beautifully presented, showing a range of creative approaches to learning. Pupils clearly enjoy their learning; as one child reported "When we learn new things our teachers make sure we understand." and another remarked "The teachers help us to recognise other people's points of view and improve ourselves."

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP is GOOD

Providing opportunities for Prayer and Worship at St Patrick's is an important priority. The Leadership team and staff are working to extend the range of opportunities for the community to take part in. A chaplaincy space has been provided and a GIFT team has been established. From talking to them and observation it was clear that they are now becoming confident in planning and leading prayer with groups of younger children. This opportunity now needs to be extended to more children. The school uses the Anam Cara 'Statements to live by' week by week as the focus for prayer and worship. This is promoted to families through the newsletter. Teachers adapt these in different ways for class prayer. In a Key Stage 2 class

a prayerful atmosphere was established with opportunity for quiet reflection, sharing of scripture and symbolic action of placing of shells to represent a promise to God. Some of the youngest children were also observed in a prayer and worship session, which was perfectly paced and well suited to the age of the children, allowing them to really reflect and listen to the Word of God and how they can act on it. Lectio Divina has been recently developed in school as an approach to prayer through Scripture. The school has started to join the parish community on some Sundays and to lead the readings; the parish priest is very supportive and keen to encourage this involvement. A beautiful prayer garden has been established at the front of the school where prayer activities such as the Rosary happen at key times. There are beautiful prayer areas in each classroom and in the corridors of the school. The staff are working to find ways to involve parents more in prayer and worship, such as class Masses, the travelling Nativity in Advent and the 'Day of the Dead' celebrations in November.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- **To develop the confidence of staff in providing children with opportunities to lead prayer and worship activities.**
- **To ensure consistently high standards of teaching and learning in Religious Education through further continuing professional development and sharing of the outstanding practice that already exists in the school.**
- **To enhance further the opportunities for parents to be involved and contribute to the Catholic Life of the school.**