

INSPECTION REPORT

Christ the King RC Primary School, Culcheth Lane, Newton Heath, Manchester, M40 1LU

Inspection date Tuesday 24th May 2016

Reporting Inspectors: Mrs. Anne Heard
 Mrs. Fiona Robinson

Inspection carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School Primary
 URN 105514
 Age range of pupils 3-11
 Number on roll 471
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body
 Chair of Governors Canon Alan Denny
 Headteacher Mr. Des Burns
 Religious Education Subject Leader Mr. Joseph Russell
 Date of previous inspection June 2011

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

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

Christ the King is a voluntary-aided RC Primary School in the Diocese of Salford. The school is much larger than most primary schools, having 471 children on roll and serves the parish of Christ the King, Newton Heath. The school has a three-year trend of improvement at all key stages. Progress of all pupils including disadvantaged and SEND is outstanding. Attainment on entry to the school is significantly below the national average. Children make outstanding progress during their years at the school and consequently leave with good to outstanding levels of attainment. The proportion of children known to be eligible for free school meals is significantly above the national average at 52%. The percentage of pupils with SEND support is 18.2%, which is above national average. 37% of pupils are from ethnic minority backgrounds. Attendance is broadly average.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING

Christ the King is an outstanding Roman Catholic Primary School. The headteacher inspires and leads staff at all levels in creating a culture of success for the children and staff; where all feel free to express opinions which are respected and valued. The headteacher is supported by a hard-working and enthusiastic deputy headteacher and senior leadership team including the faith life leader. The governing body are very committed to Christ the King school and are proactive in supporting and challenging the leaders to provide the best for all involved in the school. The parish priest and chair of governors are regular visitors to the school and are very knowledgeable about school life. Many of the children attending the school begin their education from below expectation levels of ability, but with the support of parents, and ambitious and aspirational teaching, children make significant progress throughout their years at the school. The behaviour and self-discipline of the children is outstanding. The inspectors were very impressed by the respect and knowledge shown by the children for their faith. The school offers a sanctuary of calm and respect for the uniqueness of each child. Children flourish in this environment and all staff ensure children are provided with the necessary skills to thrive and be resilient. Acts of collective worship in classes and for the whole school are outstanding and it is clear that prayer and worship are at the heart of Christ the King school.

KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- The outstanding and inspirational leadership of the headteacher.
- The excellent relationships between all members of the school community, including the parish priest.
- Behaviour and behaviour for learning throughout the school is outstanding.
- Care, guidance and support for all pupils.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

The very well respected headteacher, ably supported by a very capable and experienced deputy, leads the school with passion and enthusiasm. He demonstrates a desire to provide the very best opportunities for children. Quality assurance visits and a recent SIP report on the school, both validate the continuous improvements that the school is achieving in progress and attainment. The headteacher's vision and creativity has transformed the environment and facilities within the school, and his hard work in turning the school around has been significant. The senior leadership team, which includes the RE team are encouraged to develop their skills and ideas. Several members of staff are SLE's and offer support to other schools. The headteacher is a DLE, Associate Headteacher and Diocesan Inspector, and has a proven record of support for other schools. The enthusiastic leadership witnessed from the dedicated faith life leader and other members of the SLT has led to higher expectations and clarity, which are visible in children's work and displays around the school. The self-evaluation plan is a validation of all that the school has achieved so far. The governing body is effective in its support and challenge of leaders. Governors regularly visit the school

to carry out learning walks and meet with subject leaders, etc. Leadership at all levels shows a clear witness to the Gospel values and a commitment to meet the needs of all children. Rigorous monitoring by the faith life leader, headteacher and deputy headteacher has had a positive effect on raising standards. The chair of governors works closely with the headteacher to ensure that their shared vision for the school is realised. This is borne out of a mutual respect for each other's roles and responsibilities and a genuine commitment to providing the very best opportunities for the children. The school enjoys an excellent working relationship with St Matthew's RC High School cluster of schools. Senior leaders meet regularly and each year a joint training day takes place. Leadership development for the children, includes the roles of pupils who are a member of the chaplaincy team, urban crew and playground pals, which promotes pupil voice.

THE QUALITY OF WORD IS OUTSTANDING

The mission statement has recently been reviewed and all stakeholders were involved in drawing together a new and contemporary statement. It is known and responded to by pupils, staff and parents. Religious education is at the core of everything that happens at Christ the King and is visible in every room in the school. There is clear evidence of the teaching about the Word of God in books, displays, services, assemblies, etc. The Wednesday Word is introduced to the children each week by parishioners who attend the school to share the word with the KS2 children. Excellent links are fostered with the parish and mass was celebrated in the school or parish church on 28 occasions last year. On the day of the inspection mass was held for the KS2 children, with many parishioners and parents attending. The Word of God is lived at Christ the King. Sacred Scripture is embedded within the curriculum. Pupils know and understand The Bible and talk knowledgeably about Scripture. Teaching and learning is outstanding and is characterised by enthusiastic and creative teaching, which provides challenge for children through practical, creative and collaborative learning opportunities. Teachers are enthusiastic and have a strong subject knowledge. Samples of children's work from across the school were viewed on the inspection day, and these clearly evidenced the children's pride in their work. The teacher's use of a consistent marking policy across the school enables children to move their learning forward. High expectations and challenge are set for all children. Standards in religious education are monitored and are clearly making an impact as they are at least comparable to the standards of work in literacy books. During the inspection, children across the school were learning about the lives of the Apostles, Pentecost and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Lessons were well differentiated and matched the age and understanding of the children. In the EYFS children were encouraged through practical activities to have an understanding of the strength of the Holy Spirit. Parents are well informed of what the children are studying and are invited to attend assemblies and masses. Parents spoke about the strong links between parish, school and home, and referred to the Quarant' Ore service in church as a very special occasion. World religions are taught as part of the 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' programme. The school prioritises religious education in its school development plan and budget. It is always the first item on the headteacher's report to governors.

THE QUALITY OF WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

A warm welcome is extended to all who enter Christ the King Primary School. The school mission statement is displayed, known and understood by all. Parents, staff, governors and children talk about the welcome that everyone receives and the support that is given to each other. Parents spoke about how they always felt welcomed in school and any worries or concerns were always dealt with. They are welcomed to class masses, assemblies and other school events. The school has recently renewed its Leading Parent Partnership Award. All members of the school community show great respect, care and love for each other. Other families who are part of the parish community, but not from the school, are welcomed onto the Sacramental Programme. The children spoke with great warmth and affection about their teachers and with great enthusiasm about their school; all working together to produce a calm and happy environment. The school has excellent links with the parish and the parish priest is a very valued presence around school.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

The welfare and care for all children is outstanding at Christ the King. The excellent relationships between children and staff were evident in all lessons and throughout the school. The children feel they can approach their teachers with concerns and any issues or worries would always be acted upon. Appointments can be made with the class teachers at 8.30am so children's concerns can be listened to. The children talked about their charity work and how they had helped other children through Caritas and local charities. Safeguarding is a high priority at Christ the King and staff work closely with local services to ensure that all families receive the support and care they need. A social worker and school nurse are employed for one day a week to work alongside staff and vulnerable families. Before and after school care is given to all those families who need it. The Rainbows support programme for children experiencing loss and bereavement is embedded in the school and there are waiting lists to enter the programme. On completing the programme children are taken out for a 'treat' by the staff. The School Council and Urban Crew are the voice of the children and they could talk of the support they give other children throughout the school. The Urban Crew led the school on an "anti-bullying" programme and a winning poster was displayed throughout the school. The SENCO is a full time post and this ensures that the pupils with the greatest need achieve well due to the level of additional support and resourcing.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

Prayer and worship are a fundamental part of school life at Christ the King. The prayer garden is a place of calm and a focal point for spontaneous prayer. The children were extremely proud to talk about how it is used. Pupils who are a member of the chaplaincy team take opportunities to enhance the prayer life of the school by working with groups of children to make the prayer garden purposeful for everyone and take the lead in masses and acts of collective worship. Parents are encouraged to visit the prayer garden for contemplation and reflection. The mass and acts of collective worship observed were excellent examples of the quality of worship in the school. The parish priest is a regular visitor and provides excellent support, and his celebration of regular Masses allows the children, staff and parents to worship together. The use of relevant and modern hymns alongside more traditional ones deepens the children's ability to respond to the Word of God. The children's creed during the Mass was spiritually uplifting as was the beautiful singing that was heard throughout the day, sharing opportunities to praise God. The pupils have a very good knowledge of traditional prayers and responses, and are encouraged to say the rosary during the months of May and October. Children pray together throughout the day. Each class has a focal point for prayer, which uses high quality resources including display materials and artefacts. An annual timetable for liturgical and sacramental celebrations is adhered to throughout the year enabling pupils to become familiar with the important celebrations and events which are intrinsic to our Catholic faith.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

The school supports and encourages all staff, pupils and parents in their witness to Christ and the Gospel teachings. Part of the school's mission is: "to be excellent faith role models in the way we live our lives", encouraging all to reach out and serve others. The school supports and fundraises for a school in Uganda as well as holding regular events to support CAFOD, Cornerstones and during Advent, raised £1,000 to help pay for a new prayer room in the church. Pupils are taught to treat each other with respect and observations showed they clearly cared for themselves and others, expressing concern, compassion and an awareness of social justice. In interviews with the children they spoke eloquently about helping others and being given the opportunity to initiate their ideas into reality. Relationships are strong and children feel they are listened to and supported in making the right decisions. They have pride in their school and show care and a willingness to work together to improve their environment. The Urban Crew are proactive in social awareness and how to keep safe. New initiatives and visitors to the school are used effectively to develop children's citizenship and responsibility. There was evidence in paperwork and through discussions with a variety of stakeholders that the school is always looking outward in being witnesses to Christ's teaching. The school councillors represent and are elected by their peers. Pupil voice is a strength of Christ the King school. The ceramic display in the entrance to the school, created by year 5 and 6 pupils, is a visual record of the faith life of the school and its witness to the gospel values. There is an overwhelming sense of belonging, one parent

commented, “We are just one big happy family here”. The support for families in difficulty is excellent and is rooted in the desire to reach out to all, as Pope Francis initiated at the start of the Year of Mercy. Christ the King is that haven, where respect for human dignity is paramount. A door to represent the year of mercy is a focal point in the prayer garden.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- To implement Come and See across the school as planned.
- To continue to develop knowledge of other faiths.
- To continue to develop the role of the chaplaincy team across the school.

24th May 2016

Dear Pupils

Thank you so much for making us so welcome when we came to inspect your school for the bishop a few weeks ago. You made us feel very welcome with your happy smiling faces. Mrs Heard and Mrs Robinson really enjoyed learning about all the great things that you do at Christ the King. Your new mission statement is clearly lived by everyone at your school.

We know from talking to you and watching you that you are very proud of your school and take great care of it and each other. We really enjoyed listening to you talk about your prayer garden and the Year of Mercy door. Continue to look after each other and help those in need just like Pope Francis asked us to do.

You will be happy to know that we think you have an outstanding school. You work very hard to be the best you can. We enjoyed being part of your lessons and were sorry we could not get to see more of them. Your teachers work very hard to give you exciting and challenging lessons and we would like to say thank you to them and all who help them in making your school so special.

Your headteacher, with the support of the governors, has worked really hard to improve your school buildings which look fantastic. Mr Burns is a dedicated headteacher, and along with all the other teachers and support staff they have made your school a very special place. You are very lucky to have so many people who think the world of you and keep you safe.

Your beautiful singing and your participation in the Mass and during acts of Collective Worship show that you enjoy living in Jesus.

We have asked your teachers to help you to learn about your faith further when they introduce the new RE curriculum [Come and See] in September. We also want them to continue to develop the roles of the pupils who are a member of the chaplaincy team and to enhance your knowledge of other faiths.

God bless you all, and enjoy your last half term at school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Anne Heard and Mrs Fiona Robinson

(Section 48 Inspectors)

Summary Report to Parents

On the 24th May the school was inspected in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005. The full report has been made available to the school and can also be accessed via both the school website and the Education section on the website of the Diocese of Salford.

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- To continue to develop the role of the chaplaincy team across the school.