

INSPECTION REPORT

Holy Rosary RC Primary School, Fir Tree Avenue, Fitton Hill, Oldham, OL8 2SR

Inspection date 20th October 2015

Reporting Inspectors Brendan Hennessy
 John Thorpe

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

Type of School Primary
 URN 105701
 Age range of pupils 3 - 11
 Number on roll 244
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body
 Chair of Governors Paul Devine
 Headteacher Tracy Horrocks
 Religious Education Subject Leaders Louise Atkinson, Jane Finch
 Date of previous inspection June 2007

| 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 | 1 | |
| The quality of the Word of God | 2 | |
| The quality of the Welcome | 1 | |
| The quality of Welfare | 1 | |
| The quality of Worship | 2 | |
| The quality of Witness | 1 | |

The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School serves the parish of Holy Rosary, Oldham. This is an average sized primary school with 244 pupils on roll, 56% are baptised Roman Catholic. The school is situated in a culturally diverse area of social disadvantage and high mobility, 31.1% of pupils are currently entitled to Free School Meals. On entry to nursery the attainment of the majority of pupils is below the national average. Most pupils have made good or better progress in their learning by the time they leave at the end of KS2. The school currently has 9.8% of the pupils with Special Educational Needs and 22.5% with English as an additional language. There are 13 teachers in the school, 8 of whom are Catholic, 3 have the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies and 5 more have started the CCRS. School provides extended provision for those children who need it both before and after school. The school holds national awards for: School Games, Sport's Trust, Eco-Friendly School, Healthy School and Cooking School.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD

Holy Rosary is a good Catholic primary school with many outstanding features. Christ is clearly at the centre of all aspects of school life in this warm and friendly school, where all children are offered a true Catholic education in a caring and supportive environment. The mission statement is visible and understood by all in the school community. The school's 10 values, which reflect Gospel values, are clearly evident and lived out by all. The prayer life of the school and the many opportunities for worship have enhanced the individual faith journeys of all in Holy Rosary. The dedicated headteacher, talented RE subject leaders, enthusiastic leadership team and the hardworking staff do all they can to ensure that the spiritual and pastoral needs of all are met in this inclusive school. The parish priest and governing body are very supportive. They are committed to ensuring that a true Catholic education is provided for all in school. The quality of teaching in Religious Education is good and all staff strive to achieve high standards across the school. The friendly, polite and well-mannered children are very proud of their school and their behaviour and attitude to learning is very good. Parents stated that school "ticks all the boxes" and was very much a "family school". They felt valued and stated that they could talk freely to staff and that they and their children were listened to. School takes every opportunity to build on the excellent links with the parish and home. The leadership team is effective in monitoring, assessing and evaluating Religious Education in school, which has ensured that the school has continued to develop since the last inspection.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- The commitment of all staff to providing a caring and nurturing school that impacts positively on the children's well-being and learning.
- The quality of relationships across the school and the behaviour of the polite, well-mannered children.
- The welcome offered to all and the respect, dignity and care shown to every individual within the school community.
- The recently appointed headteacher is developing a clear vision for Catholic education in the school and is supported in this by enthusiastic, committed and dedicated RE subject leaders, the senior leadership team and governors.
- The positive atmosphere of teamwork among all staff and the mutual respect for each other.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

Holy Rosary is very well led by a dedicated headteacher who has a strong, spiritual commitment and a clear sense of purpose for the education of the whole child. The headteacher is very well supported by an enthusiastic leadership team, two committed RE subject leaders and a diligent staff. The governors have a clear, strategic vision for the school, they are committed and proactive in providing support and challenge. They have worked with the school to help shape a shared vision for the development of Catholic education. All staff and governors make sure that this shared vision is at the forefront of their thinking and practice on a daily basis. The very supportive parish priest is a regular visitor to school and is fully involved in the religious life of the school. Pupil leadership has been established through the school council and strengthened by the commissioning of the school chaplains. School leaders set the example for others in the school to follow and the quality of leadership at all levels of the school community makes a significant contribution to the quality of provision for Catholic education at Holy Rosary. Through effective monitoring, assessment and evaluation, the leadership team is fully aware of the strengths of the school and what needs to be done to develop even further. The school prioritises Religious Education on their professional development programme for staff and it has a high priority in the school improvement plan. This has had a positive impact on the quality of provision of RE in school. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education was found to be outstanding and permeates all aspects of school life.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD OF GOD IS GOOD

The Religious Education of the children is at the centre of the school's core curriculum and all staff place a high priority on the teaching and learning of RE. To enhance the quality of provision in RE school has been creative in developing and planning RE around the 'Come and See' programme and 'Caritas in Action'. The mission statement is known and witnessed throughout the school. It is closely linked to the school's 10 values, reflecting the Gospel values, which are clearly evident and lived out by all. The importance of the Word of God was clearly demonstrated throughout the school in many wonderful, creative displays and high quality artwork. The quality of teaching in Religious Education is always good and all staff strive to achieve high standards across the school. Teachers have good subject knowledge and lessons overall were well planned with clear learning challenges, differentiated activities, good pace, with opportunities for the children to share their thoughts and ideas. Good use of questions, including engaging children in thinking about the 'big questions', was observed in all lessons. A very good example of this was observed in a lower Key Stage 2 lesson, where engaging and effective learning took place ensuring the learning challenge, "Do I understand what living in the light of Jesus means?" was met. Religious literacy was promoted in all lessons and children were confident in their use of religious terms. A good example of this was seen in an upper Key Stage 2 lesson where the children discussed free choice and suffering in the world. Scripture is clearly known, understood and made relevant throughout the school. Constructive marking and feedback was evidently helping pupils to improve their work and encouraging them to reflect on their learning and understanding of RE. Pupils show a real interest and enthusiasm in RE lessons, they were happy and confident to share their understanding of their faith. Teaching assistants effectively interacted with pupils to support their learning in RE. Parents were very clear about the importance of RE and commented on how much the children enjoy RE lessons and how well they are taught. Pupils learn about other faiths through the RE scheme and assemblies. This helps them to understand and respect the beliefs and cultures of others.

THE QUALITY OF THE WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

The Holy Rosary school community provides a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment, clearly demonstrating respect and care for all its members. Pupils and staff were confident with and welcoming towards the inspectors, being keen to tell the story of their school. Visitors are immediately

aware of the school's mission; that they are in a place of learning and the operational significance of the 5w's. Staff go out of their way to ensure that visitors are welcomed with love and respectful care. On corridors and in classrooms, wall displays proudly show a shared knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and Gospel values. A strong commitment to safeguarding in no way compromises the genuinely warm welcome. On entering school pupils receive a warm welcome from adults. Parents of Year 1 pupils shared an enjoyable, inclusive, 'Stay and Pray' session in class with their children. Pupils were pleasant, polite and well-mannered throughout the day. They spoke at length about how much they enjoy school and how safe and secure they feel. Parents of pupils new to the school meet EYFS staff at home before their children start school to ensure they feel welcome and, if needed, appropriate support is offered. Parents stated that they very much appreciate the willingness of staff throughout the school to engage with them, "Staff always have time to speak to parents". Parents are invited into school regularly to share assemblies and faith celebrations. Several parents provide in-class support each week. Many families have been involved with school for more than one generation and have a strong sense of belonging. There is a number of long serving staff as well as recently qualified and newly qualified staff; they all feel equally valued and welcomed. The school successfully inducts all staff into the Catholic life of the school.

THE QUALITY OF THE WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

The Holy Rosary school community clearly demonstrates respect and care for one another and service to all. Throughout the school there is good practice enabling pupils and staff to feel safe and well cared for and to adopt safe practices themselves. Procedures to safeguard and protect are fully endorsed. Pupils are encouraged to make the right choices and to adopt safe practices. Older pupils care for younger pupils. The school council and pupil chaplains are developing their leadership skills and speak confidently and enthusiastically about their role in school in supporting an increasingly diverse population. Older pupils showed a clear understanding of the free availability of God's love and forgiveness. They understand it is important to help others and have compassion for those less fortunate and pupils raise money for Caritas and CAFOD annually. Pupils have a keen sense of right and wrong, fair and unfair, and know what to do should they experience discrimination of any kind. There is a positive ethos in school, at the centre of which is Christ as an example for the whole community to aspire to. Staff are happy to be in school. Relationships across the school are of high quality and based on respect for the individual. Governors and senior leaders ensure that careful consideration is given to supporting the needs of all pupils when making budget, staffing and resourcing decisions. The school provides a free breakfast and nurture groups for identified pupils. Parents very much appreciate the 'open door' policy which means that parental concerns are dealt with speedily and effectively; issues are resolved thus assuaging any minor concerns before they develop into bigger problems. They are very enthusiastic about the FAST programme that has been introduced by school to support families. The parish priest is a regular visitor to school. He knows where the school is in its faith journey and works hard to support the religious welfare of staff, pupils and their families.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORSHIP IS GOOD

There are good examples of the opportunities for worship throughout the liturgical year that show the importance of prayer and worship to this school community. Prayer and worship is expressed and witnessed through classroom acts of reflection, assemblies, Mass and liturgies. Each classroom has an age appropriate and relevant focal point for prayer and these are clearly valued by the children. Additional focal points for prayer and reflection are situated at key areas in the school that can be accessed by all, not least the Prayer Garden. The children are happy to write their own prayers and to

share their joy in praising God with others. The staff and children work together preparing and delivering acts of collective worship in different formats. The acts of prayer and worship observed were child centered, thoughtful and relevant, ensuring that children and adults were given the opportunity to pray together as a community. Classes invite parents for 'Stay and Pray' sessions, with the aim that the children will take responsibility for preparing and leading the sessions. In the well-attended 'Stay and Pray' sessions observed the children understood the purpose of prayer, were actively engaged and respectful at all times. During the upper KS2 class liturgy, the children were given opportunities to reflect on the big question "How do I get to Heaven?" During this liturgy the children showed reverence and respect, were involved in meaningful discussion prompted by thoughtful questions, and enjoyed praising God in prayer and joyful singing. The introduction of pupil chaplains has given even greater opportunities for children to take a leading role and they are beginning to make a contribution to and an impact on prayer and worship across the school. Parents and carers are invited to attend special assemblies and Masses throughout the year and were positive about the range of opportunities the school offers for prayer and worship. The parish priest regularly visits the school to celebrate Holy Mass and help the staff and children deepen their faith and understanding. The special moments of prayer and worship at Holy Rosary help all members of the school community develop their personal relationship with God and one another.

THE QUALITY OF THE WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

The mission statement is at the heart of the school and everyone at Holy Rosary School tries to live it out daily as they give witness to the beliefs and values of the Catholic faith and to Christ's teaching. Holy Rosary is an inclusive school that welcomes all and celebrates differences. The children treat each other with respect, care, compassion and dignity demonstrating that the Gospel values are fostered and evident throughout the entire school community. Children are encouraged to reach out to those in need by their support for local, national and world charities including: CAFOD, Holy Childhood, Fairtrade and St Joseph's Penny. The school fosters a spirit of awe and wonder through religious education and the broader curriculum where children are encouraged to be good guardians of God's creation. They know that they have a vital role to play in looking after God's world. Relationships are excellent between all members of the school community and all are happy to talk openly and confidently about the Catholic life of the school. There is a good sense of teamwork among the staff, children and parents which gives the school a true family feel and helps the children to become well rounded individuals. Staff are positive role models for the children promoting the ethos and values of the school and helping them to recognise that Jesus is with them in all aspects of school life. The home, school and parish links are inclusive, effective and valued by all. Close links with the parish are enhanced by the regular visits of the parish priest which was acknowledged and greatly appreciated by the staff, children, governors and parents. A strong sense of belonging to the school community exists based on the teachings of Jesus and an explicit Catholic values-based culture permeates the whole of school. It is clear that all members of this school family meet God each day and do all they can to meet the challenges involved in this witness.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- Continue to develop prayer and worship in school, including the already active pupil chaplaincy team, in order to expand pupil leadership in prayer and worship.
- To carry on developing the whole school approach to school improvement in curriculum RE so that outstanding practice can flourish throughout the school.
- To explore further the development of assessment in RE.
- Continue to embed the 5w's model for self-evaluation of the Catholic life of the school

Summary Report to Parents

On 20th October 2015 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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20th October 2015

Dear Children,

Thank you for the very warm welcome you gave us and for making our visit to Holy Rosary RC Primary School such a joyful occasion, we really enjoyed our time with you. You and all the adults in school are indeed inspired by Jesus and work very hard to always do your best, and because of this your school is a good Catholic school.

We really enjoyed seeing your lessons and learning about all the wonderful things you do in Holy Rosary. We saw as many of you as we could and we are sorry if we didn't see you in your class. Thank you for sharing your work with us. We enjoyed reading your RE books and we were impressed with the wonderful displays of your work, especially your artwork, around school. It was clear to us that you have a good knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and that you really try your best in all of your lessons.

It was lovely to see so many happy, smiling faces. You are clearly very proud of your school and all that you have achieved together. We were also very impressed by the way you all want to succeed in school and how well you look out for each other. You were so well behaved; your politeness and manners were simply superb.

It was so pleasing to see how attentive you were in the liturgy and acts of worship we saw. Everyone showed great respect and reverence, your behaviour was excellent and your prayers were uplifting.

Mrs Horrocks, all the staff, Fr Michael, the school governors and your parents are extremely proud of you and of what you have achieved, well done and keep it up!

Your teachers are keen to work with you to build the Catholic life of your school even further and to do this they are going to continue to help you develop as leaders of prayer and acts of worship.

God bless you all and enjoy the rest of the school year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Brendan Hennessy
Mr John Thorpe
(Section 48 Inspectors)