

INSPECTION REPORT

St William of York RC Primary School, Nugent Rd., Bolton BL3 3DE

Inspection date 13th June 2017

Reporting Inspector Mr J M Thorpe
 Miss S Molloy

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

Type of School Primary
 URN 105226
 Age range of pupils 3-11 years
 Number on roll 250
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body
 Chair of Governors Mr Gareth Smyth
 Headteacher Mrs Clare Lightbown
 Religious Education Subject Leader Mrs Clare Lightbown
 Date of previous inspection October 2012

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 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	2	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

St William of York is a voluntary aided, Roman Catholic primary school in the Diocese of Salford serving the parish of St William of York, Bolton. This is an average sized school with 250 pupils on roll (including Nursery). The Admission Number is 30, the age range of pupils is from 3 to 11 years. The school is located within a culturally diverse area exhibiting significant levels of social and economic disadvantage. 92% of pupils live in the 20% most deprived areas nationally. On entry to Nursery the majority of pupils have attainment levels below the national average. 22% of pupils are eligible for free school meals; 40% of pupils attract Pupil Premium Grant. 8% of pupils have been identified as having a special educational need or disability of some kind. There are 3 pupils with Education, Health Care Plans. 23 different first languages are spoken, 45% of pupils have English as an additional language. 55% of pupils are Baptised Roman Catholics. Including the headteacher there are 10 teachers, 7 being Roman Catholic; of these 3 hold the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD

St William's is a good Catholic school with several outstanding features. Recently, the school has faced significant challenges and has to be applauded in that they have been successfully addressed. New governors, headteacher and some teachers have been appointed; other staff re-deployed across the school. New schemes and appropriate training are having an impact on learning. The school has benefited from an extended period of stability. The many good and outstanding features clearly indicate that there is much to celebrate whilst recognising the areas for future development. The extremely positive changes have been welcomed by the whole school community. The school has a strong Catholic ethos and successfully offers its pupils a traditional Catholic education in which diversity is welcomed and celebrated. It is a happy school, pupils enjoy their learning. The dedicated headteacher (also RE subject leader) and hardworking staff team do all they can to ensure the spiritual and pastoral needs of all are met and that gospel values are lived out by all. Pupil behaviour is exceptional. Parents are supportive of what the school is doing for their children and appreciative of the high levels of care, attention and support given to pupils and their families. Teaching observed was always good, in some classes accelerated progress was evident but this was not typical of all classes. The school is well supported by sensitively deployed teaching assistants and efficient administrative staff.

KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- The recently appointed headteacher is developing a clear vision for Catholic education in the school.
- The quality of relationships across the school and the polite, well-mannered pupils.
- The outreach to parents and families; the welcome and inclusion for all is outstanding.
- The commitment of all staff to providing a caring and nurturing school that impacts positively on staff and pupils' well-being.
- The leadership of the school is supported by a well informed and committed governing body.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS GOOD

The dedicated headteacher and leadership team are totally committed to providing strong Catholic leadership for the school. Priority has been given to the delivery of the 'Come and See' scheme and the quality of acts of worship. The Salford Diocese has provided training for staff and governors. The re-written mission statement is regularly reviewed; it places emphasis on the relationships between individuals and with God. There is also a pupil friendly school motto. The delivery of RE lessons is carefully planned; there is a detailed action plan that involves regular book scrutinies and the monitoring of teaching and learning. The leadership team and the governing body are well aware of school strengths and areas for development; they have a clear, shared vision for the future

development of the school based on accurate self-evaluation. The governing body fulfils its role well in respect of its Catholic foundation; it has good and developing knowledge of the school supported by headteacher, subject leader and link governor reports. Governors regularly visit school; they ensure that pupils are the focus of all their decisions. The headteacher shares ideas with a Bolton Schools Catholic Education Partnership (BOSCEP) working party 'Developing the Catholic Life of the School.' Finance is readily available for RE resources. Pupils across the school are ready and eager to assume leadership roles as members of the GIFT chaplaincy and CARITAS teams and Pupil Voice. The parish priest is a regular and valued visitor to the school who provides good support for the religious welfare of staff and pupils. The school promotes community cohesion by helping all pupils to appreciate the diversity of people's religious beliefs, backgrounds and circumstances.

THE QUALITY OF WORD IS GOOD

The school mission statement has been recently reviewed; a pupil friendly school motto has also been adopted. Work is on-going to ensure pupils have a deeper understanding of its significance to the daily life of the school and how it is the focus for encouraging everyone to always do their very best. The school has developed a clear vision of how RE should be taught. Teachers place a high priority on their teaching of RE; all accept that RE is the core of the core curriculum. Teachers plan their lessons well; the quality of teaching across the school is good. There is evidence to suggest that there is good capacity for much of the teaching to become outstanding. In the best lessons considerable thought, detail and research was evident in teachers' planning. Differentiation was present in delivery, task and outcome. Speaking and listening was encouraged and religious literacy was developing. Good subject knowledge enabled teachers to use appropriate vocabulary and engage pupils in individual and collaborative tasks as they interrogated extracts from the Bible and Scripture. In a minority of lessons the pace of learning was hindered by limited subject knowledge, too much time sitting on the carpet and insufficient challenge in the work presented for the most able pupils. Therefore, the needs of some pupils were not being met as there were limited opportunities for these pupils to take responsibility for their own learning. The standard of work in RE books is in line with standards in literacy books. Across the school pupils' attitudes to learning is good; they show interest in and enthusiasm for their RE work and talk enthusiastically about the topics they have covered. Attention to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs ensures they are being taught to challenge injustice and respond to those in need. They are happy to be in a school that identifies and celebrates different cultures, backgrounds and faiths; an annual Cultural Diversity Week is popular with pupils and parents.

THE QUALITY OF WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

St William's provides a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued. Pupils and staff foster a strong sense of belonging and clearly understand the importance of welcoming others into their community. Parents, pupils, staff and governors all spoke positively about the welcome all visitors receive. Pupils are warmly welcomed by staff each morning as they enter school, the headteacher meets parents outside school almost daily. Parents said they always feel welcome coming into school and that their children are happy to come to school. Parents appreciate the open door policy that enables them to speak with staff regularly. Parent workshops, transition meetings and parents' evenings are always well attended. Throughout the year parents and the wider community are invited into school to share celebrations. New families benefit from home visits, visits to school before entry and, if requested, individual tours of the school. Relationships between pupils and staff are strong; all were polite, friendly and well-mannered towards inspectors throughout the day. Families with other faiths are welcomed into the school community, their faith traditions respected; it is clear that diversity and difference are valued and celebrated. The strong Catholic ethos encourages pupils to be respectful, considerate and compassionate; the importance of the individual is appreciated by all. Upper Key Stage 2 pupils produced thoughtful work on the need to support others, love and care for others and the elimination of segregation and discrimination. In the EYFS pupils were articulating their thoughts around friendship, forgiveness and reconciliation. The school adopts a holistic approach to ensure the pupils social, emotional and cultural needs are catered for. Parents are kept well informed via newsletters whilst curriculum information and school activities are all published on the school website and in social media. The school successfully inducts new staff into the Catholic life of the school.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

Clear structures are in place for safeguarding, which ensures pupils are provided with a safe and secure environment. There is an effective induction programme for all who are new to the school. Pupils in all age groups were able to say why they feel safe in school; they know what to do should they come across unacceptable behaviour of any kind. Relationships are of a very high quality. The school ethos fosters a culture in which pupils are confident to express their views and share their experiences knowing that others will value and respect them. They are happy to discuss anything that concerns them, confident that all adults in school will listen to them and help them overcome any problems. Pupils love coming to school. The school strives to meet the needs of the most vulnerable families and pupils in a variety of ways; counselling for pupils and families, a Caritas support worker, a behaviour support worker and learning mentors, are all accessible. Each school day begins with a well attended Breakfast Club which is available to all pupils. Carefully targeted spend of Pupil Premium Grant is helping to narrow the gap between groups. The local authority provides additional behaviour support should it be required. It is a calm school, staff offer calm support that ensures learning and relationships are constantly strengthened and enhanced. An adult was observed dealing with a pupil who was having difficulty staying on task in class. The pupil was quietly spoken to and returned to work almost un-noticed by the rest of the class. The Christ centred ethos is both loving and positive thus fostering understanding, empathy and forgiveness. The school is fully inclusive. Parental concerns are dealt with speedily and effectively. The school generously supports a range of local, national and international charities. This is particularly pleasing as many of the pupils come from homes where life can be difficult at times, yet still they reach out to others.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS GOOD

Worship is an integral part of the whole school community and pupils are respectful and reverent when taking part in or listening to acts of collective worship. Evidence was seen of a range of celebrations, liturgies and paraliturgies. The whole school assembly observed was led by the pupil GIFT chaplaincy team that took almost complete control of the entire event, from planning to delivery. The children are becoming more confident in their ability to lead prayer in order to further develop their relationship with God. They are being increasingly involved in the planning of assemblies and acts of worship. Currently acts of prayer and worship have a tendency to be over reliant on adults; there are plans in place to use the GIFT chaplaincy and Caritas teams in a more creative, innovative and engaging approach to acts of prayer and worship. The parish priest is seen as an integral part of school life, visits school regularly to celebrate the Eucharist and special occasions. Pupils visit the parish church and make contributions to liturgies and services. Thus, members of the wider community see them as a worshipping, practicing community. In the EYFS pupils recounted accurately the story of The Little Red Hen and reflected on its relevance to their everyday experience. They listened respectfully and recognised in the story symbols of friendship such as handshakes, hugs, saying sorry and sharing. They sang their friendship song with great energy and enthusiasm. The funding dedicated to RE is enabling the purchase of resources that are enhancing the quality of prayer and worship in classes and supporting the activities of the GIFT chaplaincy and Caritas teams. In all classrooms there are prayer focus areas that provide pupils with opportunities for spontaneous prayer and reflection. A chaplaincy room provides a quiet, reflective space within the school for pupils to use.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS GOOD

The school is held in high regard by the local community and the families it serves, in recent years it has been over-subscribed. Witnessing to Christ and gospel values are central to the life of the school. The school is a diverse community that characterises a values based Catholic culture. The mission statement is in plain English and easily understood; the school motto demonstrates to pupils how the school bears witness to a loving God; that it enables pupils and staff to meet God each day. Throughout the day, in most classrooms the dominant themes were love, friendship, forgiveness and reconciliation. Importantly, the pupils know they are loved. The many displays on corridors and in classrooms reflect the commitment of staff and pupils to their Catholic faith. They show pupils' prayers, celebrate pupils' achievements and follow the liturgical year. Adults act as role models of the school's mission; the school places the pupils at the very centre of this mission. Relationships are very strong and a sense of teamwork is evident. The community knows its responsibilities in relation to equal opportunities, reconciliation and Christian stewardship. Pupils from Pupil Voice spoke about their work, how they believe they

are listened to and that they can become agents of change and make genuine contributions to the strategic development of the school. Pupils have a keen sense of right and wrong, justice and injustice as articulated particularly well by the members of Pupil Voice. There are plans to further increase the impact of the already active GIFT chaplaincy and Caritas teams across the whole school. The current teams show a developing religious literacy that needs to be encouraged further down the school so as to ensure pupils are confident and secure in their witness to Christ, gospel values and the teachings of the Church. A weekly Gospel assembly uses the 'Wednesday Word' which is then distributed to families.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- Continue to develop prayer and worship in school, including the already active pupil GIFT chaplaincy team in order to expand pupil leadership in prayer and worship.
- To undertake relevant training, on or off site, in order to develop and consolidate teacher subject knowledge to a level that will enhance the quality of the delivery of 'Come and See'.
- To continue with the whole school approach to school improvement by developing a staff coaching model that supports the spread of identified outstanding practice across the school.
- Review the structure, roles and responsibilities of the SLT so that they are able to develop their roles in line with their strengths and the needs of the school.

13th June 2017

Dear Pupils,

Thank you for the very warm welcome you gave us when we visited your school. You made our visit a genuinely joyful occasion, we really enjoyed our time with you. You and all the adults in school are indeed inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ and work hard to always do your best; because of this your school is a good Catholic school.

We enjoyed seeing your lessons and learning about all the exciting things you do throughout the year at St William's. 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 found your RE books to be very interesting to read, we were impressed with the displays of your work around the school and in your classrooms. It was clear to us that you have a good knowledge and understanding of your faith.

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

It was pleasing to see how respectful and attentive you all were in the acts of worship we saw. Your behaviour was excellent; your prayers and singing uplifting.

Mrs Lightbown, all the staff, Fr O'Brien, the school governors and your parents are extremely proud of you and what you have achieved, well done and keep up the good work!

Your teachers are keen to work with you to develop the Catholic life of the school even further. To achieve this they are going to encourage more of you to acquire leadership skills by providing greater opportunities for you to independently plan and present acts of worship across the school. Your teachers are going to work together even more closely in order to further develop their already very good knowledge and understanding of the 'Come and See' RE scheme.

Enjoy what remains of the school year and have a restful summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr JM Thorpe
Miss S Molloy
(Section 48 Inspectors)

Summary Report to Parents

On 13th June 2017 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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