

INSPECTION REPORT

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

Name of School **St Teresa’s RC Primary School, St Teresa's Rd, Stretford, Manchester M16 0GQ**

Inspection date 08th July 2019

Reporting Inspectors Damian Harrison and Martin Johnson

Type of school	Primary
URN	106355
Age range of pupils	3 to 11
Number on roll	225
Appropriate authority	The Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Fr Patrick McMahon
Headteacher	Anthony Schilling
Religious Education Subject Leader	Tara Loat
Date of previous inspection	24 th June 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	2	
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 Teresa's is an average sized primary school situated in the Stretford area of Manchester, in Trafford Local Authority. The school is in the parish of Our Lady and St John in Chorlton-cum-Hardy. There are 225 pupils on roll. The proportion of children who are baptised Roman Catholic is 84% and 79% of the teachers are Catholic. One of the teaching staff has the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies. The ability of the children on entry to the school is broadly average. The proportion of children who are entitled to pupil premium funding is below average at 14%. Mobility in the school is low. 13% have English as an Additional Language (EAL) and about 12% are on the school's register for Special Educational Needs and Disability. The headteacher was appointed in September 2018. There has been some recent turmoil in staffing with absences and mobility.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- **St Teresa's provides an outstanding Catholic welcome to all. There is a strong sense of family in which everyone feels highly valued and respected. Parents and children feel a great sense of belonging and feel very proud of their school.**
- **Welfare is outstanding because of the unusually high quality of service provided by the adults in the school who place the children at the centre of all they do. They know the children well, care for them deeply and encourage them to grow as individuals created by God.**
- **The school is highly ambitious to improve. It recognises the journey it needs to take towards 'outstanding' and looks forward to this with the optimism and determination of leaders and staff.**
- **The children are beautifully behaved, well-mannered and polite. They are keen learners and ambitious to do all they can to make our world a better place.**

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL is GOOD

St Teresa's is a good Catholic school which provides an outstanding welcome to all in its community. Everyone feels fully included in the family atmosphere which has been created. The care and welfare offered to the children and families is also outstanding. The relationships between adults and children are exceptionally warm and this allows all pupils to develop as confident, expressive and imaginative young people. Their behaviour around the school is exemplary. Teaching is good and the children make good progress, attaining well in Religious Education. They are proud of their work and enjoy the variety of experiences they have. They are going to be asked to do more extended pieces of writing and to use their thinking skills to explore the 'Big Questions' in greater depth. The children feel that they are ready to plan, create and deliver their own assemblies and prayer sessions. This is true because they already have good experiences in a school where worship is well developed. They sing beautifully and enjoy the high level of active participation in prayer opportunities. Older children lead the younger children in prayer impressively. Further improvements can be made by incorporating more meditative and mindful moments to allow the children to experience greater opportunities for stillness. St Teresa's provides a strong Catholic ethos and plans to develop its role as a witnessing community by being more outward looking. It hopes to develop stronger links with other schools to help it improve and evaluate itself. Also the children want to be more proactive in their approach to global issues such as plastic waste, climate change and world peace. The headteacher brings strong and experienced leadership to the school and is working very effectively with other leaders in the school. The energy and passion shown, including that of the Religious Education subject leader and the Chaplaincy and Worship leader, is impressive and in line with the optimistic style of leadership in the school. There is an exciting journey ahead which will include the review of the school's mission statement.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP is GOOD.

The experienced headteacher provides strong leadership and is ambitious and passionate about the future of the school. He has taken valuable time to get to know the school extremely well and is beginning to formulate an exciting plan for

improvement. He is well supported by an effective and committed leadership team who share his optimism to drive the school forward on the next steps of its journey. Governors are very supportive and are being encouraged to develop their ability to challenge the school more methodically as it goes from strength to strength. The Religious Education subject leader and the Collective Worship / Chaplaincy leader provide energy and enthusiasm in their teamwork; the school's journey of improvement with regard to developing Religious Education, the Catholic Life of the school and Worship is in good hands. The outcome of the quality of leadership in the school is an exceptionally strong welcome and an excellent level of care for all. The school needs to become more outward looking and develop the work that it is doing in partnership with other schools. The school will need undertake a full review of resources with a comprehensive plan to ensure that Religious Education and the Catholic life of the school remain the priority which it currently is. Despite this, Religious Education remains at the heart of the school as a priority in terms of both staffing and spending. Leaders have worked hard to ensure that morale remains high and the strong Catholic ethos thrives. The school has good capacity to continue its journey of improvement.

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

St Teresa's provides an outstanding welcome to everyone in the school community. There is a real sense of pride and belonging. Much of this stems from the deeply caring and nurturing service of the staff team to the children. There is a genuine atmosphere of love around the school in which the children grow in their confidence and individuality. One parent expressed the typical view 'The children don't get lost here, the school draws out their individual personality'. The quality of welfare, care and support given to the children is also outstanding. The school reaches out to all, determined to provide a climate which allows everyone to be the best they can be, regardless of need – to grow and succeed. Relationships are exceptionally strong, featuring a high level of respect and a sense of being valued. Vulnerable children are well catered for and those facing difficult life experiences are provided with support and counselling (including that through Caritas). The school responds to its calling to be a witnessing community in an effective way. It has a strong Catholic ethos which is at the heart of the children's school experience. The children enjoy their ambassadorial roles and the GIFT chaplaincy team is particularly strong and proactive. The pupils are confident, expressive and beautifully behaved around the school. The school has plans to broaden and develop its work with other schools in the locality, reaching out to extend its witness to others. This will help the school to share good practice, support its self-evaluation processes and challenge itself to improve. The children are particularly excited to become more proactive about global issues, world peace and to develop their roles as stewards of creation by having an impact around issues which can improve the earth as a place for all of us to live now and in the future.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) is GOOD

The standard of work in the children's books is good. The school has recently introduced 'Come and See' as the core scheme for the Religious Education curriculum, after using 'The Way the Truth and the Life' for many years. This is bringing more variety and a greater range of experiences for the children. Pupils take pride in their work and enjoy their lesson in Religious Education. At least 10% of the curriculum is given over to Religious Education and it is resourced appropriately throughout the school. Reference to Sacred Scripture is regularly made. This is being currently developed through an approach called HEAR – and the school is looking to explore how this can be enhanced through the use of Lectio Divina. Teaching is good overall. Work is varied with a range of different experiences for the children. In the best lessons, religious vocabulary was developed well – evidence shows that this is a strength of the school. This provides a good foundation for the children to have the opportunity to write more extended pieces of work and to use their knowledge and vocabulary to enhance these. There needs to be less reliance on worksheets and scaffolds which can restrict the imagination and creativity of the children's responses in some classes. The curriculum could be improved by giving the children more opportunity to explore the themes of Catholic Social Teaching such as in Caritas in Action, which gives a great foundation to enhancing the children's contribution to the school as a witnessing community. Further work is needed to allow the children to explore the 'Big Questions' and to develop their skills as philosophical thinkers, particularly in the context of global and modern day issues and dilemmas. The school is keen to review its mission statement with pupils, staff, governors and the wider community to be consulted in this process. Inspectors agree that this will be an uplifting and refreshing process for the whole school and a great opportunity to create and revitalise a unique mission statement at the heart of the school.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP is GOOD.

The quality of the prayer and worship opportunities for the children and staff is good and the school has many strengths. Prayer is an important feature of school life at St Teresa's. The children sing beautifully and song and music are at the heart of the prayer experience in the school. The energy and sense of togetherness of the staff team is clearly visible. Pupils feel very much at home with all aspects of worship and they love the involvement and responsibilities they have. They experience many different types of prayer within a wide range of contexts and love the active participation they have. During the inspection the older children led a range of 'prayer stations' for the younger children, providing a deeply meaningful experience for them. Prayer opportunities are planned carefully and are appropriate for the age of the children. Many of the acts of worship allow the children to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues. Some of the Collective Worship seen during the inspection was too long and began to lose its impact. The school is looking to enhance prayer with more time for contemplation and meditation to give the children greater opportunity to enjoy moments of stillness with God. The children express a strong desire to be allowed to create, plan and deliver assemblies, liturgies and prayer times by themselves. The headteacher, the Religious Education subject leader and the Collective Worship / Chaplaincy leader are keen to respond to this and can see how this will enhance the children's ownership and contribution to this aspect of school life. They certainly have the ability and experience to do this extremely well. The school's links with the parish are very strong and it plays a valuable and appreciated role in the sacramental programme.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- **To carry out a systematic review of the school's mission statement.**
- **To provide greater opportunities for extended writing in Religious Education and to focus more specifically on an increased exploration of the 'Big Questions' and the centrality of Sacred Scripture.**
- **To develop further the school as a witnessing community by increasing its links with other schools to bring about greater challenge and accuracy of self-evaluation.**
- **To give the children more opportunity to fulfil proactively their calling to be stewards of creation in the service of the common good by becoming more involved and aware of global issues and how they can influence and care for our world.**
- **To allow the children greater autonomy and ownership of prayer and worship opportunities, with more time for stillness and reflection.**