DIOCESE OF SALFORD
Department for Education

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INSPECTION REPORT

St John the Baptist Roman Catholic Primary School, St John's Rd, Padiham, Burnley, BB12 7BN

Inspection date	17TH November 2016
Reporting Inspectors	Mr Andrew Sowerby Mrs Diane Bohan

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

Type of School	Roman Catholic Primary
URN	119648
Age range of pupils	3-11 years
Number on roll	225
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Mr Kieron Kelly
Headteacher	Mrs Kathleen McKeating
Religious Education Subject Leader	Mrs Angela Clough
Date of previous inspection	February 2011

The Inspection judgements are:	**Grade**	Explanation of the Grades
Overall effectiveness of the school	1	1 = Outstanding
The quality of the Word community	1	2 = Good
The quality of the Welcome community	1	3=Requires Improvement
The quality of Welfare	1	4 = Inadequate
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

St John's Roman Catholic Primary School is part of the parish of St John the Baptist and St Philip of the Apostle in Padiham. The vast majority of pupils are white British with only 1.7% of pupils with EAL. St John the Baptist serves a mixed catchment area with a high percentage of pupils living in areas of high deprivation. 13.3% of pupils are eligible for pupil premium funding and 23.1% are eligible for Ever6 funding.

St Johns has 24 members of staff. There are 12 teachers, including the Headteacher. 9 out of the 12 teachers are Roman Catholic. There are 8 teachers who hold the CCRS qualification.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL

St John's is an outstanding Catholic Primary school. There is a genuinely warm and friendly welcome given to all. Children are offered a Catholic education in a caring and supportive environment, where the Word of God is central to the life of the school. The school works collaboratively with the parish priest and is firmly at the heart of the parish. This ensures the pastoral and spiritual needs of the learners and their families are very well met. The inspirational headteacher and senior leadership team have high expectations of adults and children. This work is further enhanced by the support of an effective and experienced governing body. The children love coming to school. This was expressed clearly by all children, but especially the school GIFT chaplaincy team who are tremendous ambassador for the school. They all expressed how very proud they are of all the opportunities given to them. Pupils are friendly, polite and welcoming and their behaviour is exemplary. They work hard to fulfil the high expectations of the adults who work with them. They enjoyed every opportunity to share their work with the inspectors. The staff and pupils demonstrate a very high level of respect, care and service to others.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- The school's mission statement 'Love one Another' is known lived and witnessed to throughout the school and has a significant impact on the life of the whole school community.
- An explicitly Christ centred ethos, which is clearly evident throughout the school, ensures that the welfare of all is paramount.
- The inspirational leadership of the headteacher, supported by an experienced governing body and senior leadership team, ensures that the Catholic life of the school permeates the whole community.
- The school provides high quality acts of collective worship, which ensures that the children's spiritual development is very well catered for.
- Staff and pupils demonstrate a high level of commitment to providing support to those in the greatest need. This is very evident in the school's charitable work.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

Driven by a great determination to ensure that the children of St John's receive a high quality Catholic education, the inspirational headteacher, ably assisted by the senior leadership team and staff, ensures that there is outstanding Catholic leadership. They are supported by an experienced and well informed governing body. Together they ensure that the development of the Catholic life of the school is at the forefront of the school's work. The headteacher and staff ensure that the welfare of every child who attends the school is at the forefront of their work. This is a school where every child really does matter. Evidence of this was provided not only by the parents who stated that "this is a one in a million school", but also by the children who stated very clearly that they feel truly loved and cared for. The ~~l~~eadership team has a clear plan for developing RE across the school and this is reflected in the priority it is given. Evidence for this can be found in the school's detailed self-evaluation plan, which is based on the 5Ws model. The school is very aware of its next steps and has clear plans for implementing them.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD IS OUTSTANDING

The school's mission statement is clearly evident in all areas of the school. It is very child centred and reflects the determination of all to ensure that the school provides the highest quality Catholic education to its children. The staffing and resources devoted to RE are of the highest standard, reflecting its significance and importance in the school. Children clearly enjoy RE and were keen to express this to the inspection team during their visit to the school. Pupils are challenged to engage with the 'big questions' of the purpose and meaning of life throughout the curriculum. There are also additional examples of this on the bright and attractive displays that are to be found around school. Scripture is clearly known, understood and made relevant. The recent introduction of the 'Come and See' and 'Caritas in Action' schemes have further enhanced the R E curriculum so that it is increasingly creative and vibrant. The school, however, is very aware of the need to ensure that both schemes are fully embedded across the school. The quality of teaching and learning in school is of a very high standard. As a consequence, the school's structured programme of RE assessments are also excellent and reflect the school's determination to ensure that standards in RE are equally as high as those in other subjects. Teachers and pupils are very proud of their RE books and they are a real celebration of their achievements. They reflect outstanding, creative, innovative and inspirational teaching, as well as marking, which is accurate and indicates clearly the next steps for children's learning.

THE QUALITY OF WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

St John's provides an exceptionally warm welcome for all who attend the school. Parents were keen to express how all feel included and that any concerns they have are quickly and sensitively dealt with. They spoke with great passion about the way children feel a valued member of the community from the start. Evidence of this was seen in the examples of the postcards sent home welcoming the children to school, along with the 'Seeds and Gardeners' programme in which each Year 6 child takes responsibility for a new reception child when they enrol at the start of the school year. This initiative has helped to create lifelong friendships and so ensures that St John's is one large happy family. Parents spoke very highly of the approachable headteacher and staff. Evidence of this was also observed by the inspection team during the inspection, where the headteacher and all staff greeted children and parents warmly and individually. Parents spoke of the supportive manner in which the staff ensure that the children are made to feel welcome and that individual needs are well catered for. Children love coming to school. As one child put it, 'this school is great as it's like one big family; everyone really looks after you.' Parents also spoke positively about the high quality communication the school provides as well as the varied programme of additional support, so that everyone is well informed and included. It is clearly a warm, inclusive and all-embracing establishment, where everyone feels appreciated and cared for.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

The whole staff pay great attention to the pastoral and emotional needs of the children at St John's, so that one can truly say that in this school every child does indeed matter. This was witnessed throughout the day of the inspection in the manner in which staff supported children who had individual medical needs or needed some additional emotional support. This care was provided in a very dignified and supportive manner. The structures and procedures that the school employs to ensure that all pupils and staff feel safe and are treated with respect and dignity are of the highest quality. The school ensures that every child can access the full curriculum and their individual social and emotional needs are very well met. Calm support is offered by very sensitive adults when children have difficulty remaining on task. Such role modelling ensures that learning and good relationships develop. The outreach support provided by the school ensures that the needs of parents and young families are met in a structured and sensitive manner. The Breakfast and After School Club provided by an outside provider, enhances school provision, as does the provision of wide range of out of school activities including sports, art and dance. Relationships at St John's are exceptional. All pupils and staff are confident in expressing their opinions and knowing that these will be valued. This was evident during discussions with the children, who stated how their views were listened to and how they were able to play an active part in the development of the school as a Catholic community, for example, the provision of the 20mph signs outside the school. The quality of outreach support provided by the school is absolutely outstanding. The charity work is a living example of this as children support CAFOD, St Joseph's Penny as well as providing ongoing support to the Manchester Children's Hospital, and a Year 3 child's family through the Jet Set Angels project.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

The school provides a wide variety of worship opportunities for pupils, including small and large groups, which are appropriate to their backgrounds and faith experiences. All children are provided with the opportunity to pray and reflect in a variety of settings. This was observed during an uplifting reflection on the theme of 'Christ as the Light of the World'. It was also evident during a lovely celebration of the way in which the children in the whole school have lived out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy throughout the Year of Mercy in their daily life in school. There are excellent links between the parish and the school, particularly with regard to the preparation of the children for the Sacraments of Initiation and the current celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. This is due to the commitment of the parish priest and headteacher to work together in order to ensure that the children receive the highest possible quality of Catholic education. Pupils are comfortable with their feelings and have a good and knowledgeable vocabulary. Each class has a special prayer focus. The children know many school prayers and compose powerful prayers for themselves. Attractive displays, which were seen around school, are used to show and stimulate prayer opportunities. The school's GIFT chaplaincy team have had a real impact on the development of the prayer life of the school, so that most children are effective at planning and leading their own prayer services. The school has developed a beautiful chapel and outdoor prayer garden, which are regularly used by the school chaplaincy team when they prepare and lead their own prayer services. This was witnessed by the inspection team during its visit.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

All staff act as excellent role models for the children and help them in recognising that God is with them in every aspect of school life. Adults and pupils witness to the mission statement of the school, which informs everything and is explicit in policies and the lived experience of the whole community. Pupils are actively trained in outreach to the local community. This is seen in the way the school supports various charities, so as to promote support for the 'common good'. Examples of this are the regular fund-raising activities organised by the children to support not only the Catholic charities of CAFOD and St Joseph's Penny, but also many local ones such as 'Hayley's Hugs' chosen by the children themselves. One such example of this is the 'Jet Set Angels' project in which children and staff designed and made small angels in order to support the family of a child at school who needed long term medical care. The staff have begun to implement the 'Caritas in Action' scheme so that the children have a strong sense of social justice. Children are very respectful of each other and their behaviour was outstanding. They show great respect for each other and adults as well as being incredibly reverent during all acts of collective worship. Adults working as a committed team have very high expectations of the children and in this atmosphere the children at St John's thrive.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- To further embed the 'Come and See' and 'Caritas in Action' schemes throughout the school, so as to further enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural curriculum.

- To continue to develop the skills and work of the governing body, so that it continues to provide high levels of professional challenge.

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Department for Education

17th November 2016

Dear Pupils

Thank you for making our visit to St John's so enjoyable when we came to inspect your school for the Bishop. We really enjoyed being with you. Thank you for looking after us so well and helping us to feel very welcome. St John's is an outstanding Catholic school.

We enjoyed being part of your lessons and were sorry not to see everyone. Thank you for showing us so much of your work and activities. We could see that you are very proud of your school and all that you have achieved together. We were particularly impressed that you thought that the most important part of your learning and life together was that you '*felt connected to one another as all part of God's family*'. I know the Bishop will be delighted to hear this.

Your teachers are really helping you to learn very well and we were very impressed by your excellent relationships and behaviour. It was good to see so much of your mission statement coming through everything you are learning; your relationships and the special way you make everyone feel valued. It is wonderful to see a school made up of pupils and adults who get on so well together, so that everyone is cared for as a member of God's family. This is a true reflection of being part of a Catholic community where everyone is welcome and has a place.

You have started using your new RE programme and are doing very well. You are a very creative school and we were most impressed by the way you work together so co-operatively in your lessons. The prayer services we saw were good and uplifting experiences. Your teachers have started to develop an excellent way of teaching RE using the 'Come and See' scheme and we have asked them to continue to develop this with you so as to help you all understand more about your faith and relationship with God. We have also suggested that the school governing body continues to develop the work they do so that they continue to help develop your knowledge of the Catholic faith.

God bless you all

Yours sincerely,

Mr A J Sowerby
Mrs D. Bohan
(Section 48 Inspectors)

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Summary Report to Parents

On 17th November 2016 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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