DIOCESE OF SALFORD

INSPECTION REPORT

School: ST JOHN THE BAPTIST R.C. PRIMARY
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Headteacher:Mrs. Kathleen McKeating
Chair of Governors: Mr. Michael Schofield

Canonical Inspection under Canon 806 on behalf of the Diocese of Salford
and inspection of Denominational Education under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Date of inspection: 7th and 8th APRIL 2011.
Date of previous inspection: NOVEMBER 2006
Reporting Inspector: Mrs. MARY MCGRAIL

Information about the school

St. John The Baptist R.C. primary school serves the parish of St John the Baptist and St. Philip The Apostle in Padiham ,Burnley. The school adjoins the parish church.The pupils are drawn from Padiham and several surrounding villages .They come from a wide range of socio –economic backgrounds. The nature of the catchment area is changing, with more pupils coming from the more deprived areas of the locality. There are currently 206 pupils on roll plus a Nursery.201 pupils are baptised Catholics (98%). 13.5% are eligible for free school meals and 41pupils have been identified as having special educational needs with 5 having a statutory statement of special educational need. 10 of the 12 teachers are Catholics(83%).

A new headteacher was appointed in September 2010. The Chair of Governors has been in post for 2 years after being a governor for many years. The parish priest has been in the parish for almost a year. A newly qualified teacher was appointed in September 2009. The school has had very few staff changes. The school has recently been refurbished to provide the pupils with a magnificent hall and the very latest technology and broadcasting system for use throughout the school.

Overall Effectiveness Grade 1

St.John the Baptist is an outstanding catholic school.It is very effective in offering its pupils a traditional Catholic education delivered through a rich and vibrant curriculum. The school's motto, to "Love one another", permeates all aspects of the life of the school. The school is welcoming to all . Its Catholic ethos is almost tangible. Pupils enjoy coming to school and work hard to meet the high expectations of the staff .Their behaviour at all times is excellent.

Relationships throughout the whole school community are strong, based, on mutual respect for all and the love of God. Parents are very supportive of the school. The high quality input of the parish priest, into the daily, spiritual life of the school is appreciated by the pupils, staff and parents. Collective Worship is a strength of the school .The headteacher gives excellent leadership to her hardworking, dedicated staff. They work together, well supported by the governing body ,as a team with a clear vision to ensure all pupils grow and mature in their learning and in the love of God.

Capacity for sustained improvement GRADE 1

The schools self evaluation is comprehensive, accurate and honest. Evaluation by the teachers of their skills, is well established. Peer evaluation of work produced by the pupils is encouraged with the older pupils. Visitors and governors are invited to evaluate their impressions of the school.These are carefully filed and reviewed by the headteacher ,senior management team and the Religious Education co-ordinator. The Religious Education improvement plan is detailed, based on a systematic audit of areas of development ,carefully costed and realistic time scales noted for its implementation. The whole school community share a clear vision for the future development of the school. The capacity for sustained improvement is therefore outstanding.

What the school needs to do to improve further

1. **C**ontinue to introduce and implement the new scheme for curriculum Religious Education-The Way, The Truth and The life, throughout the school.

2. Continue to ensure that the excellent practice for class Collective Worship observed during the inspection, is replicated in all classes.

PUPILS GRADE 1

How good outcomes are for pupils, taking particular account of variations between different groups.

Many pupils enter the Early Years Foundation Stage with attainment well below national expectations and limited knowledge of their Catholic faith. Pupils of all abilities make very good progress both within and between all key stages. Examples of outstanding progress is evident in the pupils' discussions about their faith and in the recording of their knowledge in extended pieces of writing, particularly in upper Key Stage Two. Pupils use very good religious vocabulary relative to their age and ability. The younger pupils have a very good knowledge of the events of Jesus' early life ,are able to discuss and describe what they might see in church and describe the events of Holy Week in an articulate and confident manner. By the end of Key Stage One ,many are able to retell stories they have heard in well constructed and punctuated sentences. In Key Stage Two this level of progress is maintained. The Year Three pupils are very aware that this year is special for them. They appreciate the importance of the sacraments in their life and the part played by the priest in their faith journey .A special project ,completed during the Autumn term, for the Pope's visit, produced some excellent work. In upper Key Stage Two pupils' work demonstrates a growing understanding of their role as Catholics and the responsibility this ensues. Lessons provide challenges for all learners. Those who need extra help are well supported by the teaching assistants.
In all lessons observed pupils enjoyed their work. Working independently or co-operating in pairs, on the set tasks, until completed. They take great pride in their presentations.
The pupils' involvement in the planning and delivery of Collective Worship is excellent. The high quality of the "Easter Read-around" observed during the inspection was a genuine spiritual experience for all present .The readings by the staff accompanied by the talented musicians and singers was impressive and a most fitting way to prepare for the events of Holy Week. Pupils take a lead in planning and delivering these special celebrations.

The class Collective Worship ,planned and led by Year Three on the theme of "Forgiveness " was impressive for the way all pupils were involved and for their reverence.
The Year Six "gardeners" thoroughly enjoy their responsibilities to their Reception "seeds". This responsibility is welcomed with anticipation and enthusiasm. A special service inaugurates these important links at the beginning of each year.
Prayer has a high profile in school. Pupils are familiar with the traditional prayers of the church and are happy to share their own spontaneous prayers with others .At all prayer sessions observed pupils are reverent and respectful. They reflect and meditate in complete silence.
Pupils are proud of their strong voice in the school through the school council. Following their Health and Safety check around the school ,they presented their findings to the governing body. They are aware of their responsibility to support the less fortunate in society and generate their own ideas for fundraising giving generous support for local, national and international charities.

How effective the provision is for Catholic Education

Grade 1

St. John The Baptist school makes excellent provision for the spiritual needs of its pupils .Throughout the school year it provides a range of rich and meaningful opportunities for pupils ,parents and staff ,to develop and strengthen their relationship with God. Whole school Masses held in church, when pupils take a full and active role in the planning, music, readings and prayers are a feature of the celebrations. It is hoped to continue with class Masses now the refurbishment has been completed. Voluntary prayer sessions are held during Lent , in October , November and May .These are very well attended by pupils and parents including the wider parish community. The school gives very good support to the parish organised Sacramental Programme. The school secretary is the chief catechist for this very successful aspect of parish life. Parents are very supportive in their participation. This co-operation ensures the home ,school, parish links are excellent and continue to flourish.
The "Golden Book" assembly celebrates pupils positive contribution to the school and is seen as an intrinsic part of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils. Assemblies are of a high quality ,welcomed by the parents and parishioners who attend in good numbers. Parents were very keen to confirm with the inspectors that the ones we observed ,were the norm.
The support of the parish priest in working with the staff to ensure child centred liturgies are a feature of the provision, is essential to the success of the provision.
The time allocated to curriculum Religious Education meets both national and diocesan requirements. Time is very well used as exemplified by the quantity and quality of the recording noted in the pupils' workbooks. Tasks are set which meet the needs of all learners. The school is currently using the *RE VISION 2000* to plan the lessons . Lesson plans identify the opportunities for assessment. Assessments are integral to the teaching. Work is very well assessed ,carefully annotated , levelled and moderated to ensure consistency of standards throughout the school. The new

scheme for the diocese has been purchased. In-service training has been attended and delivered in school to ensure teachers are very familiar with the format .
All lessons are well planned. Learning objectives are made clear to the learners. Resources are carefully selected and prepared to enhance the learning process There is a good mix of direct teacher input ,discussion ,and skilful questioning to encourage further thought. A range of teaching strategies are used and in the outstanding lessons observed very good use is made of the plenary session to bring the lesson to a successful conclusion. Both teachers and learners make very good use of the modern technology in school. Learners have very good attitudes to their learning .Ask sensible questions to clarify points and listen very attentively to the teacher's and other pupils' input into discussions. They work well in pairs, collaborate in small groups and work independently as part of a class .
All work is very well marked with constructive comments made to encourage greater effort .Very good work is recognised and praised. Evaluation of the provision is detailed and constantly reviewed by the headteacher, senior management team Religious Education co-ordinator and parish priest. This ensures that the overall provision is continually developing.
The school has policies for curriculum Religious Education and Prayer and Worship.

LEADERS AND MANAGERS
How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the School

Grade 1

Leaders and managers promote the Catholic life of the school very effectively because their ultimate concern is developing the distinctive role of a Catholic school. The school's Mission Statement is reviewed regularly and it permeates all aspects of the life of the school. Pupils quote their school motto" Love one another" to explain their pride in their school. Effective and attractive displays throughout the school clearly reflect its faith life. Every classroom has a focal point for prayer and child-centered displays which reflect the Religious Education curriculum or Liturgical year. The evidence files of the monitoring and evaluation of the provision kept by the very well organised headteacher are meticulous in their detail and scope. The documentation produced by the Religious Education co-ordinator ,who has been in post for two terms indicates a very good start has been made to this important role in a Catholic school. Resources have been audited, evaluated and supplemented as required. The headteacher explains Religious Education as the core of the core subjects. Five teachers hold the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies or its equivalent qualification . A further teacher is currently studying for the qualification. Staff attend in-service training at the diocese and purchase additional training for whole school sessions. Parents are encouraged to become more involved with their childrens' learning. A recent innovation was an assessment activity when parents

used the church to assess their child's knowledge of the contents of the church with the support of the teachers.

The well informed governing body are fully involved in the daily life of the school. The chair meets each week with the headteacher, the vice-chair visits the classes. The parish priest as the designated governor for Religious Education is a regular visitor and reports his observations to the governing body. The governing body have a well organised committee system which meet on a regular basis. The extremely detailed reports from the headteacher ,to the governing body ensure they are fully aware of the provision . They challenge any concerns in their role as a critical friend. Several governors attend training sessions held by the diocese or by the local authority. Governors are regular visitors at assemblies and Collective Worship celebrations. Questionnaires for parents and pupils provide valuable feedback for leaders and managers on their current perceptions of the overall provision for Religious Education in school. The governing body ensures that the headteacher has a performance management target ,each year, for promoting the Catholicity of the school.

The school invites many visitors from other faiths into school to share their own personal spiritual development with the pupils. The Burnley multi-faith centre have provided speakers. The pupils write to a child in Rwanda. They are very involved in raising money for a wide range of charities and through their involvement in CAFOD they are developing into citizens of the world who show concern and support for the less fortunate in society. They are ecologically aware of their responsibility to care for all God's creations and were recently involved in a project , planting bulbs for the local community. The parish priest and headteacher are keen to develop further links with the wider community by making full use of their new facilities for meetings.