

**INSPECTION REPORT**

**St. Ann’s R.C. Primary School, Derbyshire Lane, Stretford, Manchester, M32 8SH**

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Inspection date 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
 Reporting Inspector Mrs Jackie McNally  
 Mr Brendan Hennessey

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

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Type of School Primary  
 URN 133284  
 Age range of pupils 3-11 years  
 Number on roll 449  
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body  
 Chair of Governors Mrs Sheila Casey  
 Headteacher Mr John O’Brien  
 Religious Education Subject Leader Mrs Debbie Smalley  
 Date of previous inspection June 2012

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<b>The Inspection judgements are:</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Explanation of the Grades</b>  1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
Overall effectiveness of the school	1	
The quality of Catholic Leadership	1	
The quality of Word	1	
The quality of Welcome	1	
The quality of Welfare	1	
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 Ann's is located in Stretford and serves the parish of St Ann's. It is a larger than average primary school with 449 pupils on roll. A significant majority of the children who attend St Ann's are baptised Roman Catholics (80.1%) and the majority of staff are Roman Catholic. The percentage of children currently in receipt of free school meals is 9.6%. The number of pupils on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) register is 36 (8%) and 3 children have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). There are 92 children (20.4%) who have English as an additional language. The school was last inspected by Ofsted in 2007 and was graded 'Outstanding'.

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING**

St Ann's RC School is an outstanding Catholic school where every member of the school community is nurtured and valued. The headteacher, staff and governors have high aspirations and continually strive to achieve excellence in all aspects of school life. The passionate drive to establish a school which develops every child academically, socially and spiritually is securely built upon the gospel values. There is a positive, welcoming atmosphere within the school which is evident from the moment you enter the building and this is reflected in the wonderful happy smiles that greet every visitor. A strong worshipping community has been established, with opportunities to develop faith at home, in the parish and in school. The children are provided with a rich faith experience and this has helped them to develop a deep religious understanding. During the inspection the lessons observed were creative, interesting and aspirational and staff have high expectations which is clearly reflected in the quality of the children's written work. The children are confident and enthusiastic learners who enjoy exploring big questions about their faith. The children participate in acts of worship with reverence, providing thoughtful responses to questions and praising God with their beautiful singing voices. All members of the community are justifiably proud of this outstanding school which places God at the centre of everything it does.

## **KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:**

- The headteacher, staff and governors have high aspirations for this Catholic school and strive to create a community which is inspired by the Word of God.
- The enthusiastic, well behaved and hard-working children show respect and consideration for each other.
- There is a strong community spirit and all members of the community bear witness to the Catholic faith through their relationships with each other.
- The welcome extended to children, parents, visitors and the community is outstanding.

## **THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING**

The dedicated headteacher provides a clear vision and purpose for this Catholic school and is highly regarded by the whole community. With the support of the governors and staff the headteacher has created a strong and effective team in which there is a shared vision and commitment to providing the highest quality education for all children within the school's care. The governors are highly skilled and undertake their role effectively as leaders of a Catholic school providing both challenge and support. The RE working party and subject leader have rigorously evaluated the current RE provision in order to identify areas of strength and next steps. The subject leader has an excellent understanding of her subject due to the comprehensive monitoring activities she undertakes and she is passionate about her role. This proactive approach to continuous school improvement is a strength of the school. The RE subject leader is passionate about her role and her contribution to the subject is highly regarded by the headteacher and governors who praised her work.

Fr John and Fr Pat play a proactive role in the school and their contribution to the spiritual development of the children is highly valued. The leadership of the school clearly recognises that Christ is central to all aspects of school life and all staff are committed to creating a loving and nurturing environment for all

children; this is a significant strength of the school. Pupils are confident and enthusiastic about taking on responsibilities and they are able to talk about how they care for each other as well as people in the wider community. The prayer leaders are excellent role models for other children and they are wonderful ambassadors for the school.

### **THE QUALITY OF WORD IS OUTSTANDING**

The quality of teaching and learning in RE is excellent, with creative and inspiring lessons that engaged and challenged the children's learning evident across the whole school. High standards are consistently achieved, as evidenced in the children's books, in their contributions to lessons and work displayed around school. All the lessons observed were well planned with many common attributes; consistently high expectations, clear learning objectives, differentiated activities, challenge, good pace, engaging learning, with many opportunities for the children to share their thoughts and ideas. Thoughtful and effective questioning, including the use of The Big Questions class books, is a strength of the school and challenge the children's thinking. Constructive marking and feedback was evident helping the children to improve their work and to reflect on their learning and understanding of RE. Teaching assistants have a very good understanding of the teaching of RE and they effectively interacted with pupils to support their learning and pastoral needs. Children have a good awareness other world faith traditions and clearly understood the importance of respecting other people and their faith. The high quality of religious displays in the school reflects the school's commitment to Catholic teaching and the spiritual development of the child. Links between home and school are strong and parents spoke with enthusiasm about how much their children enjoyed the homework activities such as creating a puppet show of the Last Supper and making a model reflecting the story of the road to Emmaus. To further develop the quality of teaching and learning the school now needs to provide further opportunities for differentiation in the children's written work.

### **THE QUALITY OF WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING**

St Ann's takes great pride in extending a warm welcome to everyone who enters the school. All members of the school are justifiably proud of their school and are keen to demonstrate their commitment to promoting a welcoming culture. Parents are welcomed to and enjoy attending Masses, assemblies, parents' evenings, and many other activities which all contribute to the continuing sense of belonging. The parents all spoke with enthusiasm about the school's commitment to creating a happy and nurturing environment for the children. The school has excellent links with the parish and Fr John spoke about how much the parishioners valued events such as the carol service. There is a strong commitment to safeguarding and it is clear that this is given a high priority in the school. The school is a very calm and caring environment where everyone is valued and unique talents are celebrated and shared. As a result of the strong Catholic ethos the children show respect and consideration for each other and the importance of the dignity of the individual is clearly evident

### **THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING**

St Ann's demonstrates high levels of care for everyone within its community and every individual is valued and nurtured. Throughout the day we witnessed wonderful relationships between the staff and the children and it was clear that secure relationships have been established which are rooted in the gospel values. The school is very inclusive and one child spoke about how everyone is treated equally and different faiths and beliefs are respected. The school fosters a culture where children feel confident to express their views and share their experiences and this was evident in the collective worship and lessons when pupils and staff shared deeply personal experiences. Parents spoke highly of the care and support provided for children and they felt that they could approach any member of staff with confidence, knowing that any issues would be dealt with immediately with sensitivity and understanding. The parents particularly liked the friendship bench which they believed encouraged and supported the caring relationships amongst the children. The children spoke about how much they enjoyed their lessons and the additional activities organised by the school. Throughout the inspection the children's behaviour was outstanding and they demonstrated care and respect for each other. The children act as excellent role models and talked with enthusiasm about their

responsibilities as Year 6 buddies and how they were looking forward to organising the activity day for the EYFS children. The school supports many charitable organisations including St Joseph's Penny, CAFOD, Cornerstones and Operation Christmas Child. There is a clear commitment to supporting the needs of vulnerable children and the SEND coordinator confidently demonstrated that SEND is given a high priority in the school.

#### **THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING**

The acts of collective worship observed throughout the school provided opportunities for listening, participation and reflection. They were without exception uplifting, inclusive, creative and thoughtful spiritual experiences for all present. The children took an active role in all the acts of prayer and worship observed, these special moments of prayer and reflection were beautifully respected by the children and enhanced their relationship with God and one another. A sense of awe and wonder was inspired when the children in a Key Stage 1 class watched the petals on their flowers open up and the teacher explained that their prayers were taken up to God. The children's singing in all acts of worship was a delight. The beautiful prayer garden provides a calm and tranquil place for the children to pray and talk to God. The prayer leaders, who wear their hoodies with pride, are enthusiastic about their role and provide an excellent role model for other children. To develop the quality of worship further the children now need to be provided with additional opportunities to plan and deliver worship. Fr John and Fr Pat enthusiastically contribute to the spiritual development of the children and their involvement in the school is valued by the whole school community.

#### **THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING**

The relationships, decision making and actions of the whole school community bear witness to Christ, the Gospel and the teachings of the Church. Staff and children can confidently articulate their faith and have the confidence to share personal moments knowing that they are in a secure and supportive environment. The relationships between staff and children are a strength of the school, with all within the community demonstrating compassion, justice and reconciliation. Children are taught from an early age that they should follow in the footsteps of Christ through their social and moral values. The school encourages the children to be pro-active citizens and involves them in decision making. The school positively supports those who are less fortunate and the children talked with enthusiasm about their fund raising activities. Staff are excellent role models; guiding and supporting children with a positive enthusiasm.

#### **AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:**

- To further develop teaching and learning by providing opportunities for differentiation within children's written work.
- To provide pupils with the skills to take on a leadership role in the planning and delivery of collective worship.

6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear Pupils.

Thank you so much for making us feel so welcome when we came to inspect your school for the bishop. We really enjoyed spending the day with you and I am pleased to be able to tell you that you have an outstanding Catholic school.

You made us feel very welcome and we know from talking to you and watching you that you are very proud of your school and you value your friendships. We were very impressed by the care and respect you showed for each other and we believe that all the adults who work with you are excellent role models. Your headteacher, with the support of the staff and governors has worked hard to make your school a safe and happy place for everybody. Throughout the day you and your parents told us how special your school is and how much you enjoy coming to school.

We really enjoyed watching all your lessons, which you showed great enthusiasm for. Your teachers plan creative and inspiring lessons which engage your interest and challenge you to achieve the highest standards. The standards in your religious education books are excellent and we were pleased to see the variety of different ways your teachers used to help you to develop your religious knowledge. Your religious understanding is very good and you confidently shared ideas in class and listened attentively to other people's opinions.

We also enjoyed watching your assemblies and collective worship because you show a great deal of respect and reverence when you pray and you showed us that you understood the Word of God. Your prayer garden is a special place and we were pleased to see how important this area is to you. Well done to the prayer leaders who are helping you to develop your faith, they are excellent role models to follow.

We have asked your teachers to provide you with more opportunities to be involved in the planning and delivery of worship as we are confident that you have the skills to undertake this role well.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J McNally  
Mr B Hennessey

(Section 48 Inspectors)

## **Summary Report to Parents**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 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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