

INSPECTION REPORT

St Hubert Roman Catholic Primary School, Hallfield Road, Great Harwood, Blackburn, BB6 7SN

Inspection date 19th October 2016

Reporting Inspector Mr John Thorpe
 Mrs Pam Macro

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

Type of School	Catholic Primary
URN	119645
Age range of pupils	4-11 years
Number on roll	172
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Mrs Eileen Hayes
Headteacher	Mr Vincent Murray
Religious Education Subject Leader	Mr Vincent Murray
Date of previous inspection	September 2010

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the Grades 1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
Overall effectiveness of the school	1	
The quality of Catholic Leadership	1	
The quality of the Word	1	
The quality of the 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 Hubert's is a voluntary aided, Roman Catholic primary school in the Diocese of Salford serving the parish of Our Lady and St Hubert with St Wulstan in Great Harwood. Pupils come from a wide range of socio economic backgrounds. The school is smaller than average with an admission number of 25. Currently, there are 172 pupils on roll of whom 159 are baptised Roman Catholics. 13% of pupils are eligible for free school meals and pupil premium grant, which is below the national average. 12.7% of pupils have been identified as having a special educational need of some kind. 3 of these pupils have an Education, Health Care Plans. The majority of pupils are white British. There are 9 teachers including the headteacher of whom 5 are Catholic, these 5 hold the CCRS.

In 2011 the school entered into a hard federation with St Wulstan's RCPS. A single governing body and a Head of Federation are responsible for the management of the two schools.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING.

St Hubert's is an outstanding school. 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 learning and parents are supportive. The collaborative working of the home, school and parish ensures the pastoral, spiritual, social and emotional needs of the pupils and their families are well catered for. Pupils are very friendly, polite and well mannered; throughout the day of inspection their behaviour was exceptional. The school places pupils at the very centre of all aspects of school life. Lessons observed ranged from good to outstanding, most pupils were seen to be making good progress including those with SEND.

The dedicated leadership team is committed to making improvements and raising standards for the benefit of all pupils. The informed governing body is supportive of the headteacher, his leadership team and the hardworking staff. There is a sense of purpose in the management of the school, which reflects the teachings of Jesus Christ. Class teachers have worked hard to create an ethos where everyone recognises the need to work together as a team. Teachers are well supported by the effective deployment of teaching assistants and administrative staff.

Since the last inspection in 2010, the school has joined a federation in 2011, appointed a new headteacher in 2013 and is now benefitting from a period of stability and focused leadership.

KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- Pupils' behaviour and politeness are excellent.
- Pupils are happy and confident.
- The Catholic life, relationships, behaviour and care for all within the school is outstanding.
- The headteacher (who is the subject leader) has a clear vision for Catholic education in the school and is supported in this by a dedicated and committed deputy and governing body.
- The dedication and commitment of all staff to providing a caring and nurturing school has a positive impact on the lives of the pupils.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

The leadership and management of the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. The spiritually dedicated headteacher, supported by his deputy, all other staff and the governing body are totally committed to providing strong, Catholic leadership for the school. The headteacher, who is the RE subject leader, has a clear understanding of the nature of Catholic education and as such is an outstanding model for all staff. The governing body is well led by an informed and enthusiastic chair of governors, who is a regular visitor to the school. The headteacher provides informative reports to the governing body that ensure all aspects of the Catholic life of the school are brought to their attention. Many governors provide in-school support each week, attend school events out of hours and attend training delivered by the diocese. Governors trust the judgement of key leaders and provide the necessary financial support. RE is adequately resourced, with recently acquired schemes available across the school. RE enjoys at least 10% of available teaching time.

Monitoring of RE takes place regularly, planning is thorough, teaching is observed and book scrutinies completed; staff receive feedback and development suggestions. The school provides appropriate support to the parish sacramental programme, several of the governors act as catechists. Parents are kept well informed about school through newsletters that always have a section, 'The spiritual life of our schools' and other details relating to celebrations and events during the liturgical year, with an invitation to all parents to attend. The school promotes community cohesion by helping its pupils appreciate the range of religious beliefs and cultural backgrounds in school and in the wider community. The school has a strong commitment to the most vulnerable having in place systems to ensure these pupils thrive in a supportive, harmonious and safe learning environment. 'Hubert's Helpers' and 'Gardeners and Seeds' groups are examples of older pupils offering daily support to younger pupils. Members of the GIFT pupil chaplaincy team are developing their key roles in leading prayer and worship in different ways across the school.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD IS OUTSTANDING

The school's mission statement has been recently reviewed and is used as a focus for encouraging every member of the federation. The mission statement is clearly displayed around the school, it is known, lived and witnessed to, by all. This was evidenced by the confident manner in which the pupils could explain how it is implemented by everyone at the school. The staffing and resources devoted to RE are plentiful and of the highest standard. The quality of observed teaching across the school ranged from good to outstanding, with many examples of outstanding practice. Pupils are challenged to engage with the 'big questions' relating to God's creation, the purpose of prayer, when and how does God help us. This could be seen in those lessons where pupils were challenged to implement the gospel message in their own lives. Examples of this were to be found in Key Stage 2, where pupils were asked to reflect on God as a loving parent, other pupils were required to identify the characteristics of a prophet following a Bible reading. In Key Stage 1 and the Early Years, pupils were happy to discuss and reflect upon their own family and the similarities with the family of Jesus and God's family. Pupils were encouraged to collaborate, speaking and listening was a significant feature of most lessons. Lessons were thoroughly planned, differentiation was obvious in delivery and outcome. Good subject knowledge and skilful questioning enabled teachers to maintain the pace and progress of pupil learning. Scripture is clearly known, understood and made relevant throughout the school. This was evident not only in the classrooms and in the high quality evidence presented by the school, but also in discussions with the pupils and in their workbooks. High levels of in-class support make a significant contribution to effectively meeting the needs of all pupils. Overall, the standards of attainment, progress and hence achievement are outstanding. The school uses the 'Come and See' scheme, which is well supplemented by other resources; as a result standards of learning are high. All classrooms have prayer focus areas that display religious artefacts, images and pupil composed prayers. In all classes there is clear evidence of the centrality of prayer and worship in the pupils' lives and how this is linked to the RE curriculum. Written work in RE books is clearly as excellent as work in other subjects. Marking places high value on pupil's work and provides pupils' with guidance as to how to improve their work. In all classes there was a calm, purposeful atmosphere conducive to learning.

THE QUALITY OF WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

The welcome extended to all visitors to St Hubert's is outstanding. There is a common vision built on gospel values and the federation mission statement. A warm and welcoming environment fosters a strong sense of belonging and as a result staff and pupils clearly understand the importance of welcoming others into their community. The parents said they feel welcome in school and that their children are happy, many of these have had family members in the school since it opened in the 1970's. The school actively seeks to support members of the community and this is very much appreciated by the parents. A wide range of workshops, meetings, drop-in sessions and social functions support the school engagement with its community. Parents are kept well informed about school via the school website. Relationships between pupils and staff are strong. This is a happy school. The Catholic ethos is tangible throughout the school. Adults present excellent role models to pupils and pupils show respect for each other and the importance of the dignity of the individual is clearly evident. Respect for each person and genuine love and caring was witnessed repeatedly in classrooms, on corridors, in the dining room and in the playground. The school has excellent links with the parish and the

wider community, there are many volunteers that regularly offer support to the school. Fr Clarke is a valued member of the school community. Pupils of other faiths are welcomed into the school, their faith traditions are respected. It is clear that diversity and difference are valued and celebrated. A strong commitment to safeguarding in no way compromises the genuinely warm welcome.

Governors are most appreciative of the fact that whenever they visit school unexpectedly the headteacher and deputy always make time for them.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

The community of St Hubert's demonstrates high levels of respect and care for each other and for the fabric of their school building, which is warm, clean and bright. Staff and governors are sensitive to the needs of the pupils in their care and strive to meet these needs in a thoughtful, caring and imaginative manner. Pupils enjoy a safe and secure environment. They are confident that should they have any concerns they will be dealt with promptly and effectively by any adult in school. Every pupil chooses a member of staff for personal support if and when required. All procedures to safeguard and protect are fully endorsed. Pupils are confident to express their opinion and know these will be valued. This has produced pupils that are caring with a keen sense of right and wrong, fair and unfair. When asked about bullying in school pupils stated it was not an issue as they all knew what to do should they come across it! The calm support offered by adults ensures learning and relationships are constantly being encouraged and re-enforced, strengthened and enhanced. The classrooms are nurturing places, teachers speak quietly to pupils, no shouting or raised voices were heard during the day. This contributes significantly to the welfare and well-being of both staff and pupils. This Christ centred ethos is loving and positive thus fostering understanding, empathy and forgiveness. Nurture and intervention groups offer a range of support to those pupils identified as requiring additional and differentiated provision. An outstanding example of this being the deployment of a home-school liaison officer who, utilising the resources made available by the local Tesco store, engages with families requesting support. The school offers a range of clubs and activities to encourage the development of the whole person. The provision for sex and relationships education is currently under review as the school has identified a need to enhance its provision. All of these aspects indicate the total commitment of all staff to the living out of the mission statement. Parental concerns are dealt with effectively; should a parent call into school they are seen as soon as possible, parents greatly appreciate the school's open door policy.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

Provision for worship is outstanding; prayer and worship are at the heart of the school community. Pupils respond well to collective worship opportunities. The school provides a variety of opportunities that includes prayer, reflection, liturgies and meditation. Throughout the liturgical year the school shares many of its celebrations eg Advent, Lent and Easter, with parents and parishioners; high levels of attendance are always achieved. Pupils worship daily and are very comfortable expressing themselves during prayer. Through prayer, they are provided with a wide range of rich and meaningful age appropriate experiences designed to develop their relationship with God. Prayer and worship is pupil centred, creative, inclusive and relevant. Most staff are confident and skilled in planning and leading prayer and worship. Even so, the school has identified continuing staff development in this area as a priority. The commitment to prayer and worship is evidenced in various formats including classroom displays, prayer focus areas, hymn singing and music which are often thought provoking, uplifting experiences. Pupils pray at key points during the day with great reverence, respect and thought; they are comfortable with their feelings and have a good and knowledgeable vocabulary. Pupils show a developing religious literacy as they compose personal prayers that they happily share with others. Pupils can recite traditional prayers, through which they readily and eagerly develop their relationship with God. Older pupils are currently very competently preparing a whole school assembly for Advent. The school accepts its responsibility to play a significant part in supporting pupils through the Sacramental Programme.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

Witnessing to Christ and the values of the gospel are central to the life of St Hubert's and evident through the behaviour, relationships, learning and work in pupils' books and displays of pupils' work throughout the school. Pupil members of the GIFT chaplaincy team, school council and 'Hubert's Helpers' were found to be most willing to speak about their faith and why it is important to them. The pupils spoke of their pride in being part of a faith community, they are proud of their school and took great delight in explaining why. Some of these pupils provided evidence that they are given the opportunity to influence the strategic decisions of the school. They believe that the management of the school listens to what they have to say and that they can effect change. Pupils are able to recognise the important contributions made to the school community by people of other faiths and understand why this is part of being a Catholic community. Adults act as role models for the school's mission and values, they promote the ethos of the school to pupils and the wider community. The hard work of the staff enables most pupils to make excellent academic and spiritual progress. They engage pupils with the 'big questions' relating to the faith and always answer questions sensitively and compassionately. The school community accepts its responsibilities in relation to Christian stewardship, reconciliation and equal opportunities. Many pupils make contributions to the daily life of the school by volunteering to act as monitors in a variety of ways. The school generously supports many local, national and international charities including Cafod, Caritas, Back Packs for Africa, a local foodbank and Milliy's Smile. The school is held in high regard in the local community. It is recognised as a worshipping, practising community, local families are keen for their children to attend the school and as a result the school is regularly oversubscribed.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- To introduce a holistic sex and relationships education programme in line with the church's teaching.
- Continue to develop prayer and worship in the school, so that all staff and children are confident in planning and leading prayer and worship which is creative, pupil centred, inclusive and relevant.
- Further develop the already active GIFT pupil chaplaincy team through links with other primary schools and the local Catholic high school.

19th October 2016

Dear Pupils,

Thank you for the very warm welcome you gave us and for making our visit to St Hubert's such a joyful occasion, we really enjoyed our time with you. You and all the adults in your school work very hard to always do your best and because of this your school is an outstanding Catholic school.

We really enjoyed seeing your lessons and learning about all the wonderful things you do in Our Lady and St Hubert's. We saw as many of you as we could; we are sorry if we didn't see you in your class. Thank you for sharing your work with us. We were impressed by the way you all try to do your best at all times and the beautiful displays around the school. It was clear to us that you have a good knowledge and understanding of our Catholic faith.

It was obvious you are all very proud of your school and what you have achieved together. Throughout the day you were well behaved, polite and well mannered; it was a privilege for us to be in your school.

Mr Murray, all the staff, Fr Clarke, the school governors and your parents are extremely proud of all of you and what you have achieved. Bishop Arnold will be delighted to see the progress you are making.

Your teachers are eager to help you develop even further the Catholic life of your school so that together you can continue to 'have life and have it to the full' and to do this they are going to work with you to introduce a sex and relationships programme, develop further the Chaplaincy Team and provide a range of opportunities for you to be more involved in prayer and worship around school.

So, well done and thank you.

Yours sincerely,

John Thorpe
Pam Macro
(Section 48 Inspectors)

Summary Report to Parents

On 19th October 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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