



Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for
St Cuthbert's RC Primary School, Manchester

URN: 3523500

Carried out on behalf of the Most Rev. John Arnold, Bishop of Salford on 7th / 8th December 2023

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Collective worship (p.7) The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.....	1
The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference	✓
The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop	✓
The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection	Fully

Summary of key findings

What the school does well

The school's pastoral support for the community is a strength that helps provides an environment of peace.

The school welcomes all, regardless of background.

The school's evaluation of itself is honest and accurate.

The school acts to address issues that it identifies quickly and very effectively.

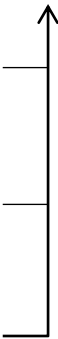
What the school needs to improve:

To continue training, development and the sharing of excellent practice in teaching and learning that already exists in several classes to promote consistently high standards across the school.

To develop capacity for pupils to formally evaluate the quality of the prayer and liturgy they have planned and identify how to improve next time.

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade:.....	1	
Pupil outcomes The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school	1	
Provision The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school	1	
Leadership How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school	1	

St Cuthbert's has Christ at the centre of school life and serves a community that is diverse in needs. The support that the school provides is wide-ranging and very well acknowledged by the community. Since the last inspection the school has been on a journey which has included many obstacles, but the trajectory has been an upward one. Throughout this journey, the governors, executive headteacher, head of school and assistant headteacher have sought to keep the well-being of the community, parents, children and staff as paramount. The school says, and inspectors agree that, "Our vision and values are at the core of everything we do. We love, we learn, we grow. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provides an environment which prepares our pupils as confident and happy citizens," and this was certainly observed when the children were arriving at school, during lessons and on the yard during playtimes. Children clearly, "value each other, their friends, family and the school and parish community." During interviews with children it was clearly demonstrated that the school looks after all in the community, "not just the children but the adults, too." Pupils showed a deep respect for their own personal dignity and that of others, including a deep respect for those of other faiths and none.

The provision for the Catholic life and mission of the schools is outstanding. The school works extremely hard to promote excellent relationships where all are treated well and where learners care deeply for each other. Relationships between school and parents are strong. The school's application of the behaviour policy ensures that the community lives the mission daily, 'trying at all times to model the words of Jesus' and to 'Love one another as I have loved you'." This was evident throughout the inspection as behaviour was excellent. All are treated equally at St Cuthbert's and

the school strives for and delivers a wholly inclusive education. This can clearly be seen in all lessons where all children were included, their contributions valued and their welfare guarded, regardless of their background. Parents also agreed with this in their assessment of the school, a group spoken to agreed that the school was, "Holy, safe, unique, fun, helpful, excellent, full of faith and brilliant." These extremely positive views of the school by parents were reinforced in a very positive online questionnaire. It was noted from the start of the inspection to the end that the school seemed to be a place of peace for all children. Their individual needs were catered for, including the mental health of the children. A strength of the school is the support that it offers children with special educational needs and/ or disabilities, children who do not have English as their first language, children who are young carers and children who are new to the school. All children have access to this support, from those who require support with their mental health to those who need it to maintain their friendship. One word often shared within the school is 'unique' – the school recognises that everyone is unique and seeks to nurture their talents through all areas.

The mission statement is a clear and inspiring expression of the Church's educational mission and of the school. Leaders and staff embrace the mission statement and readily implement it across the curriculum and through all of school life. Leaders ensure that the mission statement is lived and that all follow in God's path. There are numerous events where the school reaches out to the community. These include choir singing and a lantern festival. Conscious that Christ is at the heart of the school, St Cuthbert's goes the extra mile to provide an exceptionally supportive and joyful community. Leaders ensure that pupils have many opportunities to take on responsibilities meaning they feel empowered to make a difference in the world, especially for cancer charities. Children enthusiastically participate and contribute to these activities and the outstanding service offered to the community. 'Concern into action' is the basis of all the school beliefs.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade:.....

2

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education.....

2

Provision

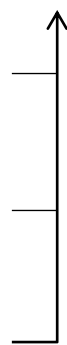
The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education.....

2

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor, and evaluate the provision for religious education.....

1



Children are proud of their religious education books and their learning. Pupils produce good work that is presented well and they speak with confidence about what they have learned in religious education, showing an awareness of key concepts and using some subject specific vocabulary. Data and children’s book are evidence that pupils make good progress in knowing more, remembering more and doing more when measured against the planned curriculum for each year. As a result, all pupils including disadvantaged pupils, and pupils with special educational needs and/ or disabilities achieve well. Pupils are developing secure knowledge, understanding and skills that reflect the learning required by the *Religious Education Directory*. Children’s learning is of a comparable standard to all other subjects. It was seen that achievement in religious education is similar to that of English, demonstrating that the school holds religious education as a priority. The work that children produce in their books to show their learning and progress demonstrates that religious education is a special subject and that the quality of work is at least as good as in their English books. Children can talk confidently about what they are learning and make links to prior learning. This was observed at the beginning of lessons where teachers teased out learning from the previous lessons. To be outstanding the school should continue the training, development and sharing of excellent practice in teaching and learning that already exists in several classes to promote consistently high standards across the school.

Teachers have planned and deliver a curriculum that raises awareness and develops critical thinkers who become inspired to make a difference and change the world! This is done through BIG questions. This was seen in lessons where children were challenged to see how they could stay alert in Advent and how the gifts of visitors to the Baby Jesus were symbolic of all kinds of people. Teachers work hard to ensure that all pupils, relative to their age and capacity, are

religiously literate and engaged young people. As a result, they are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. High quality teaching is planned for and delivered to allow children to know the challenging and transforming power of Gospel values. This was observed in the school in lessons on Advent using scripture and artwork. Teachers are confident in their subject knowledge and are committed to the value of religious education. This was observed throughout the inspection. Teachers used questioning and feedback during lessons to identify where pupils are in their understanding, and in some lessons observed this was done skillfully.

School leaders have worked extremely hard to create a challenging curriculum and allowed staff to be confident in the delivery of relationship, sex and health education and embed Catholic teaching into the whole curriculum. Evidence suggests that this is at least at a good level in all classes, with some even better. There have been a number of changes in the school since the last inspection, and in this context, the leadership of the school has addressed the areas to improve from the last inspection. The leadership's evaluation of religious education is an honest and accurate one. They have taken action to address issues they have identified. The leadership of the school is aware that religious education is not as consistent as they want for their high standards and they have put measures in place that are having a really positive effect. Monitoring in the school also includes a programme of moderation that serves to quality assure assessment and upskill teachers.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.

Collective worship key judgement grade:..... 1

<p>Pupil outcomes How well pupils participate in and respond to the school’s collective worship</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>	
<p>Provision The quality of collective worship provided by the school</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>	
<p>Leadership How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>	

The school’s prayer and liturgy policy states the school aims to, “emphasise through prayer and worship the Catholic ethos of our school.” This was certainly evident through liturgies seen in the hall, in the “tulip room” and staff room delivered to children and staff. The centrality of prayer and liturgy to the life of the school is clear across a range of evidence sources. Prayer and liturgy offer participants a wide range of engaging and creative experiences to access the breadth and richness of the Catholic tradition. The school encourages children of all faiths to express feelings and emotions through independent, group, class and collective worship. This was held true when it was observed that younger children were able to share their reflections on how they can show love to others at Christmas. Children are aware of the pattern of prayer throughout the day and becomes part of their life. The pupils spoken to were able to say that by Upper Key Stage 2, all children are given opportunities to plan and deliver prayer and liturgy. Pupils demonstrate confidence in articulating the ways in which prayer and liturgy influence school life. Children’s experience of prayer, and of the school, is that they recognise God around them, his love and the love that the community of the school creates. The prayer and liturgy programme at St Cuthbert’s has allowed children to grow in their relationship with God.

Staff and pupils plan a range of alternative prayer opportunities across the school year both in and out of the classroom ensuring a deep and rich experience of prayer. This was supported during the inspection with liturgies both outside the building and inside. St Cuthbert’s ensure that all pupils have a detailed understanding of a variety of ways of praying through reflection, music, and drama. There was a wealth of evidence to support this. The experiences of prayer and liturgy provided by the school engage pupils deeply and lead them to full, active and conscious participation. Well-chosen scripture passages that are informed by the liturgical season form the heart of prayer and liturgy. They are carefully and thoughtfully chosen to ensure that all present

can fully and actively participate. Staff, including senior leaders, are inspiring models of exemplary practice to other staff and pupils as participants in and leaders of prayer and liturgy.

Leaders, including pupil leaders and chaplains, are effective in supporting others to plan and lead experiences of prayer and liturgy. Evidence has shown that there is a developmental approach to this, with children gradually taking more responsibility in planning and leading prayer and liturgy so that the older children are able to do this independently. Leaders have made imaginative and creative use of spaces available to create permanent dedicated prayer spaces such as the chapel and the tulip room. Leaders ensure that all staff understand the centrality of prayer and liturgy to the life of the school and relevant staff are highly skilled and well supported to lead it.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Cuthbert's RC Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	3523500
Full postal address of the school	Heyscroft Rd, Withington, Manchester M20 4UZ
School phone number	0161 445 6079
Name of head teacher or principal	Mrs Mylene McGuire (Executive Head teacher) Mr Matt Lawrence (Head of School)
Chair of governing board	Sean Brennan
School Website	www.st-cuthberts.manchester.sch.uk
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age-range of pupils	3 - 11
Trustees	Salford Diocese
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	24 th February 2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

The inspection team

Jim Graves	Lead inspector
Vannessa Knowles	Team inspector
Name of inspector	Lead/team
Name of inspector	Lead/team

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement

4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement
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