

INSPECTION REPORT

St Joseph’s RC Primary School, St Joseph’s Drive, Ordsall, Salford, M5 3JP

Inspection date 9th December 2015
 Reporting Inspectors Brendan Hennessy, John Thorpe
 Inspection carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School Primary
 URN 105965
 Age range of pupils 3 - 11
 Number on roll 189
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body
 Chair of Governors Paula Howe
 Headteacher Anthony Schilling
 Religious Education Subject Leader Theresa Hayes
 Date of previous inspection November 2012

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the Grades 1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
Overall effectiveness of the school	2	
The quality of Catholic Leadership	1	
The quality of the Word of God	2	
The quality of the Welcome	1	
The quality of Welfare	1	
The quality of Worship	2	
The quality of Witness	2	

The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School serves the parish of St Joseph, Salford. This is a slightly smaller than average sized primary school with 189 pupils on roll, including 23 children in the nursery; 86% are baptized Roman Catholic. Currently in school 49% of pupils are entitled to Free School Meals. 20% have been identified with Special Educational Needs and 31% speak English as an additional language. The school is situated in a culturally diverse area of social disadvantage, with high mobility and within the inner city. On entry to nursery the attainment of the majority of pupils is below the national average. Most pupils have made good or better progress in their learning by the time they leave at the end of KS2. There are 13 teachers in school, 9 of whom are Catholic and 7 teachers have the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. School provides extended provision for those children who need it both before and after school.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD

St Joseph's is a good Catholic primary school with many outstanding features. This warm and friendly school offers all children a truly Catholic education in a caring and supportive environment where all are welcomed and differences are celebrated. The mission statement is visible and understood by all in the school community. The prayer life of the school and the many opportunities for worship have enhanced the individual faith journeys of all in St Joseph's. The dedicated headteacher, the enthusiastic deputy headteacher, committed RE subject leader and the hardworking staff team do all they can to ensure that the spiritual and pastoral needs of all are met and that the Gospel values are clearly evident and lived out by all. The parish priest and governing body are very supportive, they are committed to ensuring that a high standard of Catholic education is provided for all in this inclusive school. The quality of teaching in religious education is good and all staff strive to achieve high standards across the school. The friendly, polite and well-behaved children are very proud of their school. They always want to do their best and have a very good attitude to learning. Parents feel welcomed and valued, stating that the school "always does that extra bit for you" and "the headteacher goes above and beyond to help". They were positive about the care and support given to the children and families. The leadership team has been very effective in monitoring, assessing and evaluating religious education in school and this has ensured that the school has addressed all the areas for development identified in the last inspection.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- The strong leadership and dedication of the headteacher, supported by an enthusiastic and committed deputy headteacher, RE subject leader and governors.
- The quality of the relationships across the school community. The respect, dignity and care shown to every individual within the school community.
- The polite, confident, happy and very well behaved children.
- The positive atmosphere of teamwork among all the staff and the mutual respect for each other.
- The accuracy of school self-evaluation in RE has had a positive impact on recent developments in RE.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

St Joseph's is very well led by a dedicated headteacher who has a strong, spiritual commitment, a clear sense of purpose for the education of the whole child and values the individual worth of every member

of the school community. He is very well supported by an enthusiastic deputy headteacher, committed RE subject leader and hardworking staff. The governors have a clear, strategic vision for the school, they are committed and proactive in providing support and challenge. All staff and governors make sure that their shared vision for the development of the Catholic life of the school is at the forefront of their thinking and practice. The supportive parish priest visits school and is fully involved in the religious life of the school. Pupil leadership is fostered through the established and very enthusiastic chaplaincy team. Older children enjoy letting their pupil voice be heard through producing and editing their own school magazine. School leaders set the example for others in the school to follow and this is having a positive impact on the Catholic life of the school. Religious education is prioritised on the school's professional development programme for staff and in the school improvement plan. The school has developed an effective system for monitoring, assessment and evaluation, which has helped the leadership team to be clear about the strengths of the school and what needs to be done to develop even further. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education was found to be outstanding and is woven into every aspect of school life. A dedicated co-ordinator ensures that all staff are aware of the importance of the pupils' SMSC development.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD OF GOD IS GOOD

The importance of the Word of God was clearly demonstrated all around the school in the many thoughtful and enriching displays. The mission statement is clearly displayed throughout the school and is known, lived and witnessed throughout the school. The religious education of the pupils is at the core of the school curriculum and all staff place a high priority on the teaching of RE across the school. To enhance the quality of provision in RE the school has been creative in developing and planning RE around the 'Come and See' programme. Teaching and learning in religious education was found to be good overall, with some examples of inspirational teaching and engaging learning observed. An example of this was observed in a lesson about the Annunciation through the Angelus. The features of this lesson included: excellent teacher knowledge, high expectations and challenge, searching questioning that elicited insightful responses from the children, discussion, paired and hot seating. All of which helped the children's understanding, ensured that learning was productive and that the children were secure in expressing their thoughts. Across the school constructive marking and feedback was evident which encouraged pupils to move their learning on and improve their work. Religious literacy was promoted in all lessons and children were confident in their use of religious terms. Scripture is known, understood and made relevant throughout the school. The children show a keen interest and enthusiasm in RE and they were happy and confident to share their understanding of their faith. Teaching Assistants have a good understanding of the teaching of RE, they effectively interacted with pupils to support their learning. Parents were very positive about the importance of RE and commented on how much the children enjoy RE lessons. The children learn about other faiths through religious education and assemblies, and this helps them to understand and respect the beliefs and cultures of others.

THE QUALITY OF THE WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

St Joseph's provides a warm, welcoming, inclusive environment where committed staff have high expectations of pupils. The welcoming tradition of the school has been maintained through a period of considerable change. A commitment to safeguarding in no way compromises the genuinely warm welcome. All staff, pupils and governors have a deep faith commitment to the school and all contribute to the supportive ethos. Pupils and staff were very confident with and welcoming towards the inspectors. Visitors to the school are immediately aware of the school's mission; that they are in a place of learning influenced by the operational significance of the 5W's. Everyone is valued, their strengths, weaknesses and vulnerabilities celebrated which contribute to the creation of a loving and respectful ethos that permeates all activity. Strong, caring relationships exist between all pupils and

staff thus developing teamwork and a sense of belonging. Anybody new to the school is quickly made to feel welcome. One parent said that she chose St Joseph's because on her visit to school everybody looked and sounded so happy. Parents very much appreciate the school's commitment to the dignity of the individual, the open door policy and how school speedily and effectively responds to parental concerns. Considerable numbers of parents attended an Advent assembly presented by Year 6 and 3 pupils. Many families have been involved with the school for several generations and feel a strong sense of belonging. The school successfully inducts all staff into the Catholic life of the school.

THE QUALITY OF THE WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

St Joseph's staff and pupils demonstrate a high level of respect and care for each and the school gives a high priority to those in the greatest need. Procedures to safeguard and protect are fully endorsed. Throughout the school there is good practice enabling the pupils and staff to feel safe and well cared for and to adopt safe practices themselves. There is a genuine concern from all staff for the welfare of pupils Christ is used as an example for the whole community to aspire to. Pupils care for one another; older pupils and pupil chaplains show younger pupils how to become more prayerful. When asked about bullying pupils stated that it was not an issue as everyone knew exactly what to do if there were any problems. School has put in place an excellent nurture programme. In response to parent's busy lifestyles and changing family structures and circumstances the school employs a Caritas Family Support Worker; it also employs a Speech Therapist to identify those pupils with early communication problems. Breakfast Club and after school care is also available to pupils. The compassionate and caring ethos naturally leads to the school supporting local, national and international charities. This is particularly pleasing as some of the pupils come from homes where life can be difficult at times, yet they still reach out. The provision for SRE is currently under review as the school has identified that the provision needs enhancing. The school plans to involve the whole community in any developments. The parish priest knows where the school is in its faith journey and supports the religious welfare of staff, pupils and their families.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORSHIP IS GOOD

Prayer is at the heart of St Joseph's and is an integral part of the school's daily worship of "living life to the full" and becoming closer to God. Across school there were good examples of the opportunities for worship throughout the liturgical year that show the importance of prayer and worship to this school community. The school seeks to inspire and explore a deeper relationship with God by giving children and staff many opportunities to create and lead prayer and worship. The children are happy to write their own prayers and to share their joy in praising God with others. The staff and children work together preparing and delivering acts of collective worship in different formats. Each classroom has an age appropriate and relevant focal point for prayer and these are clearly valued by the children. Additional focal points for prayer and reflection are situated at key areas in the school that can be accessed by all, including the Mary Garden, Key Stage One Prayer Garden and outdoor Stations of the Cross. The chaplaincy team are a great asset to the school; their enthusiasm and example has a real impact on the prayer life, the quality of relationships and behaviour across the school. The acts of prayer and worship observed were child centered, thoughtful and relevant; ensuring that children and adults were given the opportunity to pray together as a community. They provided opportunities for participation, joyful singing and reflection. They were uplifting and thoughtful spiritual experiences that were beautifully respected by the children. Parents and carers are invited to attend special assemblies and Masses throughout the year and were positive about the range of opportunities the school offers for prayer and worship. The parish priest visits school and helps the staff and children deepen their faith and understanding. Sister Cecily regularly visits the school and works with the

youngest pupils. Home, school and parish unite to guide, support and celebrate with the children and families through the sacramental programme.

THE QUALITY OF THE WITNESS IS GOOD

St Joseph's school community recognises that Christ is at the centre of the all that it does as it aims to achieve "living life to the full". The mission statement is at the heart of the school and everyone in school strives to give witness to the beliefs and values of the Catholic faith and Christ's teachings in their daily lives. There is an atmosphere of calm and a sense of belonging together with an aspiration and determination that permeates the whole school. Staff are positive role models for the children, promoting the ethos and values of the school and helping them to recognise that Jesus is with them in all aspects of school life. Observations and discussions confirmed that children are encouraged to reach out to those in need, not just by their wonderful support for local, national and world charities but also in how they show respect, care, compassion and consideration for others; demonstrating that the Gospel values are fostered and evident throughout the entire school community. Relationships are excellent between all members of the school community and all are able to talk openly and confidently about their faith. There is a very good sense of teamwork among the staff, children and parents, which gives the school a true family feel and helps the children to become well rounded individuals. A well-developed sense of belonging to the school community exists, where everyone feels valued and cared for. There are strong home, school and parish links, which are inclusive and enhanced by visits from the parish priest. The school fosters a spirit of awe and wonder through religious education and the broader curriculum, where children are encouraged to be good guardians of God's creation. They know that they have a vital role to play in looking after God's world.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- Continue to inspire all pupils and promote exceptional teaching across the school by modelling and coaching good and outstanding teaching that will further enhance the development of curriculum RE.
- Continue to develop best practice in marking children's work in order to provide opportunities for children to respond and improve their work.
- To review the school's policy for Sex and Relationship Education and develop a scheme of work in line with Diocesan guidance.
- Continue to develop opportunities for the children to lead and evaluate the impact of worship in school.
- Continue to support and develop the chaplaincy team.

Summary Report to Parents

On 9th December 2015 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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9th December 2015

Dear Children,

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

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

It was lovely to see so many happy, smiling faces you are clearly very proud of your school and all that you have achieved together. We were also impressed by the way you all really want to succeed in school and how well you look out for each other. You were so well behaved, and your politeness and manners were simply superb. It was a privilege for us to come into your school.

It was so pleasing to see how attentive and confident you were in the acts of worship and the school assembly we saw. Everyone showed great respect and reverence, your behaviour was excellent, your singing was joyful and your prayers were uplifting.

Mr Schilling, all the staff, Fr Michael, the school Governors and your parents are also extremely proud of all of you and of what you have achieved over the years, well done and keep it up!

Your teachers are keen to help you develop the Catholic life of your school even further 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 be even better leaders of prayer and acts of worship in St Joseph's.

God bless you all and enjoy the rest of the school year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Brendan Hennessy and Mr John Thorpe
(RE Inspectors)