

INSPECTION REPORT

**ENGLISH MARTYRS ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
 WYCLIFFE RD, URMSTON, MANCHESTER M41 5AH**

Inspection date 24th June 2013
 Reporting Inspector Mr J Graves, Mr B Hennessy
 Inspection carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School Primary School
 URN 106352
 Age range of pupils 3 -11
 Number on roll 235
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body
 Chair of Governors Mrs P Morgan
 Headteacher Mrs A Harrop
 Religious Education Co-ordinator Mrs A Harrop
 Date of previous inspection April 2008

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 of God community	1	
The quality of the Welcome community	1	
The quality of Welfare	1	
The quality of Worship	2	
The quality of Witness	1	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

- English Martyrs is a Voluntary Aided RC Primary school in the Diocese of Salford.
- It serves the parish of Our Lady and the English Martyrs.
- Pupils are arranged in single aged classes.
- The admissions number is 30
- The headteacher was appointed in September 2010
- The Deputy Headteacher was appointed in September 2009.
- The school is situated close to the parish church.
- The socio-economic make-up of the school draws pupils from a wide and varied catchment area consisting of owner-occupied, social housing and rented accommodation.
- 89% of learners are baptised Catholics.
- Standards on entry to Reception are slightly below average.
- 10% of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals.
- 13% of pupils have been identified as having Special Educational Needs.
- 6% of children have English as an Additional Language
- Attendance is at 96.8% for the period September 2012 to June 2013.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL

English Martyrs is an OUTSTANDING Catholic School. The school is well led by the headteacher who has brought the school a long way in a short time. She has worked hard to drive forward improvements, including establishing a Chaplaincy and developing the buildings. She has a clear vision for the future of the school which is shared by the governors and staff. There is rigorous self-evaluation and monitoring of the school. Governors provide support for the headteacher in driving improvement for the school. Scripture is very important at English Martyrs. Subject knowledge is a strength of the staff. All are welcome at the school, no matter what their background. Children are very well cared for by the staff. Worship is a major focus of the pupil chaplaincy, led by the school chaplain. Children are able to put forward their views and know that their opinions are valued. Children are very proud of their school, and are excited when it is in the local newspaper. One child said that the school made it "Cool to be Catholic." They are very excited by RE lessons, and by all the things associated with school life. Parents value the school. They said that they feel that the school is a warm, safe environment where children are nurtured, their successes are celebrated and children form strong friendships. The school has fully met the improvements recommended by the previous Section 48 inspection.

KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE

- Headteacher has a clear vision for Catholic Education in the school
- Scripture is widely known across the school
- Teachers knowledge is of a very high standard
- The establishment of the Chaplaincy in the school
- Children's behaviour and politeness are excellent.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP

The quality of Catholic Leadership is OUTSTANDING. The school is well led by the hardworking headteacher. She is well supported by the Deputy and Senior Management Team. Governors are well informed by the head and they support her well in driving forward the Catholic life of the school, with the development of the whole child paramount. Governors are involved in the life of the school, are committed, enthusiastic and dedicated. The school is very well supported by the Parish Priest. The headteacher takes her role as a Faith leader seriously, providing opportunities for development of staff and children's spiritually. The Parish Priest takes an active role in the life of the school and is a great support for the headteacher, cementing the strong link between school and parish. Self-evaluation is rigorous, honest and accurate. The leadership is very aware of the school's strengths and the areas that it needs to address next. The last few years are strong testament that areas are addressed, and that change is planned and to the benefit of the children's development. Staff, governors, parents and children are consulted on their opinions on the life of the school in various ways which involve them in the next stages of the school's development. The impact of RE is well monitored. Governors know a great deal about what goes on in school

through visits and through talking to staff. They know the school's strengths and the next areas to develop. Behaviour is of a very high standard, as are the expectations of staff.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY

The quality of Word in the school is OUTSTANDING. The Mission Statement, which is reviewed annually, is known by the children. Children have their own version of the Mission Statement and when questioned, they knew its meaning and could recite the school motto, "Together in Faith, Learning in Life." Displays around school show children's understanding of the Word, for example, "Jesus is Risen," "Resurrection" and "Let the Children Come to Me." Jesus Christ is at the centre of all that was observed during the inspection, in keeping with the school's RE Policy that refers to "the comprehensive and systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ." RE is at the core of the curriculum. The standard of teaching was very good, with high expectations observed throughout. Teachers are very secure in their knowledge of the Faith. During lessons, a range of strategies are employed by staff, in recognition that children learn in different ways, such as children planning and presenting short drama productions in a lesson to make a teaching point to the other children in the class. Good use was made of the interactive whiteboard to support learning across the school. Teachers made reference to passages in Scripture in lessons relating them back to the morning's assembly. RE Assessment records show that progress is very good. The co-ordinator monitors RE rigorously, and is aware of areas of strength and those which need to be developed. Children's standards in Religious Literacy are very high. Children are confident in putting forward their opinions, for example in a Key Stage 2 lesson on "Loving you Neighbour," children were able to explain how they are able to show love to others. The RE Policy states that, "The school aims to make a real contribution to a child's personal development, including Spiritual, Moral and Cultural development." This is evident, as the teaching and learning in Personal, Social, Health Education has resulted in children being self-aware in how to treat others and themselves. Morally, they are well equipped by the time they leave the school. The school is working to ensure that RE standards are consistent with those of Literacy across the whole school.

THE QUALITY OF THE WELCOME COMMUNITY

The quality of Welcome in the school is OUTSTANDING. There is a strong sense of community among the pupils and staff of the school. This was observed when children were playing on the yard – all children were involved in activities organised by the other children. This is in keeping with the RE Policy when it states that, "We will always open our doors wide in welcome." There are strong links with the community, such as when the school works with the Parish on the Sacramental Programme. One display that catches the eye is, "Preparing to Receive Jesus." Parents are encouraged to come into school with events such as assemblies and Masses. There are four children in Key Stage 2 who are excellent chaplains and made inspectors feel very welcome when visiting the school. Displays show the welcome culture of the school, such as "God's Family." The environment is happy, calm and welcoming. All members of the school community have a place at English Martyrs, and this was shown on several occasions during the inspection, such as with Playground Buddies playing their part in making children welcome at breaktimes. Tolerance and acceptance are quite simply a way of life at the school. The school successfully works in partnership with other agencies, such as The Marist Centre, Sainsbury's, the Fire Service, the local library. The school is used by the local community for Beavers' Meetings. Inspectors were made to feel very welcome by the children and staff throughout the visit.

THE QUALITY OF THE WELFARE COMMUNITY

The quality of Welfare is OUTSTANDING. The Love of God is at the Heart of everything that goes on at English Martyrs. Relationships throughout the school are based on mutual respect for each other. The school feels that helping those who are less fortunate is very important. The school chaplain provides good support for children who are feeling vulnerable. Children state that the chaplain is a person they can go to if they are worried – they add that all members of staff will help. Children say that they feel safe. The Behaviour and Discipline Policy aims "to help children grow in a safe and secure environment." Security is very effective ensuring that visitors to school during lesson times and break times are tightly controlled. Anti-Bullying is a priority, with a display to ensure children know what action they should take if they are ever victims of bullying. It also sends the message that bullying is not tolerated at the school. Behaviour is excellent at English Martyrs. The school's Behaviour and Discipline Policy says that "the school expects every member of the school community to behave in a considerate way towards others." This was a trademark of everything observed at the school. In a lesson observed in the Early Years, where children were learning about St Peter, the children linked St Peter's actions to how they should conduct themselves for the rest of the day on school. The Sex and Relationship Education is in place, and is taught with Catholic Values

throughout. The scheme is taught in partnership with parents. This supports the school's Policy on Sex and Relationship Education which says that the school wants children "to celebrate life as a God-given gift." Parents are invited to approach school whenever they feel they should. Staff opinions are sought, both informally and formally.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORSHIP COMMUNITY

The quality of Worship in the school is GOOD. Prayer is at the heart of school life. For example, prayers are said several times during the day, including during RE lessons. During special seasons, such as Advent, Lent and Easter, English Martyrs uses opportunities to bring the whole school together in prayer and reflection. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated. Prayer is progressive through the school. Prayer and Worship observed in the Early Years involved children at a level appropriate for their age in reflecting and using heart shapes to focus on love. A whole school assembly was observed on Matthew 7:12-13, "Always treat others as you would like them to treat you." Children were invited to reflect on how they feel in situations where they have been treated badly by others. This was extended to ask the children how they treat others; good use was made of resources to help the children within their reflections. The children were clear and confident in saying their prayers and singing "Fill me up Lord" and demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout. Creativity in Worship was observed in a class where children had, in a previous lesson, designed T-shirts that demonstrated the children's understanding of their faith. The subsequent discussion and reflection had a positive impact on their spiritual development. Pupils are asked to write their own prayers which are recorded in prayer journals which serve to celebrate the prayer life of the school as well as on displays like "The Prayer Tree." Masses take place each term involving the children. Class assemblies, Class Masses and School Masses give children opportunities to develop their prayerful relationship with God. Families are encouraged to share in the prayer life of the school. The "Church's Birthday" display demonstrates this. National events give opportunities for children to reflect, such as Remembrance Day. Other opportunities arise from children going on retreats and the "Wednesday Word". INSET is provided for staff so that they are able to deliver opportunities for children to develop their spirituality.

THE QUALITY OF THE WITNESS COMMUNITY

The quality of Witness in the school is OUTSTANDING. The school accepts its responsibility as a Catholic school to bear witness to Christ's teachings. All interactions between members of the school community observed during the inspection were modelled on Gospel values, and reflected the face of Jesus. For example, when a child was struggling to articulate an answer in the children's' interview, his friends helped him in a supportive, non-threatening manner. The staff of the school are involved in evaluating the 5Ws at English Martyrs. These are displayed around the school and the children know them. One child said, "Teachers always look after us. They always sort things out." Children know that there are strict security controls for visitors. The Catholic traditions are respected by the school community as evidenced through the links with the parish. Witness is clearly evident in the Mission Statement which promotes love, justice and respect. It is at the heart of the school as shown through the fund raising that the children do for CAFOD and for a Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. One child said of the appeal, "When I opened my presents, I knew that a child would be able to open my shoe box." Children can articulate their thoughts, seen in a Prayer and Worship session about St Paul, where children expanded on their reflections. The children are consulted in many ways, ranging from questionnaires about lessons, to the headteacher asking the children about how to change something. They show compassion in their events for charity. The chaplain, who is dedicated to this role, is a strength of the school. She goes about her work with compassion and care. There are four pupils chaplains who have a positive impact on the Catholic life of the school such as in a Prayer and Worship session. Pupils have a strong work ethic and support other pupils who are at school. The staff are committed to pupils' development as rounded young people. Children show a great care for each other: When a little boy became upset at play time, he was quickly comforted by 3 other children and taken to the staff member on duty.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- To further tighten the focus of learning in lessons.
- To help children with opportunities for more consistent planning and delivery of Prayer and Worship.

25th June 2013

Dear Pupils,

Thank you for making our visit to English Martyrs RC Primary School so enjoyable when we came to inspect your school for the Bishop. Thank you for a very warm welcome, we really enjoyed our time with you. Your school is an outstanding Catholic school.

We really enjoyed seeing your lessons. We saw as many of you as we could, and we are sorry if we didn't see you in your class. You were wonderful – your behaviour was excellent, and your politeness and manners were simply superb! It was a privilege for us to come into your school.

We were really impressed that you all knew so many stories from The Bible. Well done! That shows how hard you work in school!

The staff know a great deal about the curriculum, and they are well guided by your headteacher, Mrs Harrop. Your chaplains are great, guided well by Mrs Callaghan. It's easy to see why the school's governors are so proud of you and the staff.

Your teachers and headteacher work very hard and have brought the school a long way since the last time inspectors visited your school. You now have a chaplain who I know you value highly, and the buildings are becoming much better. The staff have a high opinion of you and they care a great deal for every child in the school.

Finally, we could easily see how much work you do, and how well you treat and care for each other. You have all done so well!

God bless all in your school,

Mr J Graves and Mr B Hennessy

(Section 48 Inspectors)

English Martyrs RC Primary School, Manchester

Summary Report to Parents

On Tuesday 25th June 2013 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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