

INSPECTION REPORT

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**Inspection carried out Under Canon 806
and in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005**

Name of School **Our Lady of the Rosary, Davyhulme Road, Urmston, Manchester M41 7DS**

Inspection date 28th November 2018

Reporting Inspectors Dennis Harrison, Marie Kwiatkowski, Helen Sullivan

Type of school	Primary
URN	106358
Age range of pupils	3-11
Number on roll	238
Appropriate authority	The Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Jan Jones
Headteacher	Sue Molloy
Religious Education Subject Leader	Sue Molloy
Date of previous inspection	December 2013

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the Grades
Overall effectiveness of the school	1	1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
Catholic Leadership	1	
The Catholic Life of the school (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness)	1	
Religious Education (incorporating Word)	1	
Collective Worship	1	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School is an average size primary school situated in the Davyhulme area of Urmston, Manchester. It serves the parish of the English Martyrs, Urmston, along with English Martyrs RC Primary School and St Monica's RC Primary School, Flixton. The number of children entitled to a free school meal and pupil premium support is well below average. On entry the ability of the children is broadly average and represents the full ability range. Pupil mobility is low. Pupils identified as having special educational needs is marginally below that expected nationally. 3% of pupils have EAL. 95% of the children are baptised Roman Catholic. Of the 8 class teachers 7 are Catholic and 5 have the CCRS. The headteacher and deputy headteacher have been at the school for many years and assumed their current roles 8 years ago. The headteacher is a Diocesan Leader of Education and a Section 48 inspector. She is also a member of the National School of Formation.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- **The headteacher's exceptional commitment and passion that provides profound inspiration for all aspects of the faith journey of Our Lady of the Rosary.**
- **Outstanding Witness by all members of the school community that ensures Our Lady of the Rosary is highly regarded as a beacon of excellent Catholic education.**
- **Charming and articulate children who love school because they know they are valued as children of God.**
- **The evangelising mission of the school that brings together the community and parish in sharing many memorable and meaningful activities.**
- **The outward looking and reflective approach that ensures the school is constantly improving.**

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL

These are exciting and purposeful times for Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School. The school has improved even further since the last inspection and is now clearly focussed on sharing its outstanding provision to become fully recognised as a centre of excellence in Catholic Education, both locally and nationally. Pivotal to the school's excellence is the outstanding headteacher. Her engaging and ambitious leadership style has created a superb team who are committed to a vision to ensure the school goes from strength to strength. She is well supported by the governors who share her drive to achieve the very best. Christian mission is entwined into every action so that the school lives and breathes its Catholic faith and the day to day centrality of the Word of God. The impressive provision in Worship and the heartfelt support afforded to every child's journey in faith gives them memorable and enjoyable school days whereby they meet God each day. The high priority given to the Catholic life of the school is witnessed by the powerful and carefully planned prayer points around the school including special liturgical gardens, an amphitheatre made from benches from the old church and the striking outdoor Stations of the Cross. These, along with a prayerful and attractive internal learning environment, spread the word that at Our Lady of the Rosary, everything is rooted in the love of God. The plans for the future include extending the outstanding provision in Worship to enhance the quiet, still moments for individual prayer and for silent, meditation whereby God's word can be witnessed. Leaders are right to set ambitious targets of the highest order to ensure the children's work is consistently worthy of becoming keepsakes for the future as exemplar faith journey records. A clear and ambitious direction has been set, one that the whole school community has ownership of. Therefore the school has excellent capacity 'to persevere to succeed' and is well placed for the brightest of futures.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

At the heart of the success of Our Lady of the Rosary is the visionary and ambitious leadership of the headteacher. Her positive drive to ensure the school is at the cutting edge of high quality Catholic education has created a clear direction that the entire school community has embraced. She looks well beyond the gates of the school, locally and nationally, to help

shape the best practice for her school. Indeed her passion for Religious Education and the Catholic life of the school is witnessed in her own direct leadership of these areas. She is ably supported by the very effective deputy headteacher who shares her vision and ambition to see the school move forward. The outcome is an outstanding provision, blessed with a fierce determination to always ensure Our Lady of the Rosary never stands still. Leadership is reflective, always seeking new horizons to constantly improve. This is shared by all key leaders. Therefore the future is surely an exciting one as the school strides forward. This school demonstrates its distinctive Catholic nature in a powerful way. Hence the children love coming to school, feel close to God and know they belong to a special faith family. Governors are fully aware of the vibrancy of the school and encourage the positive direction of travel. They provide support and challenge in good measure and share in the excellent team ethic that has been created. The new parish priest has settled well and is a welcome visitor. He appreciates the school's excellent partnership with the parish and the efforts made to keep the school at the heart of the parish community. Pupil leadership is emerging as a clear strength because the children are encouraged to undertake active roles in many ways to influence day to day life, to reach out to others and to have a voice. They confidently express their hopes and dreams for the future and thoroughly enjoy all the school has to offer.

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness) IS OUTSTANDING

Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School sits at the heart of its community as a wonderful testament of outstanding Catholic education. The school has been very successful in demonstrating the centrality of its Catholic traditions to all who enter its grounds. Numerous carefully designed prayer focus points are present across the attractive grounds including the Our Lady of the Rosary chapel area and war memorial area to the front of the school, the beautiful Stations of the Cross, prayer and liturgical gardens and the newly planned forest adventure area. Indoors the environment is enhanced by high quality art work and displays declaring beyond doubt that Christ is at centre of every moment. It is therefore no surprise that all who share in the schools faith journey authentically live out its mission by providing an exceptional range of opportunities for pupils to live life to the full. They have slept out on the 'Diocesan Sleep Out' for CARITAS, supported a refugee family as Pope Francis asked and have raised significant funds to help others both near and far. This has impacted very profoundly on the faith journey of every child. Therefore pupils epitomise the school's warm and welcoming family feel, confidently sharing their stories, dreams and aspirations with joyful enthusiasm. They feel like missionary disciples as they share the many opportunities to shape their experience of school and to make the world a better place. Excellent trips both home and abroad demonstrate how the school works so hard to give the children a rich experience. They know they are well cared for and say openly that the best thing about Our Lady of the Rosary are the teachers because they make school fun, are always there to listen and that they feel very safe. Pupils play so well together with younger children supported by leaders from older classes. The school's involvement in 'Building the Kingdom' has brought a special focus to constantly reflect, to review and to strive for excellence. This has perpetuated the school's uniqueness and places the school in a formidable position to share its significant strengths through both local and national networks.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS OUTSTANDING

At the heart of the school's day to day life is the bespoke mission statement based on OLOR - Our journey, Love God, Others first, Respect all. Persevere to succeed! This is used as a form of prayer, all the children know it and refer to it as it encompasses and impacts on learning and prayer. It is known, lived and witnessed because the children like its simplicity and meaning. The children are exceptionally confident learners who have benefitted from deep and searching reflection around 'Big Questions'. High quality resourcing into Religious Education is evident around the school. Teaching observed across the school was always good and on occasions outstanding. When considered along with the excellent attitudes and behaviour of the children, the warm relationships that exist and the challenges the children face in their social, moral, spiritual and cultural education, the provision is outstanding overall. For example in an Upper Key stage 2 class children were considering situations where it may be hard to forgive, the level of reflection, deep thinking and empathy expressed was moving and thought provoking. This was applied thoughtfully to recent tragedies like Grenfell and the Manchester bomb. Often learning is based around interesting questions the children raise about their lives and the life of Jesus. Sacred Scripture is known throughout the school and forms the basis of many displays. The learning environment matched the importance the school places on all aspects of Religious Education. It is now for the school to bring together these outstanding features to ensure that the children's work in their books become reflective journals celebrating the outcomes of high expectations,

strong teaching and the powerful independent learning that characterises Our Lady of the Rosary. The school is right to recognise the empowering opportunities that exist when outstanding outcomes in the children's workbooks will be fully modelled and celebrated. For example a lovely poem on a Key Stage 2 display beautifully and originally explained God's love – 'God's love is a myriad of sparkling white, illuminating our faith. It smells like a country meadow with thousands of dancing white flowers'.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

Collective worship at Our Lady of the Rosary is outstanding. The school has invested with heart and soul to create an enviable range of focal points for the community to pray. Along with attractive sacred areas in honour of Our Lady and a special war memorial, there are exemplary outside prayer areas which include the Stations of the Cross which were acquired from the old church. A special amphitheatre has been constructed using the benches. The creation of a forest adventure area has begun and the children are fully involved in its evolution. Prayer is a natural and important part of every day. The children place themselves into the presence of God with reverence and love. Even the youngest children love to pray together for instance in the EYFS when they calmly and joyfully considered how they are diamonds on God's special earth. Older children act as buddies to younger children and they plan, deliver and evaluate their own times of prayer. In upper Key Stage 2 times of reflection consider emotive issues and 'Big Questions' which ask the children to think and pray in a most mature fashion. Pupils know they can pray anywhere and at any time and value their special relationship with God. They feel the presence of Christ in their midst and support one another superbly. Knowing that they are ready to go even further the children rightly want to take even more ownership of their prayer experience by creating more opportunities for silent meditation so that they can listen in the quiet stillness of God's love, knowing they are truly special. This mindful exercise can become a very regular and formative part of the prayer life of Our Lady of the Rosary.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- **To enhance further the children's recording to fully capture their faith journey so that outstanding work is modelled and celebrated and the outcomes make worthy keepsakes to be treasured.**
- **To extend the high quality provision in Worship by creating more opportunities for children to experience meditative moments of quiet stillness whereby they can listen and pray in the presence of God.**