

INSPECTION REPORT

SS OSMUND AND ANDREW'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

FALKIRK DRIVE, BRIGHTMET, BOLTON, BL2 6NW

Inspection date 9th July 2013

Reporting Inspector Sister Judith Russi
Mr Gerard Keane

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

Type of School Catholic Primary

URN 134237

Age range of pupils 4 -11 years

Number on roll 398

Appropriate authority The Governing Body

Chair of Governors Mr E. Hill

Head teacher Mr John Thorpe

Date of previous inspection June 2009

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the Grades 1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3 = Requires improvement
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	1	
The quality of Witness	1	
<i>The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements</i>		

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

SS Osmund and Andrew's is a larger than average-sized primary school that serves the parish of St Osmund's in the Breightmet area of Bolton. Pupils attend from a wide catchment area across several parishes. A significant number of pupils come from low socio-economic and challenging backgrounds. There are a growing number of pupils needing School Action and School Action Plus support. The proportion of pupils on the Special Needs register represents 15.4%. The local area levels of multiple deprivation exceeds Bolton and national averages. There are increasing numbers of pupils from a number of different countries who are new to the United Kingdom and who arrive with little or no English. Most pupils are of White British heritage. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is average (13.6%). The school has achieved a wide range of awards including Leading Aspect, ICT Mark, Healthy Schools, the Activemark and Eco-Schools. The school shares the accommodation with Little Ozzie's Community Nursery, and the before and after school club.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING

SS Osmund and Andrew's is an outstanding Catholic school offering the children a rich faith experience which permeates all aspects of school life. The cohesive team of governors and staff have dedicated themselves to the building up of a Catholic learning community of excellence. The options for those in the greatest need is inspirational. The children receive a Catholic education which enables them to understand their place in the world as future stewards who can influence, change and contribute to the common good for all people. The governors, headteacher and leadership team lead the school with a clear vision and sense of purpose recognising the dignity and value of every member of the community. The school's priority for the growing numbers of pupils and their families in the greatest need, inclusivity, passion for learning and personal development, ensures that all pupils receive an integrated Gospel-based formation and education. Parents expressed a high level of commitment to the school because they felt that *'everyone is valued equally'* and as one parent said *'Nothing is considered too much for our children'*. The outreach work with families and carers was greatly appreciated by parents.

KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- **The leadership and vision of the school is outstanding.**
- **The Catholic life, relationships, behaviour and care for all within the school is outstanding.**
- **The outreach to parents and families in the local community is a strength of the school and the welcome and inclusion for all is outstanding.**

THE QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

The leadership of the Head teacher is an inspirational combination of service to all and transformational courage. The outstanding strength of the leadership team has been developed through a distributive leadership model which recognises and celebrates the gifts and talents of the whole community. All members of the school community have an impact on the success of the school. A particular feature of the leadership is seen in the way in which support staff are clearly operating at a very high level and encouraged to take risks, be innovative and assume responsibility. There is a strong sense of ownership and vision across the community. Governors, the staff team, pupils and their families are unified and guided by the recently reviewed and rewritten Mission Statement which is clearly displayed, known and lived. Pupil leadership has been developed through the School Council, Play Leaders and Peer Mediators and more recently through the Pupil Chaplains programme. Pupils were found to be confident and enthusiastic about taking on responsibility. The leadership of the school has a secure overview of the strengths and areas for development due to

the robust and highly effective strategy for self- evaluation. The wide ranging and numerous tributes and awards which the school has received are all testimony to the outstanding leadership.

THE QUALITY OF WORD IS OUTSTANDING

The school is developing the RE scheme, The Way, The Truth and The Life. Teaching and learning was found to be at least good and in the majority of classes outstanding. Learning across all Key Stages moved forward quickly and pupils clearly achieved the objectives. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, the calm and well organised environment contributed to the high standards of teaching and learning. This was fully supported by the engagement of the teaching assistants who assisted in an effective and very creative way. Key Stage 1 pupils were well challenged and clearly enjoyed the wide range of teaching and learning activities which were fully supported by very effective support staff. The exploration of the miracle stories in scripture was of a very high standard and in later discussions with pupils they were able to make very mature links between the reasons why Jesus performed miracles and their own lives. Teaching and learning across Key Stage 2 was generally outstanding. In the very best lessons, pupils were highly motivated, challenged and able to engage in a mature manner. In one lesson, pupils were able to identify the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and differentiate between moral and physical courage and the challenges that this presents them in their daily lives. Drama, discussion groups, music, movement and ICT were all used very effectively. Marking and assessment for learning are well developed in most classes with good evidence of interactive comments and guidance for next steps for improvement. This very good practice needs to be strengthened in a few classes. Pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education was found to be very good. Pupils were readily able to talk about the beliefs and values of their faith and its application to daily life. This would be further developed through continuing to identify key moments of SMSC intervention across the curriculum.

The Religious Education budget is set according to the needs of the curriculum and the Catholic life of the school and is adjusted on a yearly basis in line with other core subjects. All classes receive a minimum of 10% RE curriculum time.

THE QUALITY OF WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

The welcome extended to all visitors is underpinned by a common vision built on Gospel Values and the Mission Statement. This is a very joyful school. There is a great sense of fun and visitors are welcomed by all. Children were found to be very confident in speaking to visitors and making sure they were being looked after. The school actively seeks to engage with and support members of the community and this is particularly appreciated by the parents. The respect for each person and the genuine love for one another was witnessed repeatedly in lessons and on the playground. Pupils and staff were quick to include and notice any one who may have been overlooked, and reach out to them in a very positive manner. The older pupils were both mature and willing to forego their own desires in order to help others. Those interviewed spoke of the school as *'the best school in Bolton'* and *'The best thing about this school is the Head teacher. Everyone matters the same. We are a big family here'*. Governors spoke of the fact that whenever they arrive they are always welcomed and as one said, *'Even if I have not made an appointment, the Head has time for me'*. Children know what to do if they have any worries. The pupils' sense of ownership and responsibility for what happens in their school was remarkable. They felt that they were heard and their views welcomed. Members of staff demonstrate a keen sense of community affiliation and the strength and quality of relationships exemplifies respect for the dignity of all members of the school community. Children and parents are proud of their school.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

The community of SS Osmund and Andrew's demonstrates a high level of respect and care for each other and for the fabric of their school building of which they are justifiably proud. Children are confident that teachers will treat their concerns seriously. The Welfare provision for the pupils is enhanced through the employment of a member of staff to further develop the nurture programme throughout the school to ensure the wellbeing of every child. A wide range of early intervention strategies are in place and working effectively. Extra support is in place for parents in parenting skills. Further support is also provided through Caritas social workers actively engaging with the school. When asked about bullying, pupils stated that it was not an issue as everyone knew exactly what to do if there were any problems. The school's provision for safeguarding and keeping children safe is outstanding. The provision for Sex and Relationship education is through the Diocesan Guidelines for Education for Personal Relationships. Quality before and after school care is provided for families needing extra support. Commitment to healthy lifestyles for all is a priority. The school offers a wide range of clubs and activities to develop the whole person. The school actively reaches out to those in need at home and abroad through a wide variety of charity work. Maturity, responsibility and self discipline are encouraged so as to develop independence. This was clearly evidenced through the relationships between all children and the effective ways in which play leaders and peer mediators intervened when needed. Behaviour and movement of pupils around the building was found to be outstanding.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

The whole school practice of prayer and worship ensures a wide range of creative opportunities to develop and enrich the prayer life of the community. These include Circle Time, Post a Prayer, and the use of the Prayer Tree as well as Masses, assemblies and collective worship during RE lessons. The newly formed Chaplaincy team led an excellent assembly on the role of the Chaplaincy team in their school. The recently formed 'COGS' (Children of God) group provides an extra lunch time opportunity for prayer and reflection. There is a focal point for prayer in each classroom. Staff and pupils are confident in leading prayer and worship. All year groups lead times of prayer and worship and have a clear understanding of the liturgical life of the school. The whole school time of prayer and worship was creative and well balanced with periods of silent reflection allowing those taking part the opportunity for private devotion. An outstanding feature of the school is the collective appreciation of the centrality of prayer. This was witnessed and expressed in lessons and meetings with Governors, parents and pupils. The use of the 'Wednesday Word' sent home to parents was another excellent example of helping families to reflect and pray with scripture. One parent spoke of the way in which her child was an instrument of evangelisation for the whole family. *'I'm not a Catholic so I worried about teaching my child. I don't anymore because she is teaching me about the faith'.*

The school has accepted responsibility for instructing the children taking part in the parish Sacramental Programme. Governors, staff, parents and pupils all expressed their appreciation of the significant contribution to the sacramental preparation of the Year 3 pupils made by the school. They all spoke of their hopes for closer links with the parish and the need to further develop child centred liturgies and involvement with the sacramental life of the parish.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

Witnessing to Christ and the values of the Gospel are central to the life of SS Osmund and Andrew's and evident through the behaviour, relationships, learning and displays of children's work throughout the school. Children were found to be very confident and willing to speak about their faith and why it was important to them. In discussion with pupils they spoke of their pride in being part of a faith community. Pupils are clearly proud of their school as a Catholic school and showed a

genuine delight in explaining why. One pupil said *'I always want to go to a school like this because God matters. How else would we learn about our faith?'* They were able to recognise the important contribution made to the community by people of other denominations and faiths and shared very insightful reflections on why this was also part of being a Catholic community. The values of the school have a very definite impact which extends beyond the school into the community. This was clearly seen in the activities which engaged the pupils in issues of justice and peace and care for the environment, actively encouraging an earth care ethic. It is clear that the school stands as a witness to Christ's love, justice, forgiveness and compassion. An outstanding feature of the school is the willingness to be proactive and take responsibility for values and beliefs of the community across all aspects of the life of the school. Pupils and staff want to stand up and be counted. As one pupil said *'This is the best school in the world'*.

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- **Continue to strengthen and develop the partnership between the parish and the school particularly in the Sacramental Programme and child centred liturgies.**
- **Continue the development of differentiated teaching and learning to further extend the learning of the most able pupils.**
- **Continue the development of the Chaplaincy team to further the already high level of pupil engagement in the Catholic life of the school.**

July 14th 2013

Dear Pupils

Thank you so much for the wonderful welcome you gave us when we came to visit you. Thank you especially for looking after us and making sure we were always where we were meant to be. Your school is an outstanding school. This is because you and your teachers are working so hard to always do your very best and you look after one another so well.

You have a beautiful school. We loved all the displays showing what you have been learning. Your work is of a very good standard and we could clearly see that you take your learning very seriously and are proud of your achievements.

Your RE is outstanding. Your creative ideas are very good and we could see that you can make connections between what you are learning in RE and other areas of the curriculum. Thank you for letting us share so much of what you are doing. We were very impressed by your beautiful Assembly on being a 'Bridge'. Your singing was amazing! We were delighted to see the Chaplaincy team in action and how much you have managed to put in place in such a short time. Thank you for inviting us to take part.

Your teachers are keen to help you develop the Catholic life of your school even further and so they will be helping the Chaplaincy team to carry out their exciting development plan as well as looking for interesting ways of strengthening the partnership with your parish. So many of you are learning about your faith at a high level. We felt that this could go even further. Your teachers are going to help you by setting you learning challenges at an even higher level.

God bless you all and have a really happy holiday.

Yours sincerely

Sr Judith Russi

(Section 48 Inspector)

SS OSMUND AND ST ANDREW'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, BOLTON

Summary Report to Parents

On 9th July 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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