

INSPECTION REPORT

Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School, Rudgwick Drive, Bury BL8 1YA

Inspection date 14th June 2017

Reporting Inspector Mrs. J. Frazer
 Mrs. P. Macro

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

Type of School Roman Catholic Primary
 URN 105337
 Age range of pupils 4 – 11 Years
 Number on roll 196
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body
 Chair of Governors Mrs M Dilger
 Headteacher Mrs J Davies
 Religious Education Subject Leader Mrs M Waterworth
 Date of previous inspection January 2012

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	1	
The quality of the Welcome	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 AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

Our Lady of Lourdes is a Roman Catholic School supported by the Diocese of Salford, serving the parish of Our Lady of Good Council and Guardian Angels in Bury. Our Lady of Lourdes has a wide and varied catchment area and its intake consists mainly of children from the local private housing and the Brandlesholme and Woodhill council estates. 158 (80.63%) of the children are baptised Catholics 12.04% of them are eligible for free school meals. 27 (14%) pupils have been identified as having special educational needs (SEND) of them 5.3% have an EHCP. 17 (8.9%) of the children are from ethnic minority groups and 17 (8.9%) have English as an additional language. 9 of the 10 teachers are Roman Catholics. 4 of the teachers have a CCRS and there are currently another 4 members of staff undertaking the course. Over the last few years, the school has undergone a significant period of change. A new head teacher and two assistant head teachers have been appointed and took up post in March 2015 and September 2015 and 2016 respectively.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING

Our Lady of Lourdes is an outstanding Catholic Primary School. Upon entry to the school one is struck by the wonderfully warm and friendly welcome. All children are provided with an outstanding Catholic education in an extremely caring and supportive environment where individual needs are exceptionally well catered for. The behaviour of the pupils is exemplary. The pupils take a great pride in their school, which is fully inclusive. The Word of God is central to the life of the school and the children know and understand scripture very well are able to relate this to their daily lives. This ensures that the pastoral and spiritual needs of all families and children are very well met. The dedicated headteacher, supported by a very strong leadership team including governors, has very high expectations of all adults and children. Together, with the hard working staff, they have created an ethos where everyone recognises the need to work together in order to ensure that the needs of everyone are catered for. This work is further enhanced by the support of the parish priest and a very effective governing body.

KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- The exemplary behaviour of the children at all times; the children feel safe and clearly enjoy coming to school.
- The inclusive nature of the school; staff support children with additional needs exceptionally well to ensure that they participate fully in all aspects of school life.
- The parish priest works exceptionally hard to ensure that the parish and school community grow in faith together.
- The governing body demonstrates total commitment to the school's mission and the Catholic life of the school.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

The quality of leadership is outstanding. The dedicated headteacher, enthusiastic RE subject leader along with a knowledgeable and supportive governing body, provides strong and decisive leadership by clearly living their vision for Catholic education. Their leadership bears witness to gospel values and it is clear that priority is afforded to those in greatest need within the school. There is excellent leadership at all levels of the community, which contributes significantly to the outstanding provision for Catholic Education that the school currently provides. This ensures that the development of the Catholic life of the school is at the forefront of its work. Together with all other staff, they ensure that the teaching of RE and the development of the Catholic life of the school have an extremely high priority. The school has a clear plan for developing RE across the school and this is reflected in the priority that it is given. Evidence for this can be found in the

school's self-evaluation, which is based on the 5Ws model. The school is aware of its next steps and has comprehensive plans for implementing them.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD IS OUTSTANDING

The school's Mission statement 'At Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School we follow in the footsteps of Jesus to Love, Learn and Grow' is contemporary and is reviewed on an annual basis. The mission statement is known and loved by everyone in the school community; parents say that the mission statement is lived by the children. The staffing and resources that are devoted to teaching and learning in RE are of the highest standard, reflecting its significance and importance in the school. The written work in the children's RE books is consistently of at least the same or of a higher standard than other areas of the curriculum. There are bright and attractive displays around the school and in the school hall there are footsteps relating to the joint parish and school 'Walk to Jerusalem' where acts of good deeds and prayers convert in to miles along the journey to Jerusalem. Scripture is exceptionally well known, understood and made relevant throughout the school. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) education is highly developed throughout the school. Pupils with additional needs are embraced within the school community and every effort is made to ensure that they flourish in this Catholic school. The children's behaviour for learning is exemplary and there is a culture of enthusiasm for learning where teachers and children speak confidently about RE and their witness of their Catholic faith. This provides a secure learning environment where everyone can safely express their views and ask questions to develop their understanding. The strong links between the school, home and parish are inclusive and effective and together this ensures that the children receive the highest possible quality of education.

THE QUALITY OF WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

Our Lady of Lourdes provides an exceptionally warm welcome for all who attend the school. Whilst rigorous safeguarding procedures for all visitors to the school are in place, this does not preclude the warm welcome offered to all. The children were seen coming into school enthusiastically at the start of the day as they were greeted by staff. Inspectors were warmly greeted by staff and the children when they entered individual classrooms. Parents were keen to express how all the children feel included; especially those with additional needs. They were overwhelmingly positive about the school; they know that their children are loved and supported by all staff. Parents say that the school has a presence of spirituality and there is a warm homely feel to the school. They say that when they come in to school they are treated like a VIP and with utter respect. They also say that they are encouraged to come in to school to share their talents and skills with the children. There is a clearly supported induction programme for EYFS children when they are starting school. This begins before they start school and continues with a parents' evening where parents can meet all the staff and the parish priest who speaks to them about their child's continuing faith journey. Year 6 children are partnered up with the new children who they look after and grow in friendship with them. There is a holistic approach by everyone within school and this ensures that children's emotional, social and cultural needs are very well cared for. Respect for the dignity of the individual is clearly evident across the school. The caring ethos created within the school ensures that the children's personal qualities are valued by everyone.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

The staff and pupils demonstrate a very high level of care and respect for others. This was witnessed throughout the day in the manner that the staff supported the children and their colleagues. The structures and procedures in school ensure that everyone feels safe and that they are treated with respect and dignity. The outreach support provided by the school ensures that the needs of parents and families are met in a structured and sensitive manner by all staff but in particular by the Parent Support Advisor. Parents were keen to express the view that there is a special bond and atmosphere around the school and that there is a culture of empathy for others. An example of this is that one family had a significant family trauma and the school responded with prayer and exceptional support such as providing essentials for the family. Relationships at Our Lady of Lourdes are of a high quality. The school's GIFT chaplaincy team said that the children enjoy being in every class, the work is fun and people care and share. They say that the teachers are fair and if you don't understand the work you get help. They said that all the children get along with each other and that if things ever go wrong they are sorted out fairly. The GIFT chaplaincy team and school council say that there is no bullying at Our Lady of Lourdes and that all children

feel safe and they enjoy coming to school. The school stresses the importance of reaching out beyond its community, so that children feel part of God's world. The charity work is a living example of this as children support CAFOD, CARITAS, Macmillan, Comic Relief and 'Turning Little Fish in to Big Fish'. As a result of these fully embedded practices children are able to demonstrate exceptionally high levels of compassion, understanding, empathy, forgiveness and respect for diversity.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS GOOD

The school provides a variety of worship opportunities for children throughout the day and these are appropriate for their backgrounds and faith experiences. Some RE lessons have an element of worship in them and where this was observed the children were able to respond and participate well. The collective worship, led by an Upper Key Stage 2 class, included a Gospel reading and bidding prayers that had been written by the children. At the end of this worship a lit candle was taken carefully and respectfully to the classes of children who were not present during this worship. During another act of worship in a Key Stage 1 class an inspector was invited to participate and was given a pebble to hold to help reflect on the focus of the worship. This good practice of reflection during worship could further enhance other acts of worship throughout the school, so that children and all participants have time to reflect and to listen and further develop a personal relationship with God. The GIFT chaplaincy team and the school council, well supported by a member of staff, are confident in planning and delivering collective acts of worship. The children attend Mass at special times during the Liturgical calendar and parents say that when they attend assemblies in school they come out feeling 'beautiful'. The GIFT chaplaincy team asked that a tea light is sent home for every family to light on Christmas day because they wouldn't be able to light the white Advent candle of Christmas together, but this would unite them spiritually. The school and parish provide very good support in guiding their children through the Sacramental Programme each year.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

All staff act as excellent role models for the children and help them in recognising that God is with them in every aspect of school life. Adults and pupils bear witness to the mission statement of the school, which informs the lived experience of the whole community. Adults act as key promoters of the ethos of the school and its values for the pupils and the whole school community's witness to the wider community. The staff and pupils feel confident and secure to their witness to Christ, the Gospel, and the teachings of the Church. Pupils are confident in witnessing to the beliefs and values of a Catholic community and are actively encouraged and supported in being proactive citizens who participate in decision making processes. An explicit Catholic culture permeates the whole school and is clearly identifiable through relationships, decision making and actions. Relationships are outstanding at Our Lady of Lourdes and a strong sense of teamwork and belonging exists. The parish priest explained that, as a result of this explicitly Catholic school's influence, he had baptised a number of children over the last three years. One parent said that she had three children who attended the school and were not of the Catholic faith, however they have all now been baptised. The inspectors noted that at all times behaviour was outstanding. Children are respectful of each other and of adults in school who work together as a committed team having high expectations of the children and in this atmosphere the children thrive.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- To extend the good practice of self-assessment across the whole school in order to further meet the needs of all learners.
- To ensure that consistent and effective 'next steps' marking is used to further develop pupils' learning across the whole school.

Date 14th June 2017

Dear Pupils

Thank you for making our visit to Our Lady of Lourdes School so enjoyable when we came to inspect your school for the Bishop. Thank you for making us feel so welcome. We really enjoyed our time with you. Your school is an outstanding Catholic school.

We really enjoyed seeing your lessons and we were sorry we didn't see all the classes. It was lovely to see your activities; your work, your prayer and worship sessions and your very polite manners. Thank you. You have a very sensible attitude to life and to school, and we could see very strongly that you are proud of your school. We could see that you all believe that every child is special and is valued as part of your school community.

We were made to feel very welcome by all the children that we met. You treat each other with dignity and respect – you treat each other the way you wish to be treated, and it was great to see. Every child has a part to play at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Your teachers and head teacher work very hard and they make sure that you all enjoy coming to school and are eager to learn. They have a high opinion of you and they care a great deal for every child in the school. It was a privilege for us to come into your school.

It was lovely to see the way in which your school and parish come together for 'The Walk to Jerusalem'. Fr Paul works really hard to support you all and especially those children who are undertaking the Sacramental programme. Your teachers help you to be the best you can be. From class to class, the teachers try to help you to learn about and learn from the Catholic faith so that you can grow in the love of Jesus Christ. You are super children who made us smile with the love you show for all in your school. Your teachers go far beyond what they are asked to do, because they believe in you so much.

God bless all in your school,

Yours sincerely

Mrs. J. Frazer
Mrs. P. Macro.

(Section 48 Inspectors)

Summary Report to Parents

On 14th June 2017 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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