

INSPECTION REPORT

Holy Saviour RC Primary School, Holland Place, Nelson, BB9 8HD.

Inspection date Tuesday 12th January 2016

Reporting Inspector Mrs Susan Gedzielewski
 Mrs Anne Heard

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

Type of School Primary
 URN 119654
 Age range of pupils 4-11 years
 Number on roll 210
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body
 Chair of Governors Mr Bernard Swarbrick
 Headteacher Mrs Anne Marie Nield
 Religious Education Subject Leader Miss Joanne Durkin
 Date of previous inspection April 2011

| 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 | 1 | |
| The quality of Witness | 1 | |
| The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements | | |

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

Holy Saviour is a Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic primary school serving the needs of the parish of The Good Shepherd. The school is situated in the Bradley area of Nelson, which is primarily an area of social housing and pre-war terraced properties. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for support through the pupil premium (additional government funding for those known to be eligible for free school meals, children of service families and those children who are looked after by the local authority) is above the national average. There are 210 pupils on roll, 51% of whom are baptised Catholic. Most pupils are of white British heritage. About 24% are of other heritages, the majority of whom are from Eastern Europe. About 18% speak English as their second language. Attainment of children on entry to school is significantly below national average. The school meets the government's current floor standards, which are minimum expectations for pupils' attainment and progress in English and mathematics by the end of Year 6. Many pupils achieve above expected levels at the end of Key Stage 2. 9% of pupils have a special education need or disability. Six of the eight teachers are Catholic; three of whom have achieved the Certificate of Catholic Religious Studies and four more are undertaking the qualification.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING

Holy Saviour is an outstanding Catholic school offering children a rich faith experience within an extremely caring and joyful environment. There is unequivocal evidence that the headteacher and her staff go above and beyond to support families and reaches out to the local community. In a relatively short space of time, the leadership team has successfully united the staff with a vision for school improvement and a deep commitment to the Church's mission. The governors make a highly significant contribution to the work and the Catholic life of the school. Teaching and learning is outstanding overall; expectations are high and pupils make outstanding progress. Children have an excellent knowledge of scripture and significant resourcing has been dedicated to this. They talk confidently about Gospel values and how these affect their life and learning across the school. However, more could be done to increase the proportion of outstanding teaching. The children are very well cared for and demonstrate a high level of respect, care and service to each other. Children have a significant role in the life and decision making in the school through the eco council, chaplaincy team and 'seeds and gardeners'. The chaplaincy team has enhanced the spiritual life of the school and their impact is significant. Children are provided with a range of opportunities to develop and enrich their prayer life. The school starts the day with a collective worship broadcast led by members of the chaplaincy team and heard by all members of the school community. Parents feel very welcome and valued in school. They are well informed and feel at ease talking to staff about their child. There is a good relationship with the parish and Liturgical celebrations are joyful and welcoming. Pupils clearly demonstrate witness to justice and compassion through their charitable work.

KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- The school's leadership, including that of the governors, is outstanding. The headteacher, staff and governors share a collective vision and are clearly focused on continual improvement.
- Prayer is at the core of the school and there is a high level of creativity in the way prayer is undertaken.
- There are high expectations of all within the school community. Pupil voice and leadership is given the highest priority.
- Pupil members of the chaplaincy team are influential and have introduced unique approaches to prayer and worship.
- Staff and pupils demonstrate a very high level of respect for, care and service to others. Behaviour is outstanding.
- The implementation and teaching of the Caritas in Action programme is outstanding.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

Holy Saviour RC Primary School is led by a dedicated and inspirational headteacher. Parents and pupils were extremely complimentary about the positive changes that have taken place under the current leadership. Leadership, including governance, places religious education at the centre of the curriculum and ensures that spiritual leadership is outstanding. All staff share a collective vision and demonstrate a deep commitment to providing the very best Catholic education. Teachers willingly share their expertise and support less experienced colleagues. The governing body are extremely pro-active and committed to continual school improvement and their own effectiveness. Self-evaluation of the school's work at all levels is a coherent and accurate reflection of rigorous monitoring, self-analysis and challenge; including learning walks and book scrutiny. The chair and vice chair of governors are both retired Catholic headteachers bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board. The RE governor has an excellent understanding of the religious life of the school. Religious education and the spiritual life of the school are prioritized in the school improvement plan and headteacher reports to governors. The experienced RE subject leader has ensured that there has been improvements in marking, learning environment, teaching and learning. She works closely with other RE subject leaders within the Diocese and has developed a clear action plan for improvement. The monitoring of RE lessons has been effectively undertaken by the subject leader. The parish priest is fully involved in the religious life of the school. He is an inspirational priest and his contributions are significant. The headteacher and deputy headteacher have undertaken leadership development offered by the Diocese.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD IS OUTSTANDING

The religious education of pupils is at the core of the curriculum. The mission statement is contemporary and regularly visited. It is known, lived and witnessed to throughout the school and is clearly evident at every level. Religious education is given a high priority and pupils take their learning very seriously. The school uses the 'come and see' scheme of work to deliver the RE curriculum. The quality of RE is outstanding, overall. Nevertheless, more could be done to increase the proportion of teaching that is outstanding, as the majority of lessons observed during the inspection were good. Nevertheless, it was evident from a range of evidence that the school is using creative, interactive teaching strategies, including drama, multimedia stimulus, art, music, and teachers are skilled at asking questions that extend the learning. Activities are differentiated, challenging and empowering pupils to think at a deeper level and make connections to their own life experiences. However, in some lessons progress was slow due to the teaching style. Standards of attainment are high in pupils' exercise books and progress over time is outstanding. The success criteria for learning is known by pupils, so they understand what they must do to achieve. Marking is having a positive impact on learning. Assessment in RE has been revised, but it requires further development. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education was found to be outstanding. World religions are taught as part of the religious education curriculum and this helps children to understand and respect the beliefs and culture of others. The 'Caritas in Action' units of work have been fully implemented across the school and they are having an extremely positive impact. The school prioritised 'Caritas in Action' in its professional development programme. Holy Saviour recognise the importance of bringing the Word of God into the home. Each week the Wednesday Word is sent home alongside the headteacher newsletter, which provides insight into the faith life of the school. The school has a Facebook page where there are regular updates concerning faith and ethos.

THE QUALITY OF WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

Jesus Christ is at the heart of this welcoming and happy school. Children demonstrated their understanding of welcome in a variety of contexts and they are living examples of the school's mission statement and motto; 'Being who Jesus calls us to be'. The pupils' sense of ownership and responsibility for what happens in their school and local community is outstanding. Inclusion, responsibility and respect are clearly evidenced. The school actively seeks to engage with and supports all members of the wider community. The outreach to vulnerable families and members of the community is outstanding. The school has employed a Polish speaking office / teaching assistant to support families with communication. Partnerships with other schools are well established through the Catholic network of schools, although the school would like to extend this further by making links to local community schools. Parents were extremely appreciative of all the things the school does to support families and pupils. They are particularly appreciative of the 'seeds and gardeners' initiative and

the involvement of Father Chris Gorton in school life. They were all in agreement that the school sets very high standards and pupils make exceptional progress at Holy Saviour. Families are visited by the Reception staff and parish priest prior to starting school. During the visit the child is given a special book as a 'welcome' gift and they also receive a card from a member of the chaplaincy team. Pupils on the sacramental programme and those leaving for high school are also visited by Father Chris on request. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in school life. Members of the parish and local community share in the life of the school. The parish and school share responsibility for supporting pupils through the Sacramental Programme. All members of staff demonstrate a keen sense of community affiliation and the quality of relationships exemplifies respect for all members of the school community. Former staff and parishioners give of their time to help with school trips, hearing children read and musical activities. The chaplaincy team send cards to Muslim families within school during Eid and they talk about the festival during their morning broadcast.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

There is unequivocal evidence that the headteacher and her staff go above and beyond to support families and reach out to the local community. Holy Saviour has developed excellent links with the local food bank and they regularly deliver food parcels to needy families. Structures and procedures ensure that all pupils and staff feel safe and are treated with respect and dignity. Safeguarding procedures are well established. The behaviour of pupils and their attitude to learning is outstanding. Pupils demonstrate resilience, perseverance, motivation and a sense of pride in all they do. Parents were extremely complimentary about the way the school deals with their concerns and the pastoral care pupils receive. Senior leaders are proactive in their response to pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. The SENCO ensures that children on the SEND register are prioritised for support and intervention. The school has recently been awarded the Silver PE Mark for excellence in delivering sport across the school. Pupils with disabilities participate in a range of physical activities to suit their needs including horse-riding, boccia and sailing. Those children needing extra support with welfare and learning are very well supported. The Rainbows group supports children who experience loss or bereavement. Separate KS1 and KS2 nurture groups operate four times a week to support the most vulnerable pupils in school. Weekly wellbeing meetings are held where the welfare of pupils is discussed and information shared confidentially with staff. Pupils are confident that if they have any problems they can speak to a member of staff and that any problems will be dealt with sympathetically. The quality of transition and induction are such that all children quickly feel part of the school community and loved by those around them. Pupils receive a comprehensive sex and relationships education programme, which respects the dignity of the person made in the image and likeness of God. The Caritas in Action programme has further supported the curriculum and is impacting positively on developing emotional intelligence to a high level.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

The spiritual life of the children is held in high regard with children afforded opportunities every day to be involved in collective worship. The school starts the day with a spiritual broadcast led and planned by members of the chaplaincy team and heard by all members of the school community. During the inspection, the pupil chaplains skilfully led others through a guided meditation and they encouraged their peers to talk to Jesus from their hearts. This initiative is having a high level of impact on spiritual development. There are regular Masses to which families and parishioners are invited. The celebration of Holy Mass during the inspection was inspirational. Father Chris is extremely talented in his ability to engage young children and proclaim the Word of God with joy and love. A high level of creativity was evident throughout this Mass and the singing was outstanding. Both adults and children enthusiastically praised God, their singing was uplifting. All staff are supported in furthering the prayer life of the school. The pupils have personal prayer journals, which they are encouraged to use on a regular basis. The collective worship in the classroom was reflective and pupil led. The organisation and implementation of this activity was excellent and resulted in a deeply spiritual experience for all those present. During Advent, KS2 pupils prepare a class para-liturgy to mark this special season. In Lent, the KS1 pupils host para-liturgies to which families and parishioners attend. Members of the chaplaincy team plan and lead meditations during Advent and Lent. The chaplaincy team regularly address the parishioners and ask for their support. The Word of God and prayer is evident in the wonderful displays and prayer areas around school and these are exemplary.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

The school nurtures, supports and challenges the pupils to live out and to give witness to the mission statement in their everyday experiences. A strong sense of belonging to the school community exists and pupils are given leadership responsibilities and their opinions are valued. There are many opportunities for pupils and staff to shape the Catholic life of the school. Pupils' views and ideas are regularly shared with governors. Subject leaders conduct interviews with pupils in order to gather evidence for their reports. Catholic values are clearly witnessed through relationships, decision making and actions. Observations showed that children treated each other with respect, care, patience, concern and with dignity and there is an emphasis on creating a pleasant working environment for everyone in school. The chaplaincy team is well established and has a significant impact upon the spiritual life of the school. The school fosters a spirit of awe and wonder through religious education and the broader curriculum. The eco councillors know that they are special stewards who help to look after God's world. These pupils have written their own eco prayer. They celebrated their first 'green Mass' during eco week. Close links with the parish are enhanced with the regular visits of the parish priest. The school operates a 'seeds and gardeners' scheme where Year 6 pupils mentor those in the Reception class; sharing some aspects of collective worship together. The leadership team fully recognise their education endeavour as being integral to the redemptive activity of Christ. Pupils and staff are extremely generous with their time and commitment to a wide range of charities including: Cafod, Pendleside hospice, Derian House children's hospice, Marie Curie, Caritas, Community Solutions, Brain Tumour research, British Legion, Red Nose Day and Age UK. The school have initiated a Cafod village fundraising campaign where each class has raised funds to buy a Cafod world gift and thus create a virtual village. They have also been involved in collecting aid items for refugees.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- Further increase the proportion of outstanding teaching by providing activities that inspire pupils to be creative, active and independent learners.
- To continue to embed a holistic approach to religious education assessment.
- Further develop partnerships with other schools within the community.

Department for Education

Tuesday 12th January 2016

Dear Pupils

Thank you so much for the wonderful welcome you gave me when we came to visit you. We really enjoyed learning about all the wonderful things you do at Holy Saviour. You and your teachers are working so hard to always do your very best and as a result your school is outstanding.

We were very impressed with your behaviour, respect for each other and the way you are clearly very proud of your school. You make everyone feel welcome. We saw examples of love, faith and hope in all that you do around school. Your school is a very happy, caring and joyful place. We were particularly impressed by the way you worship God during the morning broadcast. You should be extremely proud of the pupils in your chaplaincy team.

We enjoyed being part of your lessons and were sorry not to see everyone. Your work is of a very high standard and we could clearly see that you have outstanding knowledge of religious education. Thank you for showing us so much of what you have been doing. We were extremely impressed with the standard of work in your RE books and your work on display.

To help you improve further your teachers are going to continue working with other schools to share outstanding practice. To improve the quality of teaching and assessment, so you make even better progress in RE lessons.

To all Holy Saviour pupils we would like to say 'thank you' and 'well done.' Keep up your very high standards of behaviour, respect and love for one another.

God bless you all.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Susan Gedzielewski and Mrs Anne Heard
(Section 48 Inspectors)

Summary Report to Parents

On 12th January 2016 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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