

**INSPECTION REPORT**

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**Our Lady and St Anselm's RC Primary School, John Street, Whitworth, Lancs. OL12 8DB**

Inspection date 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Reporting Inspector Mrs J Frazer  
 Mrs D Bohan

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

|                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Type of School                     | Roman Catholic Primary |
| URN                                | 119697                 |
| Age range of pupils                | 4 – 11 Years           |
| Number on roll                     | 185                    |
| Appropriate authority              | The Governing Body     |
| Chair of Governors                 | Mr D Wiggett           |
| Headteacher                        | Mrs J Rainey           |
| Religious Education Subject Leader | Mrs C Howarth          |
| Date of previous inspection        | March 2012             |

| The Inspection judgements are:                                  | Grade | Explanation of the Grades<br><br>1 = Outstanding<br><br>2 = Good<br><br>3=Requires Improvement<br><br>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**

Our Lady and St Anselm's is a Roman Catholic school supported by the Diocese of Salford, serving the parish of St Mary and St Anselm. There are currently 185 pupils on roll, aged 4 – 11, in single age classes. Currently there are 52% of children who are baptised Roman Catholic. The indicative admission number is 28. The school serves pupils and families from a mixed catchment area with some pockets of deprivation. There are an increasing number of children joining the school from Eastern European countries, however, this is still a small percentage of the overall school population. The percentage of free school meals (FSM) has declined since 2012 and is below the national average, however many parents chose to go out to work bringing home an income which is just above the threshold for entitlement for FSM. This results in a significant proportion of the school population facing the challenges of pupil premium families without the additional funds coming in to school. Levels of attendance are high at 96.6% in 2016.

The headteacher and 2 assistant headteachers have been in post since summer term 2015. All members of the senior leadership team (SLT) are practising Roman Catholics and governors actively seek to recruit other members of staff who are of the Catholic faith. All staff, regardless of faith, are committed to sharing the gospel values and are well supported by the SLT, parish priest and governors.

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING**

Our Lady and St Anselm's is an outstanding Catholic Primary School. Upon entry to the school one is struck by the wonderfully warm and friendly welcome given to all. The children are exceptionally confident, lively, friendly and warm; they happily live out and bear witness to their Catholic faith in all they do. 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 and 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 and passionate headteacher, supported by a very strong leadership team 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 way in which the children and the wider family of Our Lady and St Anselm's care for one another in an exemplary manner in an extremely nurturing environment. This shines throughout the whole school community.
- The way in which the school supports the children in being confident leaders. This is clearly evidenced by the roles of a number of pupil groups in school; these include the school council, the eco council, the internet warriors and the GIFT team.
- The strong leadership of the school. The dedicated headteacher is supported very effectively by the senior leadership team (SLT), the RE subject leader, the governing body and the parish priest.

## **THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING**

The quality of leadership is outstanding. The dedicated and passionate 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. The headteacher's clear vision for the school is that the children are taken on a journey of faith throughout their time at Our Lady and St Anselm's. She has extremely high aspirations for every child to be the best that they can be whilst enjoying all aspects of this Catholic

school's life. 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. The evidence for this can be found in the SWs improvement plan. The school is aware of its next steps and has comprehensive plans for implementing them.

### **THE QUALITY OF THE WORD IS OUTSTANDING**

Work to review the school's Mission statement began in September 2016 and this lengthy and inclusive process was completed later in the autumn term. All members of the school community were involved in this process, especially the children, before being agreed by the governing body. The children know and have ownership of its simple and effective message 'Growing together in faith, hope and love'. 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. Children clearly enjoy RE and were very enthusiastic about the inspection; they wanted the inspectors to see how well they were doing and the high quality of their work, which is of the highest standard. 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 is a display relating to their recent 'world faith week' and 2 exceptional tapestries are an extremely effective focus for worship. The GIFT team were very enthusiastic about showing the inspectors an exceptional display showing them 'watering' their 'faith buddies', i.e. the reception class children; again reflecting their mission statement. Scripture is exceptionally well known, understood and made relevant throughout the school. The children's behaviour for learning is exemplary and there is a culture of a joyous love of life in every classroom where teachers and children demonstrate a genuine care for and love of one another. This provides a secure learning environment where everyone can safely express their views and ask questions to develop their understanding. The links between the school and home along with the strong links with the 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 and St Anselm's provides an exceptionally warm welcome for all who attend the school; the children were seen coming in to 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 that everyone within Our Lady and St Anselm's has high expectations for every child and that staff know the children well. They were overwhelmingly positive about the school. The children clearly enjoy coming to school and parents say that the staff really care about all the children and like them and that Our Lady and St Anselm's feels like a family unit. 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 and love for one another is clearly evident across the school. The loving and 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 as well as the way in which the children cared for one another. The older children are 'buddied up' with younger children and members of the GIFT team regularly visit other classrooms to lead prayer and worship. 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. Parents were keen to express the view that there is a culture of equality and empathy for others around the school. They gave the example that they are welcomed in to the Friday assembly when 'spotty' certificates are awarded to individual pupils who have shown exception in some way in their behaviour. One parent said that they had adopted this reward system at home. They said that all the children get along with each other and that if things ever go wrong they are sorted out fairly. The children say that they are encouraged to adopt the 'What Would

Jesus Do' (WWJD) approach to resolving any minor problems which may occur. If adults do need to intervene, the children say that issues are dealt with fairly and quickly and that children are always encouraged to reconcile with one another. 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 St Joseph's Penny, CAFOD, Shoe Box Appeal, and other national and international charities.

### **THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS OUTSTANDING**

The school provides a variety of worship opportunities for children throughout the day and these are appropriate for their backgrounds and faith experiences. RE lessons have an element of high quality worship and opportunity for silent meditation in them and the children readily respond to their learning by composing and saying prayers confidently; reflecting on the focus of the lesson. Throughout the school, candles are lit during worship, in order to provide a focus for thoughtful reflection and these are treated respectfully and safely by the children. The inclusive and reflective collective acts of worship help pupils to grow in confidence, in prayer and to develop a close relationship with God. Children attend Mass on a regular basis and the parish priest is a regular visitor to school, he supports the Catholic life of the school well. Each class has a special prayer focus along with quality displays about RE. The children know many school prayers and compose powerful prayers for themselves. The school's GIFT team have a real impact on the development of the prayer life of the school, and they are now very effective at planning and leading prayer services. During the inspection the Key Stage 2 children completed their Lenten observances as they had begun it by undergoing a 'journey in faith'. This was led by the GIFT team who set up seven areas for worship all around the Key Stage 2 department. The remaining Key Stage 2 children visited each station and undertook a series of activities which included listening to Sacred Scripture and writing their own prayers as well as a range of other creative experiences. Inspectors were impressed at the way in which, during the whole school assembly, the children were invited to say out loud their own prayerful petitions. This was done with quiet calm and reverence. The school provides outstanding 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 recently reviewed 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. This is seen in the way the school promotes support for various charities for the common good. It is also seen through the school council's suggestion box. All suggestions are considered and frequently acted upon. An explicit Catholic culture permeates the whole school and is clearly identifiable through relationships, decision making and actions. Relationships are outstanding at Our Lady and St Anselm's and a strong sense of teamwork and belonging exists. The inspectors noted a joyous enthusiasm in all aspects of school life and 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 extremely high expectations of the children and in this atmosphere the children thrive.

### **AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:**

- To develop assessment in such a way that each child's journey in faith can be seen as they progress through the school. School may wish to consider implementing an assessment book that moves through the school with each child as they progress from EYFS to Year 6.

Date 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Pupils

Thank you for making our visit to Our Lady and St Anselm's 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.

It was lovely to be able to come in to all your classrooms and we really enjoyed seeing your lessons and it was wonderful 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 and St Anselm's.

Your teachers and headteacher 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 is good to see that you are going to church to hear Mass with Fr. Thorpe regularly. 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 and Mrs D Bohan.

(Section 48 Inspectors)

## **Summary Report to Parents**

On 6<sup>th</sup> April 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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