

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 **Holy Family RC Primary School, Aspull, Wigan**

Inspection date Tuesday 3rd July 2018

Reporting Inspectors James Graves and John Thorpe

Type of school	Primary
URN	106491
Age range of pupils	4-11
Number on roll	137
Appropriate authority	The Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Paul Anderton
Headteacher	Stephen Gallagher
Religious Education Subject Leader	Collette Hawkrigg
Date of previous inspection	May 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
The quality of Catholic Leadership	1	
The Catholic Life of the school (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness)	1	
The quality of Religious Education (incorporating Word)	1	
The quality of Worship	1	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

Holy Family RC Primary School is a smaller than average voluntary aided school which serves the parish of Holy Family in Aspull, Wigan in the diocese of Salford. The school is situated close to the parish church. Pupils are arranged in mixed aged classes and the admissions number is 20. The headteacher was appointed in September 2015. The Religious Education subject leader has been in post since September 2012. The socio-economic background of the pupils is that they are drawn from a wide and varied catchment area consisting of owner-occupied, social housing and rented accommodation. 52% of learners are baptised Catholics. A large majority of pupils are white British. The percentage of pupils eligible for additional pupil premium funding is 17% and the percentage of children entitled to free school meals is 6%. The proportion of children who have special educational needs is 15%. The 2017 performance data indicates that children make better than expected progress as they move through the school and the end of Key Stage 2 data are well above national averages in all subjects. The progress measures from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 and the average scaled scores are also well above national averages. Attendance is at 96.1% for the period 01/09/17 to 30/06/18.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- **The outstanding quality of teaching and learning.**
- **Excellent relationships between children, staff, parents, governors, the parish and families.**
- **Children feel safe, secure and loved and have a willingness to become involved in outreach as witness to their beliefs.**
- **A calm environment that is conducive to learning.**
- **The judgements of the school's self-evaluation are honest and accurate.**

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING

Holy Family is an outstanding Catholic primary school. This is a welcoming and friendly school that successfully offers all its pupils a traditional yet contemporary Catholic education in a supportive environment where all are welcomed and differences celebrated. The school mission statement is reviewed regularly and has been produced by all stakeholders. A strong catholic ethos is at the heart of everything it does. The governors have placed their trust in the very dedicated headteacher and his leadership team. Highly skilled teaching and support staff are totally committed to the school, its pupils and the community it serves. As a result of considerable hard work over recent years relationships between home, school and parish are outstanding. Lessons observed ranged from good to outstanding with pupils making at least good or outstanding progress in their learning, their personal development and their religious literacy. Since the last inspection a new leadership team has been established. Pupils are friendly, respectful and considerate to each other. They were polite and welcoming and their behaviour was exemplary at all times. The governing board is proud of the achievement of the school. All areas for development from the last inspection have been successfully and effectively addressed. One parent said 'the school is like a big home, one big family'. The school's mission statement and core values are at the centre of everything that the school does.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP is OUTSTANDING

The Catholic leadership of the school is outstanding. The headteacher has a clear vision for the school and he has successfully inspired his team to join him in his quest to achieve his goals for the children. When speaking to staff, parents and governors, it was clear to see that all stakeholders hold him in high regard. The headteacher is dedicated and this can be said of the rest of the staff who are striving for excellence in all areas of the school. The environment, both inside the building and outside, sends a clear message to the children that they really matter and that they deserve nothing but the best. The schools self-evaluation involves many stakeholders including governors, children, staff and parents. To add quality assurance and challenge to self-evaluation, outside agencies are also involved. Children feel safe in the school and are quick to show how proud they are of Holy Family School. One class observed

during the inspection learnt that values lead to rules which exist to keep us safe. The school is valued by parents who praised the provision that the school has given their children. They also feel that children are challenged and that they make progress. Governors feel that the school is a place where different cultures are accepted and that the school belongs to the community. They feel that the children support the ethos of the school. They are regular visitors to the school and thus they know what the life of the school is like from first-hand experience. They therefore make valuable contributions to the self-evaluation of the school. The leadership of the school has a good understanding of the school's successes and what the school should develop next. Leaders are a source of inspiration for the whole community. The Religious Education subject leader has a sound cycle of monitoring of the subject. The atmosphere around the school is very calm and purposeful. The school's leadership demonstrates a deep commitment to the Church's mission in education. Celebration of achievement and success is central to school life.

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

The quality of the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. Behaviour of children was excellent throughout the inspection. In lessons they were attentive and when asked the children said they do not fall out very often and that they care for each other well. The children are very tolerant and get along well. This was observed in all lessons and all school activities. The evidence shows the school to have an explicitly Christ-centred ethos which is loving, creative, compassionate and highly positive. This fosters a high level of understanding, empathy, forgiveness and respect for diversity. One parent commented on how the school made everyone feel welcome, no matter what their background. There is a culture of welcome in all the pupils and staff demonstrate a very high level of confidence to all within the school community by recognising, valuing and celebrating diversity at all levels. The GIFT Team and the Peacemakers Team ensure that relationships and behaviour take a priority in all areas of school life and the wider community. Children take on responsibilities in the school and their voice is heard through the GIFT Chaplaincy team, the Caritas Ambassadors, the Stewards of Creation, the Peacemakers and the School Council. The school is a welcoming school and it feels that its 'open door policy' enables members of the community to have a sense of belonging and value. Inspectors were greeted with warmth by children and staff, and parents reported the same welcome from the school when spoken to. Parents play a highly significant role in school life, and this is shown through high attendance at Home School Association events. An assembly by a key stage two class placed a high profile on outreach with stories and fundraising for refugees through CAFOD. Other outreach activities include fund raising for St Joseph's Penny, Guide Dogs for the Blind, New Hope and The Brick. The school is very inclusive and all members of the school community are valued and thus children who have SEND or are disadvantaged are monitored closely. The school goes even further and does this for any child who may become vulnerable. There is good support for all families that need it, including finding ways to allow all children to participate in trips and events. Pupil voice is strong at the school with four groups leading various aspects of Catholic life such as safeguarding the planet and another with prayer. Members of the parish play a significant part in the life of the school. This can be evidenced when several members of the parish volunteer in school with tasks like hearing readers and helping children with mental arithmetic. The school offers support to parents with a Sex and Relationships Scheme and is looking to develop this scheme further.

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS OUTSTANDING

The quality of Religious Education at Holy Family School is outstanding. The mission statement talks about learning and growing together. Inspectors had not been in the school for very long when it became evident that the mission statement and the school's core values were at the heart of everything that the school does. This was seen with the intervention groups of reading, writing and maths where targeted children, both in small groups and as individuals, who had gaps in their knowledge. They were nurtured in a calm environment in a bid to ensure that all children are included in the schools drive to safeguard dignity and worth in the bid for standards. Gospel Values are alive in Holy Family School. They are tangible in all actions, lessons, assemblies, playtimes and all areas of school life that were observed. Teaching and learning is a strength of the school, and outcomes in Religious Education are at least as good as in English across the school. Moderation of assessment in Religious Education is done across the school to ensure rigour. The next step for the school is to consider how to involve other schools in further moderation. Holy Family School encourages children to ask 'Big Questions' and these are investigated in each class. For example, during the inspection one class discussed the question: Why did God make human beings? Through the curriculum children make good progress. Each class has scripture evident in learning. Each class has a 'Class Quote': In one class where the quote was, "Be kind to one another," the children thought about how to help a little girl in Africa. Scripture was present in the school in other ways such as

one class discussing the parable of the Good Samaritan. Lovely displays around the school celebrated children's work and the Catholic life of the school. These included 'Praying with paint,' 'Stewardship of creation,' 'Hatching chickens' and 'Neighbours.' Other religions were also celebrated. This was especially evident on the display called 'The five pillars of Islam.' Many displays have quotes from scripture to show how God is in everything good. Religious literacy was observed to be strong across the school. Staff have received a high level of CPD in Religious Education including training from the National School of Formation, the Catholic Leadership and Middle Leadership Programmes from Salford Diocese and DAHIS.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP

The quality of Worship is outstanding. A beautiful assembly raised awareness and gave opportunities for children to reflect upon the plight of others who are less fortunate in our world. Other topics that children reflected on in their prayer and worship included single use plastic. In all sessions of prayer and worship observed pupils sat quietly and respectfully, allowing all to reflect. This was one of several instances that clearly evidenced that prayer is at the heart of the school community. The resources for worship are impressive. They include an area outside for reflection. This area also has a peace pole that the children openly talk about, explaining how they think it is useful in the chance to reconcile and reflect. Opportunities for children to reflect during prayer and worship were wide and varied. This includes praying with paint. One session observed linked this to the baptism of Jesus allowing children to think about scripture. The GIFT team led prayer and worship for all the children and linked the journey of Mary, Joseph and Jesus to the plight of refugees. The team works alongside members of staff and governors and with other pupil leaders to ensure that pupils live out Gospel Values in their daily lives. The children openly said they are proud of the fact that there are lots of opportunities for worship in the school. The school works collaboratively with the parish priest, who is a regular visitor to school, to lead and take part in Masses and celebrations. Children attend Mass a minimum of once per term and there are other occasions such as Ash Wednesday services, Holy Week services and Reconciliation.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- **To develop further the current good practice of moderation in Religious Education by collaborating with other schools where possible.**
- **To give appropriate training to the incoming Religious Education subject leader to ensure that evaluation of teaching and learning continues to be rigorous.**