

Inspection date 30th November 2012

Reporting Inspector Sister Judith Russi  
Mr John Travis

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

Type of School	Catholic Primary
URN	105337
Age range of pupils	3-11 years
Number on roll	157
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Mr Jonathan Walsh
Head teacher	Mrs Donna Kieran
Acting Head teacher	Mrs Joanne Davies
Date of previous inspection	January 2009

<b>The Inspection judgements are:</b>	<b>Grade</b>	Explanation of the Grades  1 = Outstanding  2 = Good  3 = Satisfactory
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	

*The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements*

## **CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL**

Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary school together with its sister school, Guardian Angels, serves the parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel and Guardian Angels. Our Lady of Lourdes is a relatively small school situated in a semi-rural setting with 157 children on roll. The school is over subscribed. Pupils are drawn from a wide and varied catchment area consisting mainly of children from the local private housing estate and the Brandlesholme and Woodhill Council estates. 13% of pupils have EAL requirements and 11% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. 20% of pupils have been identified as SEN with 7 pupils having a statement. There has been a significant increase in the number of pupils being admitted with challenging issues since the last inspection. Extra support is being provided through the school for families through the additional help provided by the Parent Support Adviser. Classes are mixed age throughout with the exception of Reception. The Head teacher is supporting another school for five days a week and the deputy is currently the Acting Head teacher. The school enjoys strong links with the other Catholic schools in the area and the Local Authority.

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

Our Lady of Lourdes 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 which is a source of inspiration. The school has embraced the 'Year of Faith' in a distinctive and creative manner so that every aspect of the children's experience is threaded through with the key 'Year of Faith' aspirations. 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, Head teacher 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 schools 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 *'drawn into the family, my child is not just a number'*. The celebration of Our Lady was seen as being something which was *'not just the name of the school'* but as a clear role model of love and inclusivity - all one family.

## **KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:**

- The leadership and vision of the school at all levels 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 for all is outstanding.

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

The outstanding strength of the leadership of the school has been recognised and called upon to assist another school. The strength of the senior leadership team is such that they are well placed to assumed new leadership positions for the foreseeable future. All members of the senior leadership team have undertaken or are undertaking, the diocesan leadership programme and one member acts as a Specialist leader for Religious Education for the diocese. The Head teacher has prepared her team through a distributed leadership model, where all members of the school community have an impact on the success of the school. 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 Mission Statement which is clearly displayed, known and lived. Pupil leadership has been developed through the School Council, 'Playleaders' and Peer Mentors. 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 over time to be outstanding. Learning across all Key Stages moved forward quickly and pupils clearly achieved the objectives. In the EYFS teaching and learning was fully supported by the engagement of the teaching assistants who assisted the teaching in an effective and very creative way. The use of role play in Reception was excellent. The adaptation of the Good Samaritan story for very young children was fully appropriate and relevant to their learning. As a result all pupils stayed focused and achieved very well. Key Stage 1 pupils were well challenged. The exploration of the parable of The Sower resulted in some high level learning through very good question and answering sessions. Key Stage 2 pupils demonstrated a high level of learning particularly in class 4 where pupils were able to draw significant conclusions to the differences between the Passover and the Last Supper.

The integration of the themes for the Year of Faith was exemplarily. Pupils clearly understood what they were about and could explain why they had been displayed throughout. The actual use of doorways in the display of the themes was very effective.

Pupils Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education was found to be outstanding. Pupils were readily able to talk about the beliefs and values of the Catholic community and were proud to explain or refer to the 5WS without prompting.

The Religious Education budget is set according to the needs of the curriculum and the Catholic life of the school and is adjusted on yearly bases 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. The school actively seeks to engage with and support

members of the community and this is particularly appreciated by the parents. Those interviewed spoke of the school as *'this is our family'* and *'the Head lets you know that your child is unique and valued'*. New parents spoke of the speed with which they were made to feel part of the community and that they knew that their children were loved and safe. Visitors and parents feel at home in the school and recognise that the Head teacher and her team actively encourage their contribution to the life of the school. *'I know my opinion matters'*. The appointment of a family support worker for one day a week is greatly appreciated. Parents spoke of actively feeling the presence of God in the community *'because it is a praying school'*.

Children know what to do if they have any worries and spoke highly of their teachers responses *'even if they are busy they drop everything and come to help you if something is wrong'* and spoke about making sure everyone had a friend to play with. The pupil's 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**

Our Lady of Lourdes 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 further enhanced through the employment of a Learning Mentor to ensure the wellbeing of every person and a wide range of early intervention strategies are in place and working effectively.

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 safe-guarding and keeping children safe is outstanding. The provision for SRE is through the Diocesan Guidelines for EPR. Topics are well planned and delivered through PSHE, RE and Science. The recent review highlighted the need to further emphasise sexuality as a gift from God and has integrated this into the teaching. Pupils and parents spoke highly of the pastoral support for all and the open attitude of the school to listening to one another's needs. Quality before and after school care is provide for families needing extra support. The school actively reaches out to those in need at home and abroad through a wide variety of charity work. The school welcomed visitors from the Good Life Orphanage in Africa, one of their main projects.

All resource decisions are made to ensure the school's commitment to those in the greatest need. Behaviour and movement of pupils around the building is outstanding.

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

The whole school policy for prayer and worship ensures a wide range of opportunities to develop and enrich their prayer life of the community. This includes Masses, assemblies and collective worship during RE lessons. There is a focal point for prayer in each classroom and

prayer points are clearly visible around the school. Staff and pupils pray a decade of the Rosary at the Grotto to Our Lady once a week. 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 active involvement of the parish priest is a significant asset for the school. Pupils, staff and parents expressed their commitment to the parish especially in the outreach to families through experiences such as the sacramental programme and special activity days. 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.

### **THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING**

Witnessing to Christ and the values of the Gospel are central to the life of Our Lady's in displays and 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. Pupils are clearly proud of their school as a Catholic school and showed a genuine delight in explaining why their school is unique. They were able to link home, school, parish and a global identity due to the work on the Year of Faith. 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 was seen in a discussion with pupils when they raised a concern that they did not have enough time to spend with children in other classes so that they could talk together about things that really matter to them. '*We need to have more time to spread the Word of God with other children and talk about things that matter*'. The work in supporting CAFOD, St Joseph's Penny and the orphanage in Africa are just a few of the many projects the school have undertaken in response to their understanding of the individual's responsibility for caring for those in need.

### **AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:**

- Continue to develop assessment in the RE programme, through the setting of personalised pupil targets for each topic and the on-going development of creative assessment challenges.
- Further develop marking in RE to ensure it is as rigorous as literacy.
- Implement the planned for pupil Chaplaincy team to further develop the already high level of pupil engagement in the Catholic life of the school.

December 4<sup>th</sup> 2012

Dear Pupils

Thank you so much for the wonderful welcome you gave us when we came to visit you. Aidan and Layla, 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 about the Year of Faith and your explanations of the 5WS. 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. To help you develop even further your teachers are going to help you with your RE targets and assessments.

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 with 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 and the Grotto. Thank you for inviting us to take part.

Your teachers are keen to help you develop the Catholic life your school even further and to do this they are going to start the exciting pupil Chaplaincy team to work with Father Paul in helping you to lead the Catholic life of your school.

God bless you all and have a really happy term.

Yours sincerely

Sr Judith Russi

(Section 48 Inspector)

### **Summary Report to Parents**

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012 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.

### **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL**

Our Lady of Lourdes 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 which is a source of inspiration. The school has embraced the 'Year of Faith' in a distinctive and creative manner so that every aspect of the children's experience is threaded through with the key 'Year of Faith' aspirations. 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, Head teacher 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 schools 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 '*drawn into the family, my child is not just a number*'. The celebration of Our Lady was seen as being something which was '*not just the name of the school*' but as a clear role model of love and inclusivity - all one family.

### **THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:**

- The leadership and vision of the school at all levels 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 for all is outstanding.

### **AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:**

- Continue to develop assessment in the RE programme, through the setting of personalised pupil targets for each topic and the ongoing development of creative assessment challenges.
- Further develop marking in RE to ensure it is as rigorous as literacy.
- Implement the planned for pupil Chaplaincy team to further develop the already high level of pupil engagement in the Catholic life of the school.

