

# St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School

URN: 106509

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Liverpool

13–14 June 2024

## Summary of key findings

### Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

1

#### Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

1

#### Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

1

#### Collective worship (p.7)

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

1

The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference

Yes

The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop

Yes

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection

Fully

## What the school does well

- St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School is a warm, welcoming place in which everyone is included, valued and feels safe.
- Catholic social teaching, as witnessed and lived out by children, staff and the wider community, is exemplary.
- All staff promote high standards of behaviour.
- Leaders and governors have secured a strong, harmonious team who strive to ensure each child meets Christ every day in school.
- Driven and determined leadership from the head teacher, leadership team and governors have ensured consistently high standards despite recent challenges.

## What the school needs to improve

- Leaders and governors should establish a Catholic life team to support and enhance the professional development of staff and pupils in Catholic life and mission, religious education and prayer and liturgy.
- Provide the religious education curriculum with strategies for pupils to independently synthesize what they have learned in original and creative ways.
- Create a progressive sense of awe, wonder and joy during prayer and liturgy, in all its forms.

## Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

### Catholic life and mission key judgement grade

1

#### Pupil outcomes

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

1

#### Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

1

#### Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

1

St Wilfrid's is a place of warm welcome. Its community is proud to belong to the school family and to provide for the 'Living the Gospel in the Spirit of love and respect' through daily life. Parents said, 'This is a fantastic, warm friendly school with a clear ethos and values.' Pupils feel loved, cared for and safe and are therefore happy and settled. They said, "Teachers help us live the Gospel; school is very welcoming, like home!" Pupils and staff embrace the challenge of Catholic social teaching through their outstanding work with local and national charities such as The Brick and Cafod. A group of pupils talked passionately about their support for a local care home, meeting the elderly, and singing with and to them. They understand that they are following the teachings of Jesus and are proud to do so. The school is saturated in Christ's mission. Consequently there are warm, nurturing and loving relationships at all levels, resulting in excellent behaviour both in and out of the classroom. Pupils have also embraced the challenge of Laudate Si, with one child now having a Live Simply related piece of artwork on display in the Houses of Parliament.

The school, supported by its parish, enables the community to live out the Church's mission in its daily life, which, in turn benefits the pupils. Staff are excellent role models to follow because they are committed to the Catholic ethos of the school and demonstrate the gospel values in their daily work and lives. Staff know their pupils and families well and as a result their needs are acutely met through excellent pastoral care. The development of the new prayer garden and the Hygge Room are greatly valued by all as places to reflect, pray and be nurtured. The school environment breathes mission and Catholic character, which also reflects the dignity shown to each person. The carefully planned relationships, sex and health education curriculum is taught with care and enthusiasm to ensure pupils develop an understanding of the dignity of the human

person, holistically and with empathy and compassion, who can identify their gifts and use these for the common good.

Leaders and governors know their community very well. They ensure that the recently revised mission statement is lived in daily life, so enabling each child to meet Christ every day. Driven and determined leadership ensures that the school community is empowered to improve the lives of others and care for our common home. They work harmoniously with parents who value the regular Stay and Pray sessions which are evaluated by all who participate and lead. The school and parish work hard to ensure that pupils experience Church as an important part of their lives. Care and attention is given to every detail of the school, including the welfare of staff, to ensure that pupils' needs are well met. The governing body has a high and varied expertise which enables its significant contribution to the mission and its evaluation.

## Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

### Religious education key judgement grade

1

#### Pupil outcomes

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

1

#### Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education

1

#### Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for religious education

1

Pupils at St Wilfrid's enjoy their religious education lessons. All make consistently good progress including disadvantaged pupils, those with special educational needs and disabilities and those with English as an additional language. They take great pride in their work which is of a consistently high quality across the school. Pupils have a positive attitude towards religious education with one child commenting that they 'look forward to RE lessons which are relaxing and enjoyable.' Pupils are well motivated, know when they are doing well and know how to improve because of meaningful and timely feedback provided by the teaching team. They recall prior learning well and use subject specific vocabulary accurately. As a result by the end of key stage two, pupils are able to speak with confidence about scripture and relate this to their lives with depth of understanding. They are given time to reflect on their work and to make any improvements necessary. As a result outcomes are at least in line with other core subjects and improving. Pupils record their learning in some creative ways and leaders should consider how they can further build on the independent recording already in place.

Staff are confident in their subject knowledge and are also aware of the need to enhance learning through an increasing array of creative learning opportunities. They are greatly committed to achieving high standards in religious education which is articulated through pupils' verbal and written responses. All staff are dedicated to the spiritual and moral development of pupils through carefully planned questions and learning activities that enable pupils to put their faith into action. Staff adapt and scaffold learning activities to meet the needs of each pupil individually because they know them so well. St Wilfrid's engages well with its local cluster group and should continue to build increasingly accurate assessment and moderation processes with other schools to further bolster the practice already in place.

Leaders and governors are ambitious for all pupils. They ensure that the curriculum is a faithful expression of the *Religious Education Directory*. Religious education has parity with other core subjects in terms of timetabling, resourcing and continuous professional development. They provide the correct level of support and challenge to improve the school through effective and thorough monitoring. For example, subject leads, including those responsible for religious education, participate in annual 'showcase' events where they demonstrate to governors how their subject has developed recently and the impact this has on pupil outcomes. Leaders of religious education in the school are deeply committed to enriching the lives of their pupils. They know what they need to do to improve further through accurate self-evaluation and have clear and meaningful plans in place. Excellent links are made with local, national and international agencies to provide support and direction for the moral and spiritual development of the school community.

## Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

### Collective worship key judgement grade

1

#### Pupil outcomes

How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

1

#### Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

2

#### Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

1

Carefully planned prayer and liturgy are central to the life of St Wilfrid's. The pupils engage well and the process supports their full and active participation. They demonstrate an excellent understanding of the shape and meaning of the Church's liturgical year and how this is expressed within school life. There is a well-established rhythm and pattern of prayer and worship that the school community anticipates eagerly and takes part in. For example, regular Stay and Pray events are popular with families throughout the year. During the prayer and liturgy inspected, pupils demonstrated careful thought, active listening, respect and prayerful silence. Scripture was central to observed acts of prayer and liturgy and meaningfully linked to pupils' lives. Pupils eagerly join in with well-known hymns and singing with great joy. They reverently contribute to prayerful responses and engage in silent reflection.

Prayer and liturgy themes are well chosen and reflect a deep understanding of the Church's seasons and educational mission. Pupils enjoy and benefit from a daily pattern of prayer that reflects the rhythm of the liturgical seasons of the Church. Families are included in the prayer life of the school through initiatives such as the Advent travelling crib and the Stay and Pray events. Staff carefully select passages from scripture which are intrinsically linked to the whole celebration. All staff are models of good practice as participators and leaders in prayer and liturgy. Pupil input is encouraged and supported. Leaders have strategically planned increased scope for independent pupil leadership of prayer and liturgy, which groups such as Cafod Club thoroughly enjoy. Music and other art forms are included in prayer and liturgy, centred around well-planned worship tables. The school has carefully created a sacred, highly valued and well used prayer garden dedicated to the memory of a former governor. The garden is accessible to members of the home, school and parish community.

Leaders and governors are committed to ensuring that prayer and liturgy are of the highest quality. Monitoring and feedback, shared accurately with governors means they are well informed to both support and challenge school improvement. Leaders and governors have constructed a clear strategy to enhance the skills and participation of both staff and pupils in prayer and liturgy. They have prioritised high quality resources and professional development to further enhance high standards, bolstered by a strong budget. These factors reflect their commitment to increasing enriched high quality prayer experiences for the school community. Governors, alongside key stakeholders, regularly revise the mission statement and its connection to the prayer life of the school and parish. They frequently participate in school prayer and liturgy and accompany members of the school to Mass. Parishioners comment that pupils 'greatly enhance prayer during our celebrations.' Leaders and governors should seek to further build strong parish relationships and the intrinsic motivation of pupils as they continue to develop their increased sense of awe, wonder and joy in prayer and liturgy.



## Information about the school

Full name of school	St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	106509
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3593414
Full postal address of the school	St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, Golborne Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 8SJ
School phone number	01942707101
Headteacher	Geraldine O'Brien
Chair of Governors	John Rowbotham
School Website	<a href="http://www.ashtonsaintwilfrids.wigan.sch.uk">www.ashtonsaintwilfrids.wigan.sch.uk</a>
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	N/A
Age-range of pupils	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	28 November 2017
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

## The inspection team

Matthew White	Lead
David Delaney	Team

## Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement