

INSPECTION REPORT

St Wilfrid's Primary School, Manchester, M15 5BJ.

Inspection date 19th May 2015

Reporting Inspectors Brendan Hennessy
Anne Heard

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

Type of School Primary

URN 105539

Age range of pupils 3 - 11

Number on roll 213

Appropriate authority The Governing Body

Chair of Governors Peter Canning

Headteacher Ray Moloney

Religious Education Co-ordinator Gemma Hickey

Date of previous inspection March 2010

| The Inspection judgements are: | Grade | Explanation of the Grades 1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate |
|---|-------|--|
| Overall effectiveness of the school | 2 | |
| The quality of Catholic Leadership | 1 | |
| The quality of the Word of God community | 2 | |
| The quality of the Welcome community | 1 | |
| The quality of Welfare | 1 | |
| The quality of Worship | 2 | |
| The quality of Witness | 1 | |
| The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements | | |

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

St Wilfrid's is a Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School serving the parish of St Augustine of Canterbury, Manchester. This is a slightly smaller than average sized primary school with 213 pupils on roll including 26 children in the nursery; 54% are baptized Roman Catholic. The school is situated in a culturally diverse area of social disadvantage and high mobility in the inner city; 35% of pupils are currently entitled to Free School Meals. On entry to nursery the attainment of the majority of pupils is below the national average. Most pupils have made good or better progress in their learning by the time they leave at the end of KS2. The school currently has 21% of pupils with Special Educational Needs and over 30% with EAL, with 18 first languages. There are 10 teachers in school, 6 of whom are Catholic and 1 has the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. School provides extended provision for those children who need it both before and after school. The school holds the Leading Parent Partnership Award.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD

St Wilfrid's is a good Catholic primary school with many outstanding features. This warm and friendly school offers all children a Catholic education in a caring and supportive environment where all are welcomed and differences celebrated. The inspirational head teacher, the talented and enthusiastic leadership team and the hardworking, dedicated staff do all they can to ensure that the spiritual and pastoral needs of all are met and that the Gospel values are clearly evident and lived out by all. The parish priest and governing body are very supportive, they are committed to ensuring that Catholic education of the highest standard is provided for all in this inclusive school. The quality of teaching in Religious Education is always good and more often better, which ensures high standards are achieved across the school, as evidenced in the children's books and work around school. The friendly, polite and well-mannered children are very proud of their school. They have high aspirations for themselves and their behaviour and attitude to learning is very good. Parents stated that school was very much a "family", they felt valued, could talk to the staff and they were listened to. They too are very proud of their school. The prayer life of the school and the many opportunities for worship have enhanced the individual faith journeys of all in St Wilfrid's. The leadership team is very effective in monitoring, assessing and evaluating Religious Education in school which has ensured that the school has continued to develop since the last inspection.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- The welcome offered to all and the respect, dignity and care shown to every individual within the school community.
- The confident, happy children who have high aspirations for themselves and each other.
- The inspirational leadership of the head teacher supported by a committed and enthusiastic leadership team, RE subject leader and governors.
- The dedication of all the staff to providing a caring and nurturing school that has an affirming effect on the lives of all the children.
- The positive atmosphere of teamwork among all the staff and the mutual respect for each other's gifts and talents.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

St Wilfrid's is very well led by a dedicated and inspirational headteacher who has a clear sense of purpose for the education of the whole child and values the individual worth of every member of the

school community. The headteacher is very well supported by an enthusiastic and effective leadership team, a committed and diligent RE subject leader and a dedicated, hardworking staff. The governors have a clear, strategic vision for the school and are proactive in providing support and challenge. They have worked with school to help shape a shared vision for Catholic education in St Wilfrid's. All staff and governors make sure that their shared vision for the development of the Catholic life of the school is at the forefront of their thinking and practice. The supportive parish priest is a regular visitor to school and is fully involved in the religious life of the school. School leaders set the example for others in the school to follow. Through effective monitoring, assessment and evaluation the leadership team is fully aware of the strengths of the school and what needs to be done to develop even further. A well planned and relevant professional development programme for staff has had a positive impact on the quality of provision of RE in school. Pupil leadership has recently been strengthened through the establishment of a Pupil Chaplaincy Team. The school clearly demonstrates outstanding witness to the church's mission in education. The quality of leadership at all levels of the school community makes a significant contribution to the provision for Catholic education at St Wilfrid's.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD OF GOD IS GOOD

The school's Mission Statement is clearly displayed throughout the school. It is known, lived and witnessed throughout the school. The importance of the Word of God was clearly demonstrated all around the school in the many thoughtful and enriching displays. The Religious Education of the pupils is at the core of the school curriculum and all staff place a high priority on the teaching of RE across the school. This was evident in the knowledge and understanding of the staff and the high standard of children's work. Teaching and learning was found to be good overall with some outstanding examples of inspirational teaching and engaging learning observed. In an EYFS lesson excellent teaching, with consistent high expectations and very child centred learning, ensured that gospel values were clearly evident in a very purposeful learning environment where the children really understood the gospel message, "Fear not for I am with you". In lower KS2 another example of a well-structured lesson about Pentecost saw motivated and enthusiastic children engage in a range of well-planned learning activities where high expectations and challenge were set by the teacher. In other lessons children were engaged in good discussions with each other, encouraged by effective questioning and challenged to engage with the Big Questions. Constructive marking and feedback was evident which ensured that pupils knew how to improve their work and enabled them to reflect on their learning and understanding of RE. Pupils show a real interest and enthusiasm in RE, they were happy and confident to share their understanding of their faith. Scripture is clearly known, understood and made relevant throughout the school. Teaching Assistants have a good understanding of the teaching of RE, they effectively interacted with pupils to support their learning in RE. Parents were very positive about the importance of RE and commented on how much the children enjoy RE lessons and how well they are taught. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education was found to be outstanding and permeates all aspects of school life. Pupils learn about other faiths through religious education and assemblies, and this helps them to understand and respect the beliefs and cultures of others.

THE QUALITY OF THE WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

The warm welcome extended to all visitors who enter St Wilfrid's is outstanding. It is evident in all relationships within the school and firmly based on Gospel values and the school's Mission Statement. There is a great sense of belonging and an affirming ethos throughout the school. Parents spoke of the warm welcome and support they receive from the staff. They commented on the loving family feel in school, the wonderful care given to their children by all staff and the positive impact that the new leadership team has made. Parents are encouraged to be involved in all aspects of school life; they value the open door policy that helps communication and keeps them informed. They stated that the children are "buzzing and can't wait to go to school". Parents are rightly proud of the excellent relationships

between the school, home and parish. Children feel valued and welcome, they appreciate the “really nice staff” and comment on how “everybody in school shows respect and kindness to each other”. They are well behaved, polite, and well-mannered. The children have a cheerful outlook, they are kind, respectful and have high aspirations for themselves and each other. All members of staff set the example for children to follow, they are indeed role models of the love of Christ, respecting the dignity of all. Children and staff who are new to the school are quickly made to feel welcome and valued members of the school community. The parish priest is a respected presence around the school, the staff and children spoke warmly of his support for them and the families of the parish. All members of the school community demonstrate a high level of belonging and pride in this happy, caring Catholic school where all are invited to be a part of the living witness to Christ in their community.

THE QUALITY OF THE WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

Welfare at St Wilfrid’s is outstanding. On entering the school, you are greeted by happy, confident and well behaved children. The Christ-centred ethos provides a very caring and supportive atmosphere for everyone associated with the school. There is clear evidence of excellent relationships between staff, parents and children. The Maslov scheme has been adopted to ensure targeted children receive additional support from individual members of staff. The pupils talk confidently about the support they receive, they make good use of the quiet area and worry boxes in classrooms in order to help them deal with their problems or difficulties that arise. They recognise and value the excellent work undertaken by the learning mentor; similarly they talk positively about how staff listen to them and show a sense of fairness when trying to resolve a situation. The recent introduction of pupil chaplains and the school council ensures pupil voice is recognised. Safeguarding at St Wilfrid’s is outstanding. Children are safe and secure, appropriate policies and procedures are in place to ensure care and protection of each individual. ‘Amigos’ and the friendship bus stop are used by the children to ensure all children are cared for and supported. Pupil premium children succeed well. Parents are extremely happy for the care, respect and confidentiality afforded to them. One parent commented that when she needed help she got it. She referred to the school as “like a family who help to see you through”. All parents interviewed spoke very positively about their relationships with the staff; in particular, they held the headteacher in very high esteem and talked about his approachability. The effective role of the Parent Support Assistant was equally valued for her helpful advice and guidance for parents. The Caritas curriculum is used throughout the school, helping to develop the children’s sense of responsibility and service. Discrimination and equality are explored and used to underpin the teachings of Christ. Fundraising activities are used to provide financial and practical resources to a variety of local and worldwide charities, e.g. SVP coffee mornings, Cornerstone collections and ‘Send a Cow to Africa’. Pupils, staff and parents work co-operatively at St Wilfrid’s to ensure that the welfare of each other and the wider community is fostered.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORSHIP IS GOOD

The school Mission Statement is clearly known and followed by all and is ‘inspired by and rooted in the Gospels’. Pupils are encouraged to participate in a variety of prayer opportunities throughout the day. Familiar prayers and child-centred prayers are used in collective acts of worship, where staff and children pray alongside each other. Prayer tables in the classrooms have prayer boxes for children to write their own prayers. A whole school assembly and classroom acts of collective worship witnessed during the inspection were good examples of the quality of collective worship. A calm, reflective environment was witnessed in several classrooms. The parish priest regularly visits the school to celebrate Holy Mass for the whole school and individual classes and to support the staff in preparing the children for their sacramental journey. The prayer garden is another source for worship which is

well used by children and staff where they can reflect, pray or be still in a quiet area of the school. Throughout the liturgical year, prayer is celebrated in a variety of ways. The Rosary is timetabled each day during the month of May. Parents and carers are invited to attend special assemblies and Masses throughout the year. One parent interviewed talked about how her children were very keen to convert to Catholicism because of the way the school encourages the children in their faith journey. Staff and children, in particular the recent introduction of pupil chaplains, work closely together to develop the prayer life of the school. This is an area for development as the initiative is only in its infancy, but examples of good practice were identified during the inspection and creativity in worship is a growing approach being implemented in several classes across the school.

THE QUALITY OF THE WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

All staff and children clearly accept their mission to give witness to the beliefs and values of the Catholic faith in their daily lives. The Mission Statement is at the heart of the school, where children and staff make every effort to live it, so that it is indeed “a place where everyone, through hard work and service to others, can reach their full potential and be formed for their eternal destiny”. Observations and discussions confirmed that children are encouraged to reach out to those in need, not just by their wonderful support for local, national and world charities, but also in how they show respect, care, compassion and consideration for others; this was evident throughout the school. Relationships are excellent between all members of the school community and all are able to talk openly and confidently about their faith. There is an atmosphere of calm and a sense of belonging together with an aspiration and determination that permeates the whole school. Staff are positive role models for the children, promoting the ethos and values of the school and helping them to recognise that Jesus is with them in all aspects of school life. The school fosters a spirit of awe and wonder through religious education and the broader curriculum, where children are encouraged to be good guardians of God’s world. There are strong home, school and parish links which are inclusive and enhanced by the regular visits of the Parish Priest. A well-developed sense of belonging to the school community exists where everyone feels valued and cared for, which enriches the family feeling in school. It is clear that all members of this school family have succeeded in their aim “to create a haven of optimism, success and achievement”, as they encounter God each day and do all they can to meet the challenges involved in this witness.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- Continue to develop pupil leadership in prayer and worship in order to embed the work of the recently established pupil chaplains to enrich the children’s faith experience.
- Continue to promote exceptional teaching across the school by modelling and coaching good and outstanding teaching that will further enhance the development of RE.

Summary Report to Parents

On 19th May 2015 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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19th May 2015

Dear Children,

Thank you for the very warm welcome you gave us and for making our visit to St Wilfrid's RC Primary School such a joyful occasion, we really enjoyed our time with you. You and all the adults in school work very hard to always do your best and because of this your school is a good Catholic school.

We really enjoyed seeing your lessons and learning about all the wonderful things you do in St Wilfrid's. We saw as many of you as we could, and we were sorry if we didn't see you in your class. Thank you for sharing your work with us, we were very impressed with the standard of work in your RE books and in your wonderful displays around school. It was clear to us that you have a good knowledge and understanding of our Catholic faith and that you all really try your best in all of your lessons.

It was lovely to see so many happy, smiling faces you are clearly very proud of your school and all that you have achieved together. We were also very impressed by the way you all really want to succeed in school and how well you look out for each other. You were so well behaved, and your politeness and manners were simply superb. It was a privilege for us to come into your school.

It was so pleasing to see how attentive and confident you were in the acts of worship and the school assembly we saw. Everyone showed great respect and reverence, your behaviour was excellent and your prayers were uplifting.

Mr Moloney, all the staff, Fr Lannon, the school Governors and your parents are also extremely proud of all of you and of what you have achieved over the years, well done and keep it up!

Your teachers are keen to help you develop the Catholic life of your school even further and to do this they are going to work with you to develop the prayer life in school so that you can talk to God using your own words or thoughts and be leaders of prayer and acts of worship in St Wilfrid's.

God bless you all and enjoy the rest of the school year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Brendan Hennessy
Mrs Anne Heard
(Section 48 Inspectors)