

St Brigid's Roman Catholic Primary School

URN: 105523

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Salford

30 April – 01 May 2025

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

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 general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference

Yes

The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop

Yes

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

Fully

1

Compliance statement

- The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference, that a minimum of 10% of the daily timetable is dedicated to religious education.
- There are no additional requirements for primary schools from the bishop of Salford Diocese
- The school has responded fully to the areas for improvement from the last inspection. Scripture is fully embedded and used by staff and pupils; and high-quality teaching has led to deep thinking pupils with religious knowledge.

What the school does well

- Catholic life and Mission at St Brigid's Primary School is inspirational. The school's sense of community and belonging to the family of Christ is evident at every level.
- The passionate headteacher demonstrates truly authentic leadership, staying true to her vision for the whole community to embrace the mission of St Brigid's and encounter Christ and experience His love every day.
- St Brigid's is fully inclusive; it is awe-inspiring; all are welcomed as equals, nothing is too much trouble, and no one is left behind.
- All staff are highly invested in relationships at St Brigid's, Christ is the beating heart of this family, and children are clearly prioritised in all decisions and school improvement.
- Training is fruitful, and because of this, staff feel empowered, supported and believed in. This commitment is shared with the pupils who know they are loved. The senior leaders are committed to making the curriculum relevant to the children and ensure all are invested in bringing the curriculum alive to make it meaningful.

What the school needs to improve

- Provide pupils with structures and opportunities that enable them to plan and lead collective worship independently and more creatively across the school. Ensure that celebrations of the Word model encourage ownership and spontaneous prayer.
- Leaders to continue to develop the school's policy on prayer and liturgy using the new directory to further develop a progression of skills and independence for all collective worship opportunities.

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

Pupil outcomes

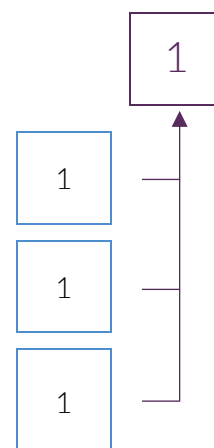
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

Provision

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

Leadership

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



All school community members embrace the mission, especially, *'Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it'*, ensuring they are '...shining examples of God's love'. All stakeholders describe the school as a 'family'; parents, staff, and governors alike echo this view. Pupils know they are loved, they feel safe, and know the mission of their school; having been involved with the design of the emblem that captures the mission, they are rightly proud. The school is exceptionally welcoming and has a strong Catholic ethos, reflecting the community. Behaviour in all classes is excellent, despite the challenges some pupils face; staff recognise and adapt to the needs of each individual. Through a behaviour policy founded on forgiveness and resolution, staff expertly guide pupils to resolve any problems which arise between themselves. Consequently, pupils can reflect maturely on their choices and use 'WWJD – What would Jesus do?' as a reminder about behaviour choices. Pupils speak highly about the *Caritas in Action* days, which the whole community participate in, developing a deeper understanding of the Catholic social teachings of the church as expressed by Jesus in the Gospels. Pupils highly value leadership roles and speak confidently about their roles in St Brigid's. Chaplains state they make 'sacrifices' to carry out their role. The chaplains play an active role, and are very proud of their role and their school.

The whole school community understand their role within the local area and there is a strong culture of welcome, which is evident in all relationships. Staff speak highly of leaders, who have created a caring culture that is embraced by all. They welcome the opportunity to support one another. They are proud of their strong community and understand the need to support pupils, but also each other. At St Brigid's school there is a fully inclusive environment where all are nurtured. Pupils with complex needs are given regular opportunities to engage in all aspects of school life and are well supported by additional adults. High-quality displays throughout school

mirror the Mission, experiences and celebrations of each aspect of Catholic life in school. The provision for relationships and health education is bespoke to the needs of the community and fulfils the diocesan requirements. All staff are fully committed to the mission of St Brigid's, working in unison with the headteacher to ensure that Christ is at the heart of the whole community.

The headteacher, religious education leader and governors have an ambitious vision for St Brigid's, which has been clearly communicated to all stakeholders, ensuring that the Catholic life and mission of the school are outstanding. In St Brigid's, Catholic social teaching drives many aspects of the Catholic life in school. The principles of Catholic social teaching are embedded in all aspects of school life. Parents and carers are recognised as first educators, and fully appreciate the lengths that staff in St Brigid's go to, to support them with the faith journey of their children, and with some of the challenges they face. All staff, including the headteacher are well-supported by a committed governing body that prioritises the highest level of pastoral care for staff. Governors rightly see the school as a source of inspiration to the whole community and are highly ambitious about its contribution to the lives of the people it serves. They are proud of the strong links to the Church, and fully support the school in its core mission, the parish priest stating, 'no school, no church'. Governors are passionate about their role within the school, supporting and challenging leaders. They ensure that all policies reflect the Catholic mission of the school and have prioritised investment of resources in this area. Leaders are highly committed to the further development of all staff which has led to high levels of confidence amongst staff.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

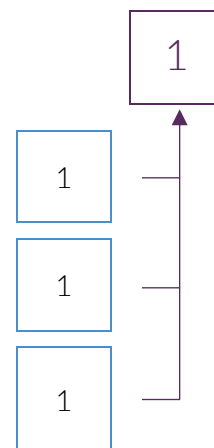
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

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

Leadership

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



Pupils across all year groups demonstrate strong religious literacy, confidently articulating their understanding of key theological concepts and Catholic teachings. Their ability to recall prior learning is a testament to the school's high-quality curriculum and effective teaching strategies. St Brigid's uses *Come and See*, and has introduced aspects from the content of the *Religious Education Directory*, including allowing the pupils to use a range of lenses for deeper thinking. Pupils, many from low starting points, are making increasingly good progress and reach standards which are in-line with other core subjects. All pupils, including those with special educational needs and English as an additional language, are given equal opportunities to engage with and excel in their learning. They are engaged young people who think ethically and theologically. They are very articulate in their ideas and explanations, particularly when discussing scripture and its impact on their lives. Behaviour in lessons is exemplary. Pupils are highly respectful, both towards their teachers and peers, creating a classroom atmosphere that is conducive to deep discussion and reflection. Their engagement with, and enthusiasm for, religious education is evident across all year groups, with many pupils expressing that it is their favourite subject. They take great pride in their religious education books with one pupil stating, "...it is the most important lesson in school. We speak as you would to God to express yourself and say what you are thinking", inspiring them to contribute positively to the world. Through high-quality teaching and a nurturing faith environment, pupils at St Brigid's develop a deep love for religious education, which shapes their values and understanding of their role in the wider community.

Teachers, supported by high levels of guidance from the religious education leader and senior leadership team, demonstrate confidence in delivering high-quality religious education lessons. Their expertise is evident in engaging and reflective classroom discussions, where skilful

questioning draws out deep thinking and understanding from pupils. Staff maintain high expectations, which are reflected in most of the pupils' workbooks and confirmed through pupil voice. The quality of discussion showcases a deep engagement with religious education, demonstrating both knowledge and personal reflection. Teachers effectively use scripture to inspire learning, so that pupils make connections between biblical teachings and their own lives. A strong understanding of the impact of religious education on Catholic life is shared by both staff and pupils. They see themselves as agents of change, making a positive impact in line with Gospel values. Lessons are well-resourced, ensuring a rich and varied curriculum. Staff are embracing the *Religious Education Directory* framework, using creative approaches to enhance learning and provide meaningful opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually, morally, and intellectually. Teachers plan creative and practical lessons that cater to all learners, using immersive experiences, drama, artwork, and eye-witness accounts; these allow pupils to showcase their knowledge, for example, looking at a range of artists' impressions of Pentecost, Year 4 pupils recognised Jesus through the wounds on his hands, and delivering the Holy Spirit. Wider opportunities to embed Gospel values are embraced, reinforcing the school's commitment to faith in action and community service.

The leadership of religious education at St Brigid's ensures that it remains at the heart of the curriculum. Governors have a strong understanding of religious education and are deeply committed to maintaining the highest standards in school. Their strategic oversight and engagement ensure that religious education continues to be central to the school's mission and ethos. Leadership is highly effective in ensuring that religious education, passionately led by the subject lead, is taught with commitment and high-quality resources. The headteacher and religious education lead share a deep passion for religious education, recognising its crucial role in pupil's spiritual and moral development. Engagement with Diocesan training supports ongoing professional development, enhancing the quality of religious education teaching and Catholic life.

Collective worship

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

Collective worship key judgement grade

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

1

Leadership

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

1

1

Pupils engage in prayer and liturgy with deep passion and enthusiasm, demonstrating a genuine love for worship. They sing joyfully, respond reverently, and pray with heartfelt enthusiasm, creating a spiritually rich atmosphere throughout the school. This was particularly evident in the whole school Mass. Music plays a significant role in worship, with pupils responding beautifully through song, cleverly incorporating sign language to ensure all can participate. Their ability to reflect peacefully during moments of stillness highlights their spiritual maturity. Symbols of faith are well understood and embraced, deepening their connection to Catholic traditions. The engagement of pupils in prayer and liturgy is evident. The chaplains take their role very seriously, leading the Rosary for the month of May and stay and pray events at lunchtime. Their passion for this role showcases their commitment to sharing and celebrating faith with their peers, one chaplain stating, 'we make sacrifices, which is right to do'; they are eager to develop in their role. Pupils have a clear understanding of how prayer and liturgy support their personal growth and influence their future. Through their active participation, pupils demonstrate a profound appreciation of prayer and liturgy, making it a joyful and transformative experience within the school community.

Prayer and liturgy is central to the life of the school and is deeply valued by pupils of all faiths. It is an integral part of the school's spiritual life, creating a shared space for reflection, prayer, and connection with God. Pupils have regular opportunities to engage with Catholic traditions, with weekly class Mass being a key part of their spiritual development. This allows pupils to participate actively in the liturgical life of the Church and reinforces the importance of faith in daily life. Scripture is carefully selected to be age-appropriate. Staff are wholeheartedly committed to supporting prayer and liturgy, recognising that the pupils, as deep thinkers, can lead prayer and worship experiences with confidence. The chapel, prayer spaces in corridors,

outside, and in classrooms, are well-maintained and provide opportunities for spontaneous prayer. These spaces are highly respected by pupils, offering them a place for personal reflection and connection with God.

Leadership in prayer and liturgy at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School ensures that prayer and liturgy are integral to the life of the school. Leaders ensure that all pupils, regardless of age, approach prayer and liturgy with respect and enthusiasm. This was particularly evident during a whole school Mass, where pupils joyfully engaged in singing and participated wholeheartedly in prayers. Staff, led by the headteacher and religious education lead, are deeply devoted to the importance of prayer and liturgy in the daily life of the school. They understand the transformative role these practices play in shaping the spiritual and moral development of pupils. This commitment is evident through the high-quality strategy for developing prayer and liturgy, which is modelled by all staff and pupils. The dedication of all staff to the faith journey of all at St Brigid's is particularly evident when Year 3 pupils receive the Eucharist for the first time, all staff attend as a living example of their faithfulness to the community of St Brigid's. Teachers are ready to work collaboratively with pupils to enable them to prepare meaningful acts of worship, so that pupils are not only participants but also contributors to the liturgical life of the school, thus demonstrating a strong commitment to nurturing the spiritual life of the pupils. Reflection is a key aspect of the process, with pupils and staff evaluating what went well and identifying areas for improvement, fostering a culture of continuous development. High-quality resources, carefully selected and thoughtfully used, clearly demonstrate that leaders value prayer and liturgy as central to the school's ethos, ensuring that these practices remain vibrant, inclusive, and impactful for the entire school community.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Brigid's Roman Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	105523
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3523429
Full postal address of the school	St Brigid's Roman Catholic Primary School, Grey Mare Lane, Beswick, Manchester, M11 3DR
School phone number	0161 2235538
Headteacher	Julie Miles
Chair of governors	Liz Eccles
School Website	www.st-brigids.manchester.sch.uk/
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	Selective
Age-range of pupils	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	8 th December 2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

The inspection team

Joanne Butterworth
Caroline Boden

Lead
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