



Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Chipping

URN:119643

Carried out on behalf of the Right Rev. **John Arnold**, Bishop of Salford on:

Date: 8th November 2023

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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

Summary of key findings

What the school does well

- St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School continues to provide a good Catholic education to its pupils.
- Leaders have worked hard to build on the school's successes with a profound commitment to continual improvement. This has created a very positive climate whereby the children love attending this small, rural, village school, where there is a strong community spirit.
- The positive impact of the high levels of care the staff and children demonstrate towards each other.
- Empathetic, charming and impeccably behaved children who are proud to be a part of their loving Catholic school.

This Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection was carried out under canons 804 & 806 of the code of canon law. For maintained schools and academies in England it fulfils the statutory requirements of s.48 of the Education Act 2005. For maintained schools and academies in Wales it fulfils the statutory requirements of s.50 of the Education Act 2005.

- The children are provided with a wide range of enrichment activities and there is a strong commitment to nurturing and supporting every individual child.

What the school needs to improve:

- To enable pupils to plan and lead effectively a diverse range of prayer and liturgy activities.
- To enable pupils to use more creative approaches to respond to the Word of God in religious education lessons.
- To participate more fully in the services offered by the Diocese and local Catholic network.

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:.....

2

Pupil outcomes

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

2

Provision

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

2

Leadership

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

2



Pupils at St Mary’s demonstrate the highest levels of respect and compassion for all they meet due to the tangible mission of the school. Many pupils show a willingness to devote themselves to the faith life of others in their roles as prayer leaders, “mini vinnies”, chaplaincy team and school council. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the quality of the Catholic life and mission at St Mary’s, with one expressing that, “The school nourishes their faith.” The pupils of St Mary’s recognise their distinct Catholic identity and are rightly proud of their faith. The newly revised mission statement which was created by the whole school community, is known and lived. The children take ownership of the Catholic life of the school and the behaviour of all children observed in lessons, prayer and liturgy, at playtimes and around school was excellent. Pupils demonstrate their commitment to care for those in greatest need and care for our common home. In order to move forward and be outstanding in this area, pupils need to take a leading role in responding to the demands of Catholic social teaching and be more proactive in their response on a local, national and global level.

Staff ensure that children at St Mary’s know that they are valued because they are made in the image and likeness of God. The children fully appreciated the opportunities that they are given by the school and they embrace the school’s Catholic life and mission wholeheartedly. Pupils appreciate their teachers and all staff recognise that they are loved by the children in their school family. The children talk with enthusiasm about their home family and their school family and as a result of the care they receive they are flourishing. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the quality of the Catholic life and mission at St Mary’s, with one expressing that, “The school nourishes their faith.” Parents are very supportive of the school and they appreciate the values that are instilled in their children. The school is continuing to develop this partnership through their

initiatives for engagement with families. Staff feel supported, cared for and valued so that they are well equipped to serve the children and families with joy.

School leaders and governors recognize that parents are the first educators of their children and support them well. Many parents talked about the effective strategies that the school has for engaging with parents and carers for the benefit of their children. In a relationships and health education lesson in Early Years Foundation Stage, the children could talk articulately about who and what makes them feel safe. Using feely boxes, children described what they felt in the happy box and sad box and were joyfully engaged in their learning. Induction of new staff to the profession and to the school is robust, these staff feel well supported by leaders. To move the school forward, leaders and governors need to actively promote the bishop's vision for the diocese and participate more fully in the services offered by the diocese. St Mary's could also share their good practice more widely and put itself at the service of the diocese. The quality of Catholic leadership is good. The leadership of the school ensures that Christ is central to all aspects of school life and Catholic social teaching is at the forefront

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade:.....

2

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education.....

2

Provision

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

2

Leadership

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

2



Pupils at St Mary’s are receiving a good standard of religious education. The headteacher and governors have placed religious education at the core of the whole curriculum. The pupils at St Mary’s are developing a secure knowledge, understanding and skills that reflect the learning required by the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*. Children speak about what they have learned in religious education, showing an awareness of key concepts and using some subject specific vocabulary. This was demonstrated well in one lesson where they compared scripture from Ephesians with modern day preparation for Advent.

Overall the provision in religious education is good. Pupils enjoy their lessons, they are enthusiastic learners blessed with positive attitudes to learning and behavior across the school. Teachers use praise to reward children’s effort and as a result, the children are motivated and keen to improve further. In lessons in mixed age classes, inspectors saw teachers use questioning skillfully during religious education lessons and as a result adapt explanations and tasks to ensure all age groups and abilities are supported. In lessons pupils make good progress, demonstrating good subject knowledge and religious literacy. The quality of written work in pupil’s books is of a consistently good standard irrespective of their ability. Pupils talk enthusiastically about their religious education lessons, many told us that it is one of their favourite subjects. The next steps to enhance provision are for children to synthesize what they have learned in original and creative ways.

The curriculum is carefully planned and sequenced so that teachers can deliver it effectively. Questioning is a strength leading to high levels of understanding for pupils. There is full parity with other core curriculum areas and religious education is at the heart of the school. Governors are well informed about the work in religious education and are rightly proud of the achievements of the pupils, they are fully committed to improvement of this area of school life. The dedicated

headteacher is very passionate about religious education, her self-evaluation of the school is detailed and accurate, identifying strategic actions for improvement. Displays around school celebrate children's learning and achievements in religious education and are of a high standard with several examples of scripture. To move towards outstanding, St Mary's could ensure more regular, high quality professional development for governors and staff in relation to both subject knowledge and pedagogy.

Collective worship

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

Collective worship key judgement grade:.....

2

Pupil outcomes

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

2

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

2

Prayer and liturgy is clearly an important part of school life and praying together is a daily experience for pupils. Pupils are reverent and respectful during acts of prayer and liturgy. In one class liturgy about peace, the children were invited to prepare the prayer area and the class gathered to join the celebration, all the children were fully included and engaged. During assembly, the children sang joyfully and were keen to participate in and lead prayer. The children have time in the school day for golden moments of stillness, individual reflection and spontaneous prayer. The parish priest reported that when the children sing in church, "They lift everyone's spirits." In order to move towards outstanding, St Mary's should use a wide range of prayer in the Catholic tradition and pupils could be more involved in evaluating the quality of prayer and liturgy.

Children benefit from living as part of a faithful, praying community and all are included and supported to develop both spiritually and morally. All learners, including those with additional needs are invited to take part in prayer and liturgy and they are fully included and engaged. Opportunities to celebrate Mass, receive the Sacraments and celebrate holy days of obligation are regularly offered and the parish priest is a regular and welcome visitor to the school. The chaplaincy team are pro-active in leading liturgy and they take pride in this area of school. Children make the connection between prayer and action and the experiences that they have lead them to live full lives. Staff provide a broad range of experiences for pupils so that they can fully become the people that God has called them to be. To move prayer and liturgy forward, St Mary's should use a wide range of ways to present prayer and liturgy to enhance their good practice.

Leaders have worked hard to ensure that celebrating the Catholicity of the school is central to St Mary's purpose and practice. Prayer is at the centre of daily life with classes sharing in daily prayer and liturgy centred around scripture and Gospel readings. The chaplaincy team are increasingly confident in leading prayer and reflection. School leaders and governors recognise the importance

of prayer and liturgy when setting the budget. Parents are warmly welcome at whole school celebrations. The headteacher leads by example living out her faith and mission on a daily basis and inspiring others to do the same.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Mary's RC Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	119643
Full postal address of the school	Club Lane, Chipping, Lancashire, PR3 2QH
School phone number	0199561367
Name of head teacher or principal	Mrs M. Morris
Chair of governing board	Mrs R. Crisp
School Website	st-marys-chipping.lancs.sch.uk/
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	n/a
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age-range of pupils	4-11
Trustees	Salford Diocese
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	8 th February 2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

The inspection team

Dr Clare Campbell	Lead inspector
Mrs Jane Myerscough	Team inspector
Name of inspector	Lead/team
Name of inspector	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

