

**INSPECTION REPORT**

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**Inspection carried out Under Canon 806  
and in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005**

**Name of School**      **SS Osmund and Andrew’s RC Primary, Bolton BL2 6NW**

Inspection date      2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018

Reporting Inspectors      Brendan Hennessy, Clare Campbell

Type of school	Primary
URN	134237
Age range of pupils	3 – 11
Number on roll	382
Appropriate authority	The Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Adrian Davies
Headteacher	Julie McDonald
Religious Education Subject Leader	Eleanor Palmer, Natalie Callaghan
Date of previous inspection	July 2013

<b>The Inspection judgements are:</b>	<b>Grade</b>	Explanation of the Grades
Overall effectiveness of the school	1	1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
The quality of Catholic Leadership	1	
The Catholic Life of the school (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness)	1	
The quality of Religious Education (incorporating Word)	1	
The quality of Worship	1	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

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

SS Osmunds and Andrew's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School serves the parish of St Osmund, Brightmet, Bolton. This is a larger than average sized primary school with 382 pupils on roll, including a 30 place nursery, 60% of whom are baptised Roman Catholic. The school has mixed age classes throughout and plans its curriculum accordingly. The school is situated in an urban area of mixed housing. On entry to school the children's starting points are below the national average. Most pupils have made good progress in their learning by the time they leave at the end of KS2 and are in line with the national average. The school currently has 27% of the children eligible for Pupil Premium and 12% with Special Educational Needs. There are 16 teachers in the school, 9 of whom are Catholic and 5 hold the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. The headteacher is a National Leader of Education and the deputy head is a Specialist Leader of Religious Education.

### **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 that gives the school a real sense of family.**
- **The inspirational leadership of the dedicated headteacher, supported by deeply committed religious education subject leaders, deputy headteacher, governors and parish priest.**
- **The outstanding witness and confidence of the children in expressing their beliefs coupled with their enthusiasm, aspiration, exceptional behaviour and excellent attitude to learning.**
- **The quality of relationships across the school community and the outstanding way in which the school supports the welfare of the children and their families, providing a caring and nurturing place of learning that impacts positively on the children's sense of well-being.**
- **Prayer is at the heart of the school community and the children demonstrate a high level of confidence in their role as leaders of prayer and worship, especially the GIFT chaplaincy team.**

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

SS Osmund's and Andrew's school is an outstanding Catholic school, where making Jesus known and loved is at the centre of everything it does. Gospel values are clearly evident and lived out by the whole school community. A strong Catholic ethos is evident throughout the school and this has helped to create a vibrant community where the happy, confident and well-mannered children thrive as they learn, play and pray together. The school's mission statement is understood by all in school, it impacts on and is central to everything that happens in the daily life of the school. Prayer and worship is at the heart of this school and the many and varied opportunities for worship have enhanced the individual faith journeys of all in school. The inspirational headteacher, supported by deeply committed deputy headteacher and Religious Education subject leaders and a hardworking staff, do all that they can to ensure that the spiritual and pastoral needs of all are met in this inclusive Catholic school. The parish priest and governors are extremely supportive and committed to ensuring that Catholic education of the highest standard is provided for all. The quality of teaching and learning in Religious Education is of a consistently high standard, with creative and inspiring lessons observed across the school and evidenced the children's books and work around school. Working as a team the staff have created a caring, affirming and safe place of learning for the children. The friendly, enthusiastic and well-mannered children are very proud of their school and their behaviour and attitude to learning is exemplary. Parents feel very welcome, included and valued; they stated that "School is very friendly, a real family". The school takes every opportunity to build on the strong links with the parish and home. Effective self-evaluation of Religious Education has ensured that the school has continued to develop since the last inspection. The areas for development noted in the last inspection have been met in full.

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

All school leaders are absolutely committed to the Church's mission in education and are highly motivated to provide the very best Catholic education they can. The school is extremely well led by a dedicated headteacher who has a clear vision for Catholic education and a sense of purpose for the education of the whole child. She has a strong spiritual commitment and clearly values the worth of every member of the school community. The headteacher is very well supported by a committed and enthusiastic deputy headteacher and two Religious Education subject leaders. The governors have a clear, strategic plan for the school and are deeply committed to the importance of Religious Education being at the centre of all that the school does. They are proactive in providing support and challenge. All leaders and staff are passionate about ensuring that the children in greatest need are not disadvantaged. The supportive parish priest is a regular visitor to school and all in school value his contribution to and impact on the spiritual life of the school. Pupil leadership is well established through the school council, play leaders, peer mentors, GIFT chaplaincy and ECO group. Pupil voice has been strengthened by the contribution of the very enthusiastic and active GIFT chaplaincy team. Self-evaluation is rigorous and robust, honest and accurate; this, combined with relevant professional development for staff, has made a positive impact on the quality of provision in religious education. It has also ensured that the leadership team is clear about the strengths of the school and what needs to be done to develop even further. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is intrinsically linked with Religious Education and PSHE and underpins the whole curriculum.

### **THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness) IS OUTSTANDING**

Welcome is at the core of the culture of SS Osmund and Andrew's and a warm, friendly welcome is extended to all visitors from the moment you enter school. It is evident that all adults set the example as role models for the children as they do all they can to ensure that Christ is at the centre of every aspect of school life. This together with the respect, dignity and care shown to every individual within the school community gives the school a real sense of family. Excellent relationships are evident based on love, care and respect. Children and staff have a very strong sense of belonging and team spirit. The school gives the highest priority to procedures to safeguard and protect. This good practice enables children and staff to feel safe and well cared for. The school welcomes parents and encourages their contribution to the life of the school. The partnership with parents is seen as an essential part of supporting pupils. Parents commented that they feel appreciated and that "The bond the children have with the staff is amazing". The school identifies children with additional needs early and works with families to give support. These children are extremely well supported in school with child centred learning support plans for those who need extra provision. The children are happy, enthusiastic, confident, polite and extremely well behaved. They stated that they feel safe in school and "Everybody is included, nobody is ever left out". The children are encouraged to make the right choices and it is clearly evident that they treat each other with care and respect. Older children delight in their various roles supporting and caring for the younger children, not least in leading prayer groups. They spoke about enjoying responsibility and see it as a way of giving back to school. The children were very clear that it is important to show compassion for those less fortunate and to help others as they support many local and international charities. Caritas in Action is effectively used to raise children awareness of social justice and their understanding and involvement in service to the common good. The school mission statement is at the heart of everything the school does and is lived out by all in the school family. The school family recognise that God is with them in every aspect of school life and that this impacts on everything they do. Children, parents, staff and governors quite rightly have a great sense of pride and belonging in this happy, caring Catholic school.

### **THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS OUTSTANDING**

Religious Education is at the core of the school's curriculum and is integral to all teaching and learning in school. The school mission statement is contemporary, known and is lived out by all in the school community, it is at the heart of all policies and procedures. Staff look for ways to be creative in lessons and how to make links across the curriculum which enhances the provision of Religious Education across the school. Outstanding teaching and learning in Religious Education is the expectation for all children. All lessons observed were of a very high standard, with creative and inspiring teaching that engaged and challenged the children's learning evidenced across the whole school. All these lessons were well pitched and demonstrated excellent teacher knowledge and understanding of Religious Education, consistently high expectations, differentiation, good pace, appropriate challenge and engaging learning. Thoughtful questioning challenged the children and moved the learning on, including the effective use of 'big questions'. High standards are consistently achieved across the school, as evidenced in the children's books, in their contributions to lessons and work displayed around school.

Constructive marking and feedback was consistent across the school, which ensured that children knew how to improve their work and enabled them to reflect on their learning and understanding of Religious Education. The children have an excellent attitude to learning and were happy and confident to share their understanding of their faith. Displays around the school were of a high quality featuring appropriate references to Scripture. Sacred Scripture is of central importance to the school, it is made relevant and meaningful to the children in many ways and has a positive impact on behaviour and welfare. The children were able to articulate the importance of the Word of God. Religious literacy is developed across the school and children were able to discuss their faith with assurance. They learn about other faiths in lessons, assemblies and from visitors to school, helping them to understand and respect the beliefs and cultures of others. Caritas in Action is used to help the children's understanding of social justice. Classroom learning support workers are actively involved in the teaching of Religious Education and effectively interacted with pupils to support their learning and pastoral needs. Parents were extremely positive about the quality of Religious Education provided for their children. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is highly developed, running through every subject as the children are encouraged to think, discuss and question. The children are indeed the best ambassadors for the school in how they live out the Gospel values in their daily life and by their actions in the community.

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

Prayer and worship are at the heart of this school community, with many wide and varied opportunities provided to help deepen everyone's relationship with Jesus. Staff and children pray together as a school, in classes, small groups and individually, with great reverence and respect. Worship opportunities include time for prayer, reflection, assemblies, liturgies, class and individual prayer. The children are introduced to formal and informal prayer from nursery. Each classroom has an age appropriate and relevant focal point for prayer, these are clearly valued by the children. The children are comfortable with their feelings and confident to write and share their own prayers; many examples were evident all around school. Children are confident in planning and leading prayer and worship, there is evidence from EYFS that children enjoy writing their own prayer and exploring prayer. The school demonstrates a high level of creativity and variety in their worship, liturgies and celebrations with the children actively involved in the preparation for many celebrations. The prayer and worship observed, including the GIFT chaplaincy team leading their own session with the COGs (Children of God Squad) group of Reception children, were all prayerful, uplifting, creative and thought provoking spiritual experiences for all present. The children were very clear in expressing their understanding of the importance of prayer stations around the school, the Peace Pod and the Faith Space, in the life of the school and in their own lives. The input from the wonderful GIFT chaplaincy team has enhanced the quality of prayer and worship in school. The parish priest is very much a part of the school family and the links with the parish are well established. Parents were extremely happy with the range of opportunities the school offers for prayer and worship. They commented on the way school works in partnership with the parish and were extremely positive about the Sacramental Programme. Funding to support the resourcing of prayer and worship is seen as a priority, all classes have Religious Education resource boxes and high quality visual prayer stations are found all around the school. The prayer life of the school deepens the children's faith development as they grow in confidence in prayer and develop their relationship with God.

### **AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- **To continue to embed prayer and worship in school by further developing mindfulness and meditation across the school.**
- **To build on the links with the parish and local community.**