



Inspection carried out Under Canon 804 and 806  
and in accordance with Section 48 of the Education  
Acts 2005 and 2011

DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Name of School St. Margaret Mary's R.C. Primary School  
St. Margaret's Road, New Moston, Manchester, M40 0JE  
Inspection date 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
Reporting Inspectors Anne Heard and Peter Moore

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Type of school	Primary
URN	105533
Age range of pupils	3-11
Number on roll	358
Appropriate authority	The Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Angela Ager
Headteacher	Matthew Sutton
Religious Education Subject Leader	Mairead Handrick
Date of previous inspection	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2015
Grade of previous inspection	Outstanding

Explanation of the Grades - 1 = Outstanding, 2 = Good, 3=Requires Improvement, 4 = Inadequate

Overall effectiveness of St Margaret Mary's School	Overall grade	1
The Catholic Life of the school (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness)	Grade	1
Religious Education (incorporating Word)	Grade	1
Collective Worship	Grade	1

## CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

St. Margaret Mary's voluntary aided Roman Catholic primary school is a larger than average school with 358 pupils on roll. The school serves the parishes of St. Margaret Mary's and the former parish of St. John Vianney. Most children live in the highest 20% of deprivation in the country, with 25% of these living in the top 5% of the most deprived areas in the country. The school catchment crosses the border between Oldham and Manchester. 20% of pupils are entitled to pupil premium. There are currently 9 children with Education Health and Care plans and 4 pupils awaiting EHC plans. 4% of pupils have Special Educational Needs. 30% of pupils come from ethnic minority groups. 93% of pupils are baptised Catholic, as are 94% of the teachers. The headteacher and deputy headteacher have both worked previously in the school before taking up their leadership roles 5 years ago. The headteacher is a local leader of education and supports many initiatives within the Diocese of Salford and is participating in the National School of Formation programme. 3 teachers have completed the Catholic Middle Leadership programme, with 2 others currently undertaking the programme.

## OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

St. Margaret Mary's is an outstanding Catholic primary school. Leaders at all levels ensure that Christ is at the centre of all that happens within the school and its community. The Catholic ethos and vision of its inspirational leaders is evident everywhere within the school. This is a truly inclusive and happy school where harmonious relationships and respect for everyone are clearly present. The excellent behaviour of pupils and their positive interactions with each other fosters a common foundation on which the success of the school is built. The humility of leaders, governors and children is a true testament to their discipleship of Christ in their pursuit of the common good.

## THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- The inspirational and spiritual leadership of the school, led by the headteacher and deputy headteacher.
- The enthusiastic and knowledgeable governing board.
- The outstanding pastoral care provided to all pupils and families.
- The lived sense of community evident in the quality of relationships. The school goes the extra mile to provide an exceptionally supportive and joyful community.
- Delightful, happy children who are proud of their school and fully embrace its Catholic ethos and missionary purpose.

## AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- To continue to embed the recently adopted values growing in the school virtues.
- To provide further opportunities for pupils to share their ideas and be fully involved in the self-evaluation of the school in its Catholic life and mission, and take a lead in planning improvements to it.
- To continue to support the children in developing their confidence in leading school worship.

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

The Catholic Life of the school (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness)	Overall grade	1
Outcomes - The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the School		1
Provision - The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school		1
Leadership - How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school		1

The school's Mission statement "We try to follow Jesus in everything we do", is clearly lived through all aspects of school life. The school's distinctive Catholic identity is tangible in all that staff, pupils and governors strive to achieve. Standards, expectations and behaviour are all outstanding. The newly introduced virtues and servant leadership shines out. Pupils from an early age are taught to be compassionate towards others and to respond to the demands of Catholic social teaching. They respond to local, national and global issues and are confident to talk about the importance of their role in society as disciples of Christ. The GIFT team has an active role in promoting and developing pupil-led initiatives.

The provision for the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. The beautiful school environment is clear evidence of the care, attention to detail and commitment shown to witness to its mission and Catholic character. All staff share the same philosophy, nurturing and valuing each child for their uniqueness born in the image of Christ. This is a happy, calm and safe space where the welcome provision for all is truly outstanding. Parents spoke overwhelmingly about the love, dedication and hard work that staff give to their children and the school community. Pastoral care ensures that each child and their family feel supported and nurtured to reach their full potential. The whole school works as an effective team to ensure children flourish. They provide opportunities for pupil's moral and spiritual development. Sacred Scripture and the word of God are the foundations from which everything else in the school evolves.

Leaders are deeply committed to the Church's mission and are a source of inspiration to the whole school community. The headteacher is a local leader of education, reaching out to support other schools. He has created an outward-looking school where he and other leaders of the school work collaboratively with individual and clusters of schools in promoting best practice in a true Catholic context. Staff at all levels receive appropriate continuing professional development, including relevant courses offered by the Diocese. The headteacher has undertaken a number of roles on behalf of the Diocese. Religious Education is given the highest priority by leaders. The detailed and rigorous self-evaluation is a comprehensive document and is used effectively to ensure the school provides an outstanding Catholic education for all, in particular those who are most vulnerable. Pupil leaders enjoy their roles and are keen to develop these further, including the Pope's 'Laudato Si' message to protect the world we live in.

#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word)**

<b>Religious Education (incorporating Word)</b>	<b>Overall grade</b>
Outcomes - How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	<b>1</b>
Provision - The Quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education	<b>1</b>
Leadership - How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education	<b>1</b>

From their early years, children are taught to be curious and ask questions. High expectations and excellent behaviour are a given and this consistency of approach in a caring environment leads to the success of this school. The Religious Education curriculum is rich and creative, staff are skilled in delivering teaching that captures children's imagination, develops their knowledge of Scripture and the learning required by the Religious Education Curriculum Directory. Pupils are independent learners who are encouraged to think for themselves in order to deepen their learning. Standards in Religious Education are outstanding. Pupils speak confidently about what they have learned and enjoy their lessons. There is sustained high attainment across the core curriculum with Religious Education given paramount importance. The school's commitment to staff and pupils 'to live life to the full' is evident in the shared vision and mission that underpins life at St. Margaret Mary's.

Teachers at all levels are confident in their subject knowledge in Religious Education. They find creative and stimulating ways to positively engage children in their learning. Governors and senior leaders ensure that appropriate funding is dedicated to Religious Education and professional development opportunities. A strong ethos of matching experienced teachers with those that are new to the profession adds to the consistency of approach in this high-achieving school. Planning, assessment and monitoring are used very effectively to ensure differentiation takes place to meet all pupils needs. Of particular strength is the dedicated work of support staff who work seamlessly alongside teachers. Deep questioning is used regularly to maximize engagement and learning. Religious Education has a deep impact on the moral and spiritual

development of all pupils. The Spiritans and Just Youth regularly provide an additional teaching resource for the school. Religious knowledge and formation are entwined through other curriculum subjects ensuring the children grow in a realisation of the connectivity of the teachings of the Catholic faith.

Leaders share the same dedication and commitment to ensure that all aspects of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory are met. The adoption of the ‘Come and See’ programme alongside additional materials ensures that all children receive a systematic and carefully planned curriculum. A thorough and detailed self-evaluation provides a clear and precise reflection of the school. All leaders should be proud of their hard work and determination to ensure that St. Margaret Mary’s retains its outstanding grade in Religious Education. The subject leader for Religious Education is recognised beyond the school for her expertise and vision, which she shares with other Catholic schools. These links are further developed as the school works closely with other clusters and schools to share good practice. The mission and virtues are at the centre of every subject area. This unique Catholic school has built a solid framework of Catholic values, vision and mission lived out fully by all members of its school community.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

<b>Collective Worship</b>	<b>Overall grade</b>	<b>1</b>
Outcomes - How well pupils respond to and participate in the school’s Collective Worship		<b>1</b>
Provision - The quality of Collective Worship provided by the School		<b>1</b>
Leadership - How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship		<b>1</b>

Prayer life is central to St Margaret Mary’s. It has a very positive and meaningful impact on the whole school community. Children at St Margaret Mary’s participate and take a lead in delivering daily acts of collective worship and there are many opportunities for children and staff to listen and talk to God in many ways. Children are extremely reverent and respectful. The Year 5 collective worship showed children entering the classroom in complete silence, enjoying moments of stillness and reflecting on their memories with sensitivity and maturity. Children, parents and staff were grateful for the opportunities for collective worship and many parents attended the Y2 Lenten assembly observed during the inspection. Staff have worked with other groups, Just Youth and Spiritan Brothers, to develop and strengthen collective worship. They share their good practice with others and the GIFT team recently planned and delivered an act of collective worship for other cluster schools on the Year of the Word.

Children were able to articulate that there is a daily pattern of prayer at the school and that God was present in their community and guided them through life. They knew the liturgical year well. The children talked about how the Tuesday Gospel reflections and the Wednesday Word help them understand and act on readings from the bible. Children clearly enjoy the creative worship opportunities that the school provides. They talked with confidence about the support and opportunities that staff give them to plan their own collective worship. Parents are also welcomed into school to celebrate acts of worship and talked about the moving outdoor Nativity reflection celebrated in the forest school stable.

Leaders demonstrated a deep understanding of the importance of collective worship. The headteacher leads by example and engages others as an inspiring model of best practice. Parents talked about the visible presence of the headteacher and senior leaders. Staff support the faith journey and Sacramental journey of all pupils and families at the school. The Religious Education lead has ensured that inspiring professional development is provided for all staff and governors, and that resources are provided to assist with the planning of collective worship. Key staff work tirelessly to support the children in planning their own acts of collective worship. Governors talked with confidence about the importance of collective worship, they had invested resources into providing high quality Continuing Professional Development and recognised the areas for further development which included further developing children’s role in leading prayer and worship. Governors are kept informed of acts of Collective worship through visits and the detailed headteacher report. Collective worship is effectively monitored, and a programme of observation, reflection and improvement was embedded.