

# HEADTEACHER'S REPORT AUTUMN 2015

## *Our Mission Statement*

*In our school, we want to celebrate God's gift of life together,  
by inspiring, enhancing and developing tomorrow's talent, today!  
We respect all; aiming to achieve and live our values.  
A place to allow humanity to flourish!*

**ST LEO'S AND SOUTHMEAD  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
SERVING THE COMMUNITY**

## **OFSTED**

- Overall effectiveness
- Effectiveness of leadership and management
- Personal development, behaviour and welfare
- Quality of teaching, learning and assessment
- Outcomes for pupils

## 1 School Improvement

1.1 Mrs S. O’Keeffe, an external Consultant and Lead Ofsted Inspector spent two days with us in school. Her advice, support and guidance were invaluable. We are currently implementing actions which she suggested which are already having a positive impact upon School Improvement. (Please see details in Curriculum Minutes.) This external view of school has helped us reflect upon areas of school life at Senior Management level and shows the determination of Governors to both challenge and support the school. (Effectiveness of Leadership and Management)

1.2 We have now received the Inspection Dashboard which outlines the strengths and weaknesses of the school in 2015. At the Governors’ Curriculum Committee we scrutinised the report along with Raise on Line (unvalidated). Questions and discussion with the Assessment coordinators showed how accurate the school’s systems for Assessment, Target Setting and the support of “Target Tracker” (Assessment Tool Kit) are. We were able to identify the children that the data flagged up. The Dashboard outlines seven strengths and one weakness, which is linked to not only our school priority but also to the Southern Area Collaborative priority – to raise standards in writing. Governors on the Curriculum Committee have copies of the Inspection Dashboard. (Effectiveness of Leadership and Management; Outcomes for pupils)

1.3 Attainment results were as follows:-

### Key Stage One

Year One – Phonics – 81.8% achieved – upward trend.

<u>Year Two -</u>	Reading	L2+	83.3%	L3	37%		
	Writing	L2+	79.2%	L3	12%		
	Maths	L2+	100%	L3	25%		
<u>Key Stage Two</u>	Maths	L4+	83%	L5	13%	L6	9%
	Reading	L4+	100%	L5	74%		
	Writing	L4+	83%	L5	22%		

Mrs O’Keeffe helped us to analyse the results and populated them into our S.E.F. (School Evaluation Form). Following her advice we highlighted the positive trends.

Governors are aware that when looking at trend over time that the cohort in 2013 – 2014 was a small cohort of 17 children. Overall we achieved the combined floor target. (Outcomes for pupils)

- 1.4 The Local Authority have scrutinised the Attainment results and have categorised the school as 'universal' which means 'light touch' support. We received a positive letter from the Local Authority. (Outcomes for pupils)
- 1.5 All schools are now working hard to develop the best and most effective way to "assess without levels". As well as our own staff attending courses and updating training on 'Target Tracker', the Southern Area Family Cluster, of which we are active members, has organised collaborative meetings. All teachers are meeting collectively according to the year group they are in and together they are producing portfolios of writing samples which are assessed as emergent,  
expected,  
exceeding.  
Staff have found the meetings very helpful and confidence has been developed. (Quality of teaching, learning and assessment)
- 1.6 How are we driving Improvement?  
The following have been actioned or are embedded:-
- Reviewed half termly Timetables (detailed)
  - Reviewed half termly Provision Maps
  - On the sport weekly monitoring
  - Scrutiny of English books with children
  - Up-levelling writing – Whole School Approach
  - Up-levelling writing on display for children to use to help their improved writing in all classrooms
  - D.E.A.R. – "Drop Everything and Read" – embedded
  - Children read daily – to Teachers and Teaching Assistants
  - Weekly Spelling Test
  - Weekly teaching of spellings – "get it right"
  - Weekly comprehension
  - Weekly creative writing
  - Weekly S.P.A.G.
  - Whole school approach to embed "Problem Solving"
  - Marking has been reviewed – internal expertise shared
  - Continued internal moderation
  - All monitoring outcomes are shared with staff regularly and collectively – actions are immediate
  - Continued review of booster support/interventions. (Overall effectiveness; Quality of teaching, learning, assessment; Effectiveness of leadership and management)

- 1.7 Mrs Cawley has introduced and embedded a range of new initiatives in the Nursery all of which are having a positive impact upon staff planning, children's progress and the environment. A recent scrutiny of the children's Learning Journey Profiles by myself, Mrs Smith and Mrs McGuinness was a complete Joy. They are outstanding and so detailed. Thank you Mrs Cawley, keep up the excellent work! (Quality of teaching, learning, assessment)
- 1.8 Mrs Cassidy and Miss M Ryan have continued to ensure that the children receive a balance of the Early Years Curriculum as well as following our raising standards whole school approach. They have introduced more outdoor experiences for the children and have been very resourceful in funding their own storage solutions. The classroom is small and they always remain positive. Thank you to members of staff, keep up the enthusiasm. (Quality of teaching, learning, assessment)
- 1.9 We had two very busy inset days with full agendas at the end of the Summer Term. In addition to this some staff then came into school for an additional week to do planning and preparation. This is professional dedication and I would like to say a special thank you to those members of staff. (Outcomes for pupils)
- 1.10 The children in Year One successfully completed the Phonics test and this is showing an upward trend for standards. A very special thank you to Mrs Pimblett for her hard work and dedication. She has devised her own approach to teaching the children using "Aliens" – a super child friendly teaching strategy. (Quality of teaching, learning, assessment; Outcomes for pupils)
- 1.11 The current structure designed for this Year 6 cohort is working well and both Mrs Smith and Miss Allen plan every detail together. Both members of staff came into school during the half term to plan. There is consistency and high expectations. The classrooms environments are outstanding and "writing" is displayed everywhere. The children's progress is evident and a recent scrutiny of English books saw a wealth of content, some of the children's books are nearly full and it is only November! Keep up the excellent work Mrs Smith and Miss Allen and thank you. (Effectiveness of leadership and management; Quality of teaching, learning, assessment)
- 1.12 The current organisation of the lunch time is having a positive impact on the children's play. Lunch times are calmer and easier to manage. Thank you to

the kitchen staff and welfare ladies for their support in embedding the new system. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)

- 1.13 The children in Key Stage Two, Years 4, 5 and 6 have watched an Interactive Theatre production to help raise awareness of British Values; Respect; and Friendship. The children really enjoyed the live theatre and all talked about the messages they had learnt. A very special thank you to Mrs Sambor for organising the plays. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)
- 1.14 We recently had an 'Ambition Day' in school. The children thought about what they would like to be when they grow up and came to school dressed according to the occupation that they have chosen. Staff invited family members to come into school to talk to the children about their occupations; Governors, Parents and people from the local community came into school to speak to the children and answer questions. Some visitors were dressed in their work uniforms and brought in tools to show the children. The whole day was a huge success and inspirational for the children. We received many positive comments from the children and parents (some in written form) – it was a memorable day. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this day such a wonderful experience for the day and a very special thank you to Mrs Smith who thought of the idea; organised the day and made sure that everything went according to plan. (Outcomes for pupils)
- 1.15 I am delighted to highlight to Governors that two of our children achieved a level 6 for Maths at the end of Key Stage Two. This is a wonderful achievement for the children and also shows that we do have realistic high expectations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs McIntyre, who taught the level 6 curriculum to the children and made sure that everything was explained in a way that they could understand and apply. Mrs McIntyre inspires us all for Maths and we were delighted that both children entered achieved the level 6 – well done Mrs McIntyre and thank you.
- 1.16 The school has recently had an audit of all of the Finance. It is an intensive process and one which Mrs Clarke works extremely hard to manage. It was a new approach and we were the first school to be audited using it. Since our audit, all other schools have received information, guidance and training. We had not had any of the above. Despite this, the audit was successful and positive – this is entirely due to the hard work, dedication and professionalism of Mrs Clarke. A very special thank you to Mrs Clarke.

- 1.17 We have received very positive feedback from Hope University with regard to our support of students. *(Future quality of teaching and learning)*
- 1.18 Sport continues to have a high profile in school. The Sports Coaches are in school three days per week, teachers/teaching assistants are continuing C.P.D./assessing pupils' progress. Sports week is already being planned and a new after school club for gymnastics is being introduced (older pupils "teaching" younger pupils). All staff are enthusiastic and encourage all of the children to think about exercise, healthy lifestyles and competitive sport. A special thank you to Miss Morris who keeps track of the sport in school and the children's progress, she is always thinking about new initiatives to try. *(Quality of teaching and learning for pupils; Outcomes for pupils)*
- 1.19 Assessment continues to have a high profile in school thanks to all staff. Mrs McGuinness and Mrs Smith work tirelessly to compile reports using the data; they analyse and update staff and Governors and inform me throughout the year – it is a huge area of School Improvement and both members of staff are excellent. They continue to use their skills to moderate. Thank you to both.

## **2 Community Links/Community Cohesion**

- 2.1 The children in Key Stage two have all been out on school trips this term as part of our Cultural Programme: as follows –
- Year 6 - visited both Museums
  - Year 5 - visited both Art Galleries
  - Year 4 - visited both Cathedrals
  - Year 3 - visited Albert Dock and Crosby beach

The children had a wonderful time and were very chatty back in school about their day. I received wonderful comments from our own staff and staff at the venues about the children's behaviour. The children always enjoy trips and always show their best to the community. *(Personal development, behaviour and safety)*

- 2.2 The children are going to do little Christmas performances for their parents/carers. These are always enjoyable and well attended. The following performances will be:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1	Morning	School Hall
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3	Afternoon	School Hall
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception	Morning	Classroom

9 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6	Afternoon	School Hall
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 2	Morning	School Hall
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5	Afternoon	School Hall
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception	Morning	Classroom
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 4	Afternoon	School Hall

2.3 Breakfast Club/Early Morning Club continue to thrive and are always well attended. Mrs O’Keeffe was impressed that we also use it to reach out to specific families. Keep up the good work Mrs Sambor and Mrs Parker and thank you. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)

2.4 To help inform school priorities for the School Improvement Plan part of the process is to send parent questionnaires to parents/carers to seek their views. As Governors are aware this is done annually. The questionnaires returned were overwhelmingly positive and the following are suggestions as to how we can improve:-

- Classes to go straight into class each morning rather than lining up.
- First Holy Communion Party for the children
- Bookshop for Parents only – Christmas
- \*Gates to be closed at all times.
- \*Reduce the cost of After School Club.
- More books sent home.
- Homework to remain as frequent in the Summer term.

\*(After School Club is Little Treasures Private Carers and we have no influence on cost.

Gates closed at all times is complicated; we receive conflicting advice from Health and Safety, Security, Fire and Ambulance.) (Effectiveness of leadership and management)

### 3 School Environment

3.1 The outdoor environment of the Nursery has been completely redesigned and improved. I have received many positive comments from the parents, staff, Governors and most of all the children, it is a huge improvement. A very special thank you to Mrs Cawley, Miss Ashworth and Mrs Sambor for their meetings, planning and enthusiasm – making it happen! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Little Treasures staff for their partnership and collaboration throughout the whole process. (Outcomes for children; Effectiveness of leadership and management)

3.2 We have recently had a Health and Safety Inspection and a Fire Inspection, both of which went very well thanks to the hard work of Mr Clarke. He always

ensures that the documentation and preparation are meticulous. Keep up the excellent work Mr Clarke. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)

- 3.3 The school environment continues to look beautiful and organised. Visitors always comment on how clean the school is. A very special thank you to our cleaners who work hard to make the school 'shine'. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)

#### **4 Special Educational Needs**

- 4.1 Miss Morris and Miss J Ryan have scrutinised all S.E.N. files to ensure that the children in each class are being monitored and that their progress is being tracked. All I.E.P's are up to date and appropriate for the children. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare; Quality of teaching, learning and assessment)

#### **5 Staff Development/C.P.D.**

- 5.1 Staff continue to attend a range of courses which assist us in improving our skills and address school priorities.  
Two Day External Consultant visit – whole staff  
Religious Education coordinators meeting.  
Heads and Deputies Two day Conference.  
Target Tracker  
Writing – assessment without levels.  
S.E.N.C.O. Forum  
Reading Quality Mark.  
(Effectiveness of leadership and management)
- 5.2 Mrs Snape has settled into Year 4 with ease and has quickly adapted to the changes. Thank you Mrs Snape – keep up the good work.

#### **6 Religious Education**

- 6.1 Mrs Smith has produced a yearly plan for the monitoring of Religious Education. Staff have been given dates for
- Collection of evidence
  - Scrutiny of books
  - Assessment/tracking
  - Governor observations
  - Monitoring of focal points

This approach is now an embedded cycle thanks to Mrs Smith and has influenced the monitoring of other subjects. (Quality of teaching, learning and assessment)

- 6.2 Mrs Pimblett has attended the R.E. coordinators meeting for the Autumn Term which as always was very helpful. Mrs Pimblett disseminated the next key actions for us as a school. It is very important that we appropriately teach our children about relationships whilst at the same time protecting them as children. The Archdiocese has recommended the following resource to all schools “Journey in Love” – a book and c.d. We have ordered the resource and will plan how we introduce it. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare) Music in Religious Education always enhances and enriches the children’s spiritual experience. We have ordered a music c.d. by J. Burland which again has been recommended by the Archdiocese. Thank you Mrs Pimblett for ensuring that we are up to date with the latest current Religious Education thinking. (Quality of teaching, learning and assessment)
- 6.3 Mrs Smith and I met Father Michael to plan the Liturgical Year for the children. We appreciate very much Father Michael’s advice, encouragement and most of all understanding of school life.
- 6.4 The Year 3 children have visited Church and Father Michael helped the children reflect upon the rosary. The children as always were enthusiastic and keen to learn. Thank you to Father Michael and Mrs McIntyre for making this a memorable experience for the children. It was a super link to Come and See. (Quality of teaching, learning and assessment)
- 6.5 All of the children in Key Stage Two visited Church to reflect upon “All Souls”. Both the staff and children found this a very moving celebration, thank you Father Michael.
- 6.6 We celebrated St Leo’s fest day in school, starting with an assembly that reminded us all about St Leo the Great and also about Pope Francis. We used Cafod resources to help us. The children enjoyed the day – thank you to all who contributed.

As always the start of the new academic year has been busy and exciting. The children have already been on trips, taken part in Sport; Technology, Geography and Art Theme days as well as settling into their new classes. The new children in both the Nursery and Reception have settled with smiles; the Reception class is full again for the second year.

The children are enthusiastic learners and a pleasure to teach. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Governors for their time, challenge and support which is invaluable. Mrs Kelly continues to spend time in school weekly which is wonderful. I would like to thank the staff who are hard working, professional and taking on board, all actions from our rigorous monitoring programme. Thank you to Mrs Clarke, who as always is professional, calm and organised. Thank you to Mrs Smith, I could not do my job without her. Thank you to Mrs Hewitt who is so patient with me and ensures that I always have the typed documentation that I need, on time with a quiet smile.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember Maureen Funnell, who was the secretary for St Leo's School for many years and has recently died. When I first became the Headteacher she was so kind to me and very patient. We had many "giggles" together and I also knew when Maureen was annoyed – she called a "spade a spade!" We will always remember Maureen and will keep her and her family in our prayers.

Rest in peace Maureen.

I hope that Governors have found this Report both informative and a celebration of the school.

Thank you

A very proud, happy, Headteacher

Jeanette Grundy