

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT SPRING 2016

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 I am delighted to report to Governors that we have received 'Silver' status for Reading Quality in our school. This was the result of a thorough Inspection of reading and how we encourage the children to develop their skills and their enthusiasm for reading. We now have a Silver Status Reading Quality Mark which can go on our letter headed paper. As a Southern Area Collaborative we agreed that every primary school would apply for the assessment. Most schools requested that this be delayed to enable them to have the time to prepare for the assessment. We decided that we wanted to be one of the first schools in the Collaborative to go through this process as we wanted it to be both reaffirming and developmental. The feedback we received was very positive (please see your copy of the report) stating that we were a silver school with many elements of Gold. In order to improve we need to develop the involvement of the children e.g. the role of the reading champions, which the assessor acknowledged that we had made an excellent start. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children, parents and staff who always show their enthusiasm for reading and how important it is in our school. I would like to thank Miss Allen who has led and managed the whole process, delivering whole school staff meetings; collating evidence, informing the parents and directing us all. Her calm, professional approach inspired us all. Miss Allen is already leading us towards "Gold". I would also like to thank Mrs Delaney and Miss Swatton who represented the Governors. They were interviewed/questioned/challenged, by the assessor about reading in our school. She was full of praise for such Governor awareness and involvement. As always your dedication to the school is invaluable. *(Effectiveness of Leadership and Management; Outcomes for pupils.)*

1.2 The Local Authority have identified schools in Knowsley who are due an Ofsted Inspection of which we are one of those schools. As a result we had an "Ofsted Readiness Health Check". Mrs Irene Howard, School Improvement Officer carried out the process and we found it very informative. Mrs Howard was delighted that the Governors had already been pro active in that we had recently been through a two day similar process with an external consultant who was herself a lead Inspector. We were able to show Mrs Howard how we were actioning the recommendations that we had been given. She scrutinised our evidence and agreed with our Self Evaluation that we were currently a Very Good school. Mrs Howard's feedback to us was that at leadership level we should not be content with this but should now be showing how we are aiming to improve and become an Outstanding school. As a staff we have already looked at the grade descriptions as a help and have begun to identify what we can do to

continually improve. Action plans are being reviewed and updated.

(Effectiveness of Leadership and Management)

- 1.3 We are continuing to challenge ourselves with on the spot monitoring. My most recent visits to classes saw all children engaged in their learning and staff were following timetables. When the children were questioned their responses varied. Some of the children clearly understood their learning and how they could improve it, but this was not consistent throughout. Feedback has been given to staff and we are continuing to focus on the children's understanding. I have been hearing children read and have been having dialogue with them about the work in their English books. Again, the children's answers were very informative about what work they had found easy/difficult, and their understanding of teachers' marking. I have given feedback to the teachers and will continue this model of monitoring/scrutiny as advised by Mrs Sheila O'Keeffe. I would like to thank the staff for their positive cooperation with this monitoring approach as it proves how dedicated, professional and determined to continue to improve that they are.
- (Quality of teaching and learning; Outcomes for pupils.)

- 1.4 Attendance continues to have a high profile in our school. Our aim continues to be that every child achieves 100% attendance and data is showing an upward trend. I am delighted to report to Governors that 79 children have achieved 100% attendance for the autumn term and received an attendance medal. We have shared positive information with the parents but have also raised awareness of fixed penalty fines. Mrs Sambor continues to liaise with the E.W.O. highlighting children/families who are causing concern and together producing action plans. She also ensures that positive initiatives are implemented the latest being a "Hero Walk!" As always thank you to Mrs Sambor for her enthusiasm and dedication.

- 1.5 As a Collaborative we have purchased a tool kit called 'Arbor' which provides detailed reports e.g. Overall Performance Summary. They are very informative and easy to read. We can use the 'Arbor' reports alongside our own Self Review Monitoring; Raise on Line; F.F.T. and the Inspection Dashboard all of which help us to identify the priorities for our school. We have used the Arbor reports to plan collaborative actions as follows:-
- Cross Moderation of Writing
 - C.P.D. Maths
- This will help us as a school address our specific priorities.
- Our school priorities are:-
- (School 83% National 88%) pupils achieving level 4 or above in Writing.
 - (School 83% National 88%) pupils achieving level 4 or above in Maths

- Closing the Gap.

We are now no longer using levels as a measure of attainment and instead are using

Emerging; Expected, Exceeding, Mastery.

The cross moderation of writing as a collaborative is doing so using the above criteria.

Curriculum Governors have scrutinised the 'Arbor' report, which will now become an effective element of our Assessment programme. (Outcomes for children, Quality of teaching, learning and assessment)

- 1.6 Mrs Pimblett has observed English and Maths throughout the school providing individual feedback and actions. She has taken on the role of Middle Management with confidence and professionalism putting into practice everything that she has learnt on the Middle Management course. Her contributions to the continued improvement of the school are forward thinking and practical, ensuring that actions happen and have impact. Thank you Mrs Pimblett for the excellent work that you are doing. (Effectiveness of Leadership and Management; Quality of teaching, learning and assessment)
- 1.7 Reaching out to parents and ensuring that they are fully informed has always been important in our school. Recently there have been changes to assessment and tests. Mrs McGuinness organised and delivered two meetings, one for the parents of Year 2 and another for the parents of Year 6. She produced information packs for the parents to take away at the end of the meeting after presenting a power point, answering questions and discussing ways that they could help their children at home. Mrs McGuinness also gave individual meetings for the parents who could not attend due to work commitments. The feedback from the parents in their evaluations was positive and they also commented on how helpful and informative the meetings had been verbally. Thank you Mrs McGuinness for your determination to raise standards of attainment in school and ensure that our children achieve their full potential. (Outcomes for pupils)
- 1.8 The Remodelling of the Key Stage Two department (Two classrooms – Stage One) has provided an opportunity for us to be strategic and forward thinking and address :-
- Increasing applications for reception class by parents.
 - Reception lunch time organisation.
 - 'Reception readiness'
 - Confirmed Nursery provision by parents.
 - Year One readiness.

- Continued partnership with Little Treasures having more room and space to work together.

It will enable –

- Extended Year 4 classroom
- New large Year 3 classroom
- Year 2 to move to current Year 3 room
- Year 1 to move to current Year 2 room
- Reception to move to current Year 1 room.
- Nursery to move to current Reception room with continued partnership with Little Treasures.

We will use the two Inset days in July to make the physical move but we are currently planning the positive opportunities for transition, and team teaching now. . *(Effectiveness of Leadership and Management; Quality of teaching, learning and assessment; Outcomes for pupils)*

1.9 Our own Self Review Process continues to be at the core of everything that we do but it is equally important to seek external views. To date we have had

- Two day external Consultant (lead Ofsted Inspector)
- Ofsted Readiness check by the Local Authority
- Visit from Archdiocesan Officer
- Cross Moderation of writing for every year group with all schools in the Southern Area Family Cluster
- Moderation by the Local Authority.

In addition to the above we have now begun a 'Peer review' programme as part of the Southern Area Collaborative.

The Headteachers and Deputy Headteachers attended a full day of training which will involve us challenging each other and assisting each other in School Improvement. It is always excellent practice to support and challenge each other and we are looking forward to being a part of this programme. *(Overall effectiveness; Effectiveness of Leadership and Management)*

1.10 Environment of the curriculum is embedded as a whole school; to date we have had themed days for History, Geography and Art. Portfolios of evidence have been produced and are excellent examples of evidence of what has been taught and what the children have learnt. Assessment tracking sheets are completed in line with our new approach and there is still a little inconsistency which coordinators are addressing. *(Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment)*

1.11 In response to parents' requests we had our first Parent Book Shop. As Governors are aware there is no book shop in the local area which makes it

difficult for our parents to buy appropriate, quality books for their children to read. It was very well attended and Mrs Parry sold many books. It was wonderful to see the parents buying whole sets of books as Christmas presents for their children. A huge thank you to Mrs Parry for doing weekly bookshop for the children, for doing the first parent bookshop and for her invaluable contribution to us achieving 'Silver Quality Mark for Reading'.

(Outcomes for pupils)

- 1.12 Sport continues to have a high profile in school e.g. the children recently took part in an after school Athletics Competition and came third. The children were delighted and very proud. Miss Morris is currently organising an after school Cross Country Club with local schools which would not only develop sporting skills but would also improve stamina/fitness. We also have a group of very skilled children in gymnastics – Miss Morris is organising a club for them to have time to practice and improve as well as demonstrate to younger children – “gymnastic champions!” A special thank you to Miss Morris for her enthusiasm and dedication.

The Sports Coaches continue to be very popular with the children who enthusiastically greet them both in P.E. lessons, at lunch times and at after school clubs. They are aware of the impending building programme and are currently planning “alternative” P.E. A special thank you to the coaches for their patience and understanding. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare; Outcomes for pupils; Quality of teaching, learning and assessment)

- 1.13 Performance Management is up to date and staff are currently working towards achieving their objectives all of which are linked to School Improvement and standards. Mrs Smith has introduced Performance Management for the Teaching Assistants which has given them the opportunity to discuss their roles, ambitions and their contribution to raising standards. (Effectiveness of Leadership and Management)

- 1.14 We have introduced 'Outdoor Orienteering' to the curriculum using our own school grounds. Staff have all been trained and as soon as Weather permits will begin to incorporate it into Geography and P.E. The course leader praised the staff for their enthusiasm and positive approach. Thank you to everyone who took part. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)

- 1.15 As always a very special thank you to Governors who are able to spend time in school – representing the full Governing Body. All external visitors to the school have been impressed with such a level of commitment. A special thank you to Mrs Kelly, Mrs Delaney, Mrs Holmes and Miss Swatton who have been invaluable both supporting us and challenging us. (Effectiveness of Leadership and Management)

- 1.16 Mrs Pimblett organised for the Year One children to visit Hope University and take part in a Reading day. The children really enjoyed this experience and all arrived back in school stating that they all wanted to go to University – it was wonderful to see and hear their enthusiasm – we will ensure that we build upon this as they move through school. Thank you Mrs Pimblett for sowing the seeds of ambition early. *(Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment; Outcomes for children)*
- 1.17 Mrs Snape has settled into Year Four with ease and is doing an excellent job as predicted. She already had relationships with the children and their parents and is delighted to see for herself how much progress they have made. It is not easy changing age groups and I had wrongly thought that Mrs Snape would find some aspects difficult but I was wrong. She has a calm, professional manner and the children are making excellent progress. Well done Mrs Snape – keep up the excellent work.
- 1.18 I am delighted to inform Governors that we are now taking part in ‘Children’s University’ – which will assist us in developing the children’s skills, ambitions and social communication. Miss J Ryan has volunteered to lead this programme which will ensure that the children receive certificates and take part in a range of after school clubs. A very special thank you to Miss Ryan for stepping into this role with such enthusiasm, we are all grateful to her and I know that she will do an excellent job as always. *(Outcomes for children)*
- 1.19 The Nursery has been completely reviewed thanks to Mrs Cawley. She has led her team and has introduced a new approach to planning, organisation, assessment, display, portfolios, learning journey evidence and it is all outstanding. All external visitors have been very impressed with her knowledge of Early Years practice and the changes she has introduced. Thank you Mrs Cawley, keep up the excellent work. Thank you Mrs Sambor and Miss Ashworth for making sure that these new changes have been implemented so positively. *(Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment; Outcomes for pupils)*
- 1.20 The Computing Curriculum has been given a high profile thanks to Mrs McIntyre who has organised and overseen workshops delivered by the City Learning Centre Technicians for Key Stage One and Two classes. The children have worked for a day exploring and learning:-
- Year 1 - Making E books using book creator
 - Year 2 - A beginner’s guide to Scratch
 - Year 3 - Using Scratch and making information books using book creator
 - Year 4 - Controlling Simulation using Mine craft

Year 5 - Advanced programming using Scratch

Year 6 - Advanced programming and Debugging using Scratch.

Each teacher has collated evidence of the children's work and the children have really enjoyed the workshop day. Mrs McIntyre believes that spending a whole day enables the children to really explore and learn in the Computing lesson. Thank you Mrs McIntyre the children have made excellent progress in Computing because of your hard work. (Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment)

- 1.21 Our Every Minute of Every Day programme means that the Teaching Assistants need to be flexible, adaptable and be able to work with different age groups. The impact has a direct effect on the booster support and pastoral support that we can provide for the children. I am delighted to report to Governors that our Teaching Assistants now have varied experience, are confident and very skilled – thank you Miss Ashworth, Miss M Ryan, Miss Audley, Mrs Parker, Mrs Barton, Mrs Lewin, Mrs Lyon, Miss J Ryan – keep up the excellent work. (Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment)

2 Community Links/Cohesion/Reaching out to Parents/Carers

- 2.1 It seems quite a while ago now but I am pleased to report to Governors that the Christmas performances by the children were wonderful and very well received by the parents. I don't know of any other school in Knowsley in which every class does a Christmas performance; every child in the whole school has a part and parents/carers, family and friends do not need to have tickets. The children are always proud of themselves and develop new skills when performing drama for an audience. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)
- 2.2 The Choir enjoyed singing at Henley Park and Chapel Brook. We received lovely positive feedback from members of the community who attended the events and some people insisted on giving us a donation for our school fund. Thank you to the staff who helped transport the children and a special thank you to Miss Allen who organised the singing. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)
- 2.3 The children designed their own Christmas Cards which created a wonderful Art Exhibition and also raised £305 for School Funds. The parents always support this initiative by buying the children's cards and the children are always delighted to see their own artwork produced into actual cards. I

would like to thank Mrs Pimblett for her hard work in organising this which takes a lot of time. (Outcomes for pupils)

2.4 Breakfast Club and Early Morning Club continue to thrive and are both very valued by the parents/carers who use them. As always it is a lovely positive start to the day for the children, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Mrs Sambor and Mrs Parker. (Outcomes for pupils; personal development, behaviour and welfare)

2.5 I am regularly showing potential (and current) parents around the school who are seeking places for their children. This year has seen a marked increase. It is always lovely to hear what they say as they are being shown around as they positively comment on the atmosphere, displays and behaviour of the children. The most recent parents informed me that the school is very highly regarded in the community and has a very positive reputation. Thanks to the children, staff, parents and Governors we are now attracting interest and choice which is wonderful. (Overall effectiveness of the school)

3 School Environment

3.1 Due to an unexpected flood in the Nursery, it had to be closed in order to ensure that it was safe and dry for the children. This was also an unexpected inconvenience at short notice for the parents/carers who were very patient and understanding. The staff as always remained positive and used this incident as an opportunity to sort the nursery resources and reorganise the environment. They worked hard and managed to make the nursery look beautiful and inviting in a very short amount of time. I would like to thank Mrs Cawley, Mrs Sambor, Miss Ashworth and Miss Audley for their hard work, dedication and positive smiles. (Outcomes for children; personal development, behaviour and welfare)

3.2 We continue to have many visitors to the school for various reasons but consistently when I am showing them around the school they always comment on how clean and well looked after the environment is for the children. This is thanks to all of the staff and especially the cleaners who make sure that the school always looks beautiful. (Outcomes for children)

3.3 The Grounds Maintenance Team have begun to prune the trees in the school grounds. The trees by the railings of the infant playground were overgrown and blocking the public walking path alongside it especially during the summer months when branches were hanging over. The Team have saved the school a huge amount of money which would have had to come out of the School Budget. Many thanks to them for their help and support.

- 3.4 There are parts of both the school (Nursery and the Children's Centre (Little Treasures) which are open for the children very early and are used after school has finished. It would not be possible for the cleaners to clean these areas if it were not for the voluntary time that Mr Clarke gives to the school every day. He opens both buildings at 7 O'clock in the morning despite this not being his working hours. Thank you Mr Clarke for your dedication, time and above/beyond the call of duty enthusiasm.
- 3.5 Mrs MacDonald Holmes and Mr Holmes are currently helping to improve the outdoor area in the Early Years department. They have used the children's ideas; have discussed the ideas with staff and have engaged support from outside business. A huge thank you to both of them for their support and for their invaluable time which is priceless. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)
- 3.6 I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Cassidy and Miss M Ryan for their help, support and patience providing lunch time for the Reception children. They have set up the room accordingly, distributed the lunch for the children, tested the temperature of the food and cleaned the classroom afterwards every day. Both members of staff have put the children's needs first and have given extra with a positive smile. The move to the school building will mean that this will no longer be needed and will enable Mrs Cassidy and Miss Ryan to do other things – but thank you to them both for their care of the children. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)

4 Staff Development/C.P.D.

- 4.1 Staff continue to attend a range of courses which link directly to raising standards, School Improvement, Safeguarding and Leadership.
 Cross Moderation of writing – sharing good practice.
 Maths - Year group teaching
 Maths - Teaching Assistants
 Maths - Shanghai/Singapore practice
 Moderation - Year 2, Year 6
 Early Years Network
 Defibrillator Training
 Peer review
 Religious Education Coordinators
 R.E.
 Learning Mentor Network
 S.E.N.
 Reading Quality Mark

P.E.
Deputy Heads Forum
Safeguarding Refresher
Safeguarding
Prevent on Line
Prevent Training
Clerks Conference
Administration/Finance
Outdoor Orienteering.

- 4.2 Miss Audley is now working in Year 4 as well as Early Years. This is excellent C.P.D. and experience for her. She has quickly settled into her broadened role. Well done to her. (Effectiveness of Leadership and Management)
- 4.3 Maths and Writing are both priorities for standards in our school. The Southern Area Collaborative have organised Cross Moderation of Writing and Maths Training for every year group. This will have a direct, positive impact on standards. (Outcomes for children)

5 **Staffing**

- 5.1 In order to provide continued booster support for the Year 6 children we have been extremely fortunate to have Mrs Stevens who has been outstanding and continues to give above and beyond the call of duty. (Outcomes for pupils)

6 **Safeguarding**

- 6.1 I have completed safeguarding refresher training which was very informative and as a result updated actions have been implemented. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)
- 6.2 Mrs Smith has completed Leadership Safeguarding Training, which is intensive and invaluable. It is important that safeguarding has the highest profile within the school at Leadership level. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)
- 6.3 Encompass Child has been extremely informative in assisting us to help vulnerable children in our school. I can report to Governors that this initiative is active and is an opportunity for the Police to share invaluable information with us. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)

- 6.4 All staff have completed On line 'Prevent' training. Both Mrs Smith and I have completed further training. We must ensure that we are aware of any signs that may lead to radicalisation. We must ensure that the children are safe. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare)

7 Religious Education

- 7.1 Mrs Pimblett and Mrs Smith continue to attend Religious Education Coordinator meetings and disseminate information to us at briefing meetings. They have led staff meetings and have ensured that the yearly monitoring programme has gone according to plan. Thank you Mrs Pimblett and Mrs Smith keep up the excellent work. (Effectiveness of Leadership and Management)
- 7.2 Religious Education lessons have been observed and feedback has been given to staff with actions to implement. Staff have been sharing good practice. (Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment)
- 7.3 'Journey in Love' implementation is a priority for our school. We have further planned staff meetings to plan collectively and to enable us to have ownership of the scheme. We are introducing it to the Early Years, followed by Key Stage One and then Key Stage Two in the summer term. It is important that our children understand appropriately positive relationships. . (Personal development, behaviour and welfare; Outcomes for pupils)
- 7.4 As Governors are aware, Father Michael now works in two parishes which he has to balance accordingly. We fully understand how busy he is and thank him for his continued support. Most recently he has helped us with Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross and Sacramental preparation in Year 4. The children are always delighted to see him and contribute enthusiastically to visits to church. Thank you Father Michael for your help and encouragement.
- 7.5 The staff are working hard to celebrate the 'Year of Mercy' with the children. They have created a beautiful display and the children most recently brought in various items of food to donate to the local Food Bank. The generosity of their parents was overwhelming. Mrs Pimblett delivered the food in her own time – a special thank you to her.
- 7.6 We are due to have a monitoring visit for Religious Education on 15th March. The purpose of the monitoring is to reaffirm good practice and is also developmental. We will take on board any advice given/future actions. (Quality of teaching, learning and assessment; Outcomes for children' Effectiveness of leadership and management).

As always it has been a very busy, exciting term. Staff have been attending courses; children have been out and about on trips and have taken part enthusiastically in theme days/weeks. At the same time we have continued to challenge ourselves with on the sport monitoring, book scrutiny, learning conversations with the children and engagement with outside agencies. Numbers of children are increasing more this year than ever before and we are about to embark on a major building programme – the school continues to grow and improve. This would not be possible if it were not for your dedication, challenge and support as Governors. We are extremely grateful to you all and appreciate how lucky we are to have you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Smith who is a wonderful deputy head teacher in every way and clearly a future Headteacher – I would not be able to lead/manage this school without her skilful, diplomatic support.

Thank you to Mrs Clarke, your calm, professionalism and pastoral support are invaluable to me and especially your patience.

Thank you Mrs Hewitt for your continued support with the endless documentation that needs sorting, typing and distributing.

This is a wonderful school and a complete privilege to be the Headteacher of it.

Thank you to all

Jeanette Grundy.