

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT SUMMER 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 As Governors are aware, we requested to be members of the L.A. Network to help us to continually improve as a school. This has enabled us to work with other schools outside of the collaborative and also enabled us to ask for a consultant to come into school for the day to observe Teaching and Learning. At the end of the day Mrs Howard shared the strengths of the school and the areas that we should focus on more – as follows:-

Strengths

1. The atmosphere of the school was very pastoral towards the children. The behaviour and safety of the pupils was obvious and the children praised the school.
2. Teacher's subject knowledge of writing and how to "up-level" it was evident throughout and therefore consistent.
3. Learning resources and prompts to enable further learning were evident throughout the school.
4. A beautiful environment for the children to learn in – displays linked to a range of subjects.
5. Lessons observed were good and Key Stage One was very good. Real potential for all – staff expertise clearly evident.

Areas to focus on/weaknesses

- To develop modelling of children's writing re use of visualisers – to show high standards and why.
- Develop 'Every Minute of Every Day' with the Teaching Assistants.
- In two classes – more probing questioning.
- Develop Target Mondays – Time to practice what marking has identified.

The above has really helped us and has endorsed what we know about our school. We have really focused on the particular areas identified and have linked it to our monitoring/moderation process for the rest of this term.

(Effectiveness of Leadership and Management)

- 1.2 To continue the process of self review, we have commissioned at the request of Governors, an Ofsted Inspector, Sheelagh O'Keefe to spend two days with us in the Autumn term. Mrs O'Keefe will also observe Teaching and Learning; will check on our progress of the above and will assist Governors. All of this will be invaluable to us and assist us in continually improving/raising standards for the children. It will give us an additional external view of our "strengths and weaknesses." *(Effectiveness of Leadership and Management)*

- 1.3 Our Monitoring/Raising Standards Action Plan has incorporated Moderation days with feedback/challenge being given to staff; scrutiny of books, observations of Teaching and Learning, listening to children read. Data has been compiled and shared with Governors at the Curriculum Committee, at which we have analysed, with the Assessment Coordinators, our progress towards Targets set. We are now awaiting S.A.T's results and the results of internal tests for Years 3, 4 and 5 – all of which will help us complete an analysis and future actions for the School Improvement Plan/Pupil Premium use, - to continue our drive to raise standards. (Quality of teaching, and learning and assessment. Outcomes for pupils.)
- 1.4 Reading for Pleasure has always had a high profile in our school which is why Book Shop continues to be so popular with the children and their parents. Each week the children look forward to buying books of their choice, and are happy to talk about why they have chosen that book. Thank you Mrs Parry for making this happen, it is a wonderful enrichment of the reading experiences that our children have in school and is positively impacting upon the children's enjoyment and fluency of reading throughout the school. The staff have recently given the library an overhaul to 'freshen it up'. Staff gave freely of their own time and worked hard to make the library look exciting and attractive – which it now does! Thank you to all staff who made this happen. (Outcomes for pupils.)
- 1.5 Linking to the above we now want to apply for the "Reading Quality Mark" which will acknowledge what we do in school to promote reading. The process requires the gathering of evidence and proof of impact, but we are confident that we can show this. Miss Allen is the school 'Reading Champion' and has attended the training. She is now currently leading the staff and is producing an Action Plan, ensuring that the necessary steps are taken for us to be successful. Thank you Miss Allen, to gain the quality mark will be positive recognition for our school and at the same time will celebrate our high profile of reading. It will ensure that every child continues to positively experience reading. (Outcomes for pupils.)
- 1.6 The Early Years profile and assessment was recently moderated by the Local Authority. The Local Authority were satisfied with the evidence provided and endorsed our assessments of the children. The dialogue which takes place about each child's progress is invaluable and provides an external view/challenge. Thank you Mrs Cassidy and Miss Ryan and well done! (Quality of teaching, and learning and assessment.)

- 1.7 Enriching the curriculum continues to be a priority in school as it enables the children to learn in a different way. We recently used “Play in a day” to help develop the children’s speaking and listening skills. The children learnt about the play ‘Macbeth’; acted and performed it for their parents, the children and visitors. The children’s feedback was very positive about the whole day, as was the feedback from the parents. The children listened well and did speak enthusiastically, more importantly confidently –which parents noticed. (Outcomes for pupils. Personal development, behaviour and welfare.)
- 1.8 As above, we also invited a Theatre Company into school to perform “Alice in Wonderland” – in the version of a play. This enabled our children to experience a well known book being performed as an alternative to the popular film version. The experience promoted discussion and motivated writing/reading. Overall a positive enhancement to Teaching and Learning. (Outcomes for pupils.)
- 1.9 As Governors are aware we have completed our own Pilot Model using our own staff expertise, strengths and sharing of good practice i.e.:-
Mrs McIntyre teaching level 6 Maths to Year 6 children.
Mrs Snape teaching Science to Year 3 children.
Mrs McGuinness teaching English to Year 3 children.
Mrs McIntyre teaching Computing to Year 2 children.
Mrs Smith teaching R.E. to Year 4 children.
Miss Allen teaching Music to Year 6 children.
I would like to thank all staff for this ‘in-house’ continual professional development. In addition to this staff have also observed each other to ensure continuity of planning and teaching delivery. (Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.)
- 1.10 We have recently had another successful Sports Week thanks to Miss Morris and the staff. Miss Morris organised a range of sport activities e.g. Basketball, Skipping, Tag rugby, Football, Ice skating whilst at the same time promoting a healthy life style. Staff were encouraged to provide a range of cross curricular learning and each prepared a portfolio of evidence. Since we have moved away from the traditional “Sports Day”, Sports Week has continued to develop each year. More children “have a go”, personal bests are improved and competition is experienced. Well done to all who made Sports Week another success. (Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.)
- 1.11 Mrs Smith and Mrs McGuinness have continued to be moderators for the Local Authority. They have moderated a number of schools. This is

invaluable School Improvement for ourselves because both members of staff challenge, support and guide staff back at our school. Our own good practice is reaffirmed and fresh ideas are shared. Our own internal moderation also assists Teacher Assessment and levelling of the children's work both of which are vital for target setting/moving the children on to their next steps of learning. A special thank you to both staff.

(Effectiveness of Leadership and Management; Outcomes for pupils.)

1.12 Mrs Smith and Miss J Ryan have introduced Accelerated Reading to the Year 5 and 6 children. Both members of staff attended training, ordered and organised resources and delivered it enthusiastically. Already the impact upon the children's reading development can be measured positively. It links directly to our Senior School who also use Accelerated Reading therefore enabling a seamless transition. We will continue to use this scheme as it has already proven to raise standards in reading. *(Outcomes for pupils.)*

1.13 We continue to find ways to enhance the curriculum and provide the children with a range of learning opportunities that inspire them. Most recently Mrs McIntyre and Mrs Pimblett organised and arranged for our children to spend a day in the Jaguar Plant. The children had a wonderful time and at the same time witnessed for themselves the value of learning and having ambition. It was first hand, excellent, inspiration with a range of jobs, skills, designs and discussion all provided for the children. A special thank you to Mrs Pimblett and Mrs McIntyre. *(Personal development, behaviour and welfare, Outcomes for pupils.)*

1.14 Computing now has a high profile on the curriculum and thanks to Mrs McIntyre our local City Learning Centre has been in school providing various workshops for the children and staff, all of which have been enjoyed by the children. The children are confident using computers and are enthusiastic to learn more, they have recently made their own E books – very impressive. *(Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.)*

1.15 Our Year 6 children worked very hard and tried their best to do the S.A.T's. As a reward for hard work and determination Mrs Smith asked the children what they would like to do, the result of which was to have a day of camping; cooking their own food outside; songs and games. The children had a wonderful, memorable time of fun and learning. Thank you to Mrs Smith, Miss J Ryan and Mrs Sambor for organising and delivering this special day. *(Outcomes for pupils.)*

1.16 The Key Stage One raising standards plan has had a positive impact upon progress, standards and attainment. Thanks to Mrs Pimblett and Mrs McGuinness, the Year 1 phonics and Year 2 S.A.T's were delivered in an efficient, child friendly way. Both members of staff work very closely together and Key Stage One has been endorsed as a strength of the school. Both members of staff plan for the Teaching Assistants to provide booster support to accelerate the children's learning. A special thank you to Mrs Parker, Mrs Lewin, Mrs Nolan and Mrs Barton who all make our 'Every Minute of Every Day Programme' happen and work. A special thank you to Mrs Lyon who has supported children in Key Stage One, Key Stage Two and the Nursery. *(Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.)*

1.17 Governor support and challenge continues to be embedded in our School Improvement thanks to Mrs Kelly who continues to spend two days per week in school, representing the full Governing Body. *(Effectiveness of Leadership and Management)*

2 Community Links/Community Cohesion

2.1 Fifteen years ago, when I became the Headteacher of St Leo's School, it was vertically grouped throughout as follows, R/1, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6. Numbers were low and children had left the school. The school was vulnerable of closure. I am delighted that the school is now in a very different position; there is no vertical grouping with a separate class for each year group. We received 35 applications for 30 places in Reception for the approaching academic year and I have had to attend Appeals – which was a new learning experience for me. The reputation of the school is now a positive one in the community thanks to the parents, children, staff and Governors – all of whom have had a positive impact upon the improvement of the school in all areas i.e. Curriculum, Building, Finance and Personnel. The Junior department is about to be remodelled because of the growth in numbers. *(Overall effectiveness.)*

2.2 I am delighted to inform Governors that three of our children recently entered a "Nature Competition" and won! The children each received certificates and prizes as well as nature resources for our school. Well done children! *(Personal development, behaviour and welfare)*

2.3 Our Year 6 children were recently on Radio Merseyside live to take part in a competition/quiz against the Radio Merseyside presenter. It was a wonderful experience for our staff and children because the broadcast was recorded in the Year 6 classroom and enabled the children to see exactly how it is all

done. The importance of speaking and listening was demonstrated to the children in an exciting way. I am pleased to inform the Governors that the children won the quiz. Well done to the children and thank you to Mrs Smith, Miss J Ryan, and Miss Allen for organising this experience.

(Outcomes for pupils.)

- 2.4 Breakfast Club and Early Morning Club continue to be an essential support for our parents/carers. It provides a very valued service and at the same time a lovely, positive start for the day for the children who use it. Punctuality and behaviour are both improved because the children are in school early and have the opportunity to play/talk to friends. Thank you Mrs Sambor and Mrs Parker for providing a positive start to the day for the children.

(Personal development, behaviour and welfare.)

- 2.5 As Governors are aware we have used some of the Pupil Premium Funding to focus Family Learning on the Foundation Stage. As the moderation of the Foundation Stage was positive, with an upward trend in results it makes sense to continue with this model. The workshops have been very well attended by parents/carers, some of whom have gone on to further their studies, which is wonderful. The workshops have been as follows;-

Maths

English

Craft

Learning through play

I.C.T. skills.

The workshops have also enabled parents/carers to help and support each other which isn't always possible to quantify for data but is invaluable. The parents have put into practice what they have learnt with their children which in turn is positively affecting the outcomes for the children.

(Outcomes for pupils; Personal development, behaviour and welfare.)

- 2.6 We have organised summer trips for the children which will provide some future happy memories of times spent together out of school:-

Reception - Underwater Street – Physical and Personal development.

Year 1 - Safari Park – Geography – Animals, habitat conservation.

Year 2 - Legoland – Design Technology – Model making.

Year 3 - Tatton Park – Geography – Environment.

Year 4 - Apple Jacks – P.E. – Outward bound skills.

Year 5 - Crosby Lakeside – P.E. – Outdoor adventure skills.

Year 6 - The Chill Factor – P.E. - Skiing.

(Outcomes for pupils; Personal development, behaviour and welfare.)

- 2.7 We will be asking the parents to complete feedback questionnaires to seek their views about all aspects of school life. We will then use this information as part of the development of the next School Improvement Plan. On parent's night and in the last newsletter we encouraged all parents to complete Parent View. It is essential that we know how the parents view the school. (Overall effectiveness)

3 School Environment

- 3.1 The Nursery and Little Treasures staff have collectively reviewed and planned a new design for the outdoor provision that we provide. The ideas encompass a variety of learning opportunities and experiences for the children which will enhance what is already there. Thank you Little Treasures staff; Mrs Cawley, Mrs Snape, Mrs Sambor, Miss Ashworth, Mrs Lyon and Mrs Stevens. (Outcomes for pupils, Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.)
- 3.2 The Grounds Maintenance Team have also completed work to improve the outdoor of the Foundation Stage by creating new and refreshed plant areas. It was initially supervised by Robert Allen but he has now left the authority, his replacement is coming to see me to continue the good work.
- 3.3 We are having a Health and Safety Audit on 8th July. A special thank you to Mr Clarke for his hard work in preparing for the Inspection and making sure that all of the paperwork needed is ready. Throughout the year Mr Clarke always makes sure that the school is safe and secure for the children, staff and visitors. (Personal development, behaviour and welfare.)
- 3.4 Visitors to school always comment on how clean, tidy and fresh the school looks. This is always lovely to hear but does not happen by accident, everyone in school contributes to how lovely the environment looks but a special thank you to the cleaning ladies who keep the school sparkling and clean. (Overall effectiveness)
- 3.5 Mrs Sambor has used funding creatively to encourage physical activity at an early age and there begin to develop positive life style choices to avoid later obesity. We now have a lovely 'Pirate Ship', See-Saw and Boat on the Nursery site. The children are thoroughly enjoying using them and it has been reported to me that their language development has already improved as a result. (Outcome for children)

4 Special Educational Needs

- 4.1 We currently have three children who have an Educational Health Care Plan/Statement. Two of the children are transferring to Special Schools in September where their needs can be more appropriately met. We will miss both children very much but wish them well and are sure that they will achieve their full potential in their new settings. (Outcome for children, Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.)
- 4.2 We currently have one child with a draft Educational Health Care Plan and have just applied for another child. This is to ensure that we can meet both of the children's needs both educationally and pastorally. (Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.)
- 4.3 Miss Morris and Miss J Ryan have attended Planning and Review meetings; monitored S.E.N. files; delivered reading programmes designed to accelerate progress; and have liaised with outside agencies all of which have proven to positively impact on staff awareness and the children's progress who have been identified as having S.E.N. Thank you to both members of staff for ensuring that S.E.N. continues to have a high profile in school. (Outcomes for pupils)
- 4.4 We have two children transferring to Special School in September. Mrs Snape and Mrs Stevens have taken both children to visit and spend time in their new schools, ensuring a smooth transition. Thank you to both members of staff. (Outcomes for children)

5 Staff Development/C.P.D.

- 5.1 Staff have attended a range of courses throughout the year which have linked to School Improvement Priorities and our focus on Raising Standards:-
Network Schools
Moderation
Early Years
First Aid
English
Maths
Maths Level 6
R.E.
Assessment
I.C.T.
Clerk to Governors
Financial Management

Accelerated Reading
S.E.N.
Safeguarding
Cross Moderation / scrutiny of books with other schools
Reading – Quality Mark
P.E. and Sport
Deputy Headteachers Forum
Learning Mentors Forum
(Effectiveness of leadership and management)

5.2 The Pilot Programme of teachers teaching part of their timetable in another class has worked really well – it has positively impacted upon standards and C.P.D. for staff. (Details in Section One)
(Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.)

5.3 Mrs McGuinness in her role as lead practitioner has supported teaching and learning within our school, shared planning and has modelled Teaching and Learning all of which has had a positive impact upon continual, professional development. A special thank you to her.
(Effectiveness of leadership and management)

6 Staffing

6.1 I am delighted to inform Governors that during the Whit holiday Miss Bonner got married and is now known as Mrs Pimblett, congratulations to her.

6.2 Mrs Cawley has settled well into the Nursery and is already an invaluable member of our team; she has brought a raft of fresh ideas.
(Effectiveness of leadership and management)

6.3 Mrs Ronald will finish with us in July; I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and dedication. We all wish her well for the future.

7 Religious Education

7.1 Assessment of Religious Education via observations of lessons, Teacher Assessment and scrutiny of books has continued to have a high profile throughout the Academic year. Staff are confident and follow the guidance given by Mrs Smith and Mrs Pimblett. Thank you to both members of staff

for ensuring that Assessment of R.E. has become embedded in the School Cycle. (*Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.*)

- 7.2 End of Topic Celebrations have been well attended throughout the year and are appreciated by the parents/carers. It is always lovely to see the children reflecting upon their learning and the progress that they have made. (*Quality of teaching, learning and assessment. Outcomes for pupils*)
- 7.3 Throughout the year all 'Come and See' focal points have been monitored by Mrs Smith, Mrs Pimblett and children. They are always lovely and the children do refer to them.
- 7.4 The children in Year 4 recently made the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion (Eucharist). The children had a lovely day and were a credit to their families. I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Father Michael who has not only guided and supported the children in Year 4 throughout the year but also the staff and children throughout the school.

It has been a very busy academic year. As a school we have a lot to celebrate and be proud of thanks to the children, parents, staff and Governors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Governors for their challenge and support; we really do appreciate all that you do. I would like to thank the staff for their hard work and for all that they do "above and beyond the call of duty" positively and with dedication/enthusiasm. I would like to thank Mrs Clarke who is invaluable; she calmly organises us all and remains so patient especially with me. I would like to thank Mrs Hewitt who copes with the ever increasing documentation to type, sort and collate but always on time. Finally I would like to thank Mrs Smith who is a wonderful Deputy Headteacher in every way – far too much to list.

I am very lucky to be the Headteacher of a school with such hardworking, supportive, professional staff.

I wish everyone a very happy summer.

Thank you

Jeanette Grundy

A very proud Headteacher.

