

Inspection of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Deedmore Road, Wood End, Coventry, West Midlands CV2 1EQ

Inspection dates: 23 and 24 November 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Good
Early years provision	Good
Previous inspection grade	Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this school?

St Patrick's is at the heart of its community. Pupils are happy to be at school and thrive because they feel part of this caring environment. In class, pupils are engaged and enthusiastic. They talk positively about their school and about how much they love to attend. One pupil told inspectors, 'I go to sleep early at night so that it's soon morning and I can go to school again.'

Parents and carers are overwhelmingly positive about the school. They said that staff are approachable. They were full of praise for the regular communication between school and home regarding their children's progress.

Pupils' behaviour is good. They have positive attitudes to learning. Staff have high expectations and expect pupils to achieve well and work hard to become successful. Pupils struggle to recall a single incident of bullying. They are confident, however, that if there ever was any bullying, it would be dealt with very quickly by staff.

Pupils are given a voice and a role in the decision-making in the school. They jump at opportunities to take on positions of responsibility such as the school council and as a junior Police Community Support Officer.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

Leaders from the school and the multi-academy company have a clear vision for the school. They know what the school does well and what they still need to work on. They value the staff team and invest in staff training. Leaders and staff have worked together to improve the school.

Leaders make teaching pupils to read their highest priority. The reading curriculum is well organised. Children in the early years learn phonics daily. Staff across the school are confident and skilled in helping pupils to master their sounds. Leaders identify the high-quality texts they want pupils to know and read. These books explore themes such as diversity and aspiration. Pupils told inspectors that they love the stories staff read to them, especially when they sit and listen to them with the school dog, Rosie!

The curriculum is well sequenced. In mathematics, for example, teachers regularly revisit what they have taught already to help pupils secure their understanding. Additional interventions called 'therapies' are built into the school day. Well-trained staff help pupils who struggle to build on their knowledge prepare for their next lesson. Teachers use the information gathered during lessons and therapies to adapt the curriculum to meet pupils' needs.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) have the same opportunities to access the curriculum as their classmates. Teachers adapt the

curriculum effectively so that pupils with SEND learn the same knowledge as their friends.

Children in Nursery and Reception settle well in school. Children feel safe and happy. They enjoy learning and playing in the classrooms and in the recently developed outside spaces. Subject leaders have thought carefully about their plans for the curriculum. In some subjects, such as physical education (PE), subject leaders have worked closely with staff in the early years to ensure that children develop the knowledge and skills that will help them in Year 1. However, in science, teachers have not created a clear enough plan for children to develop the practical knowledge and skills they need. Therefore, pupils move into Year 1 with these skills less well developed.

Leaders and governors place high importance on the ways in which the school, through its deeply Christian ethos, supports pupils' personal development. Leaders and staff go above and beyond to provide pupils with exciting experiences. Pupils enthusiastically take these opportunities, and the participation of all pupils, including those who are disadvantaged, is high. Leaders carefully plan opportunities for personal development into the curriculum. Pupils study and debate topical issues such as climate change and living in a democracy. All pupils learn to play a musical instrument. They show their care for others by organising their own charity events. Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain.

The experienced governing body is ambitious for the school. Governors challenge and support leaders well. They use their skills and expertise wisely to explore where improvements can be made. Funding is allocated where it is needed most to ensure a good quality of education.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is a strong culture of safeguarding in the school. The school has robust systems in place to monitor concerns. The designated safeguarding leads go above and beyond and work together to identify and care for vulnerable pupils. They follow up any concerns thoroughly and with speed.

The safeguarding leads work well with outside agencies to raise awareness of keeping safe within the wider community. For example, they raise pupils' awareness of the dangers of gangs, county lines, drugs and knife crime.

Leaders have ensured that opportunities in the curriculum are planned for pupils to learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, pupils know how to respond to cyber-bullying and how to respect each other's personal space.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Pupils in the early years have limited experience in comparing, measuring and testing. This means that they are not as well prepared for the science curriculum in key stage 1 as they should be. Leaders should continue to develop the curriculum in the early years so that it prepares pupils well for key stage 1.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

If you are the school and you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

Unique reference number	142215
Local authority	Coventry
Inspection number	10201049
Type of school	Primary
School category	Academy converter
Age range of pupils	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	217
Appropriate authority	Board of Directors
Chair of board	Brendan Fawcett
Principal	Mark McLoughlin
Website	www.st-patricks.coventry.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	6 and 7 March 2018, under section 5 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- The school makes use of a local alternative provider.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with school leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation.
- Inspectors met with senior leaders, including the principal. Meetings were held with three governors, including the chair of the local academy committee, the Catholic senior executive leader and representatives from the diocese and the local authority.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: early reading, mathematics, science and PE. For each deep dive, inspectors met with subject leaders, looked at curriculum plans, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work.

- In considering the effectiveness of the school’s safeguarding arrangements, inspectors scrutinised the single central record. Inspectors looked at records relating to the safeguarding of children. They held discussions with a range of pupils, staff and leaders. Playtimes and lunchtimes, and their supervision, were observed. Inspectors also considered records of the safeguarding training that staff receive.
- Meetings were held with members of staff, including those responsible for behaviour and attendance at the school.
- Inspectors met with parents at the start of the day, to gain their views on the school. They reviewed the responses to the online survey, Ofsted Parent View, and additional free-text comments. Inspectors also took account of responses to the staff questionnaire.

Inspection team

Max Vlahakis, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

Sara Arkle

Ofsted Inspector

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