

Inspection of Cheadle Catholic Infant School

Conway Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 6DB

Inspection dates: 6 and 7 December 2023

Overall effectiveness **Good**

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

This school was last inspected under section 5 of the Education Act 2005 14 years ago and judged 'Outstanding' under a previous inspection framework. This reflected the school's overall effectiveness under the inspection framework in use at the time.

From then until November 2020, the school was exempted by law from routine inspection, so there has been a longer gap than usual between graded inspections under section 5 of the Act. Judgements in this report are based on the current inspection framework and also reflect changes that may have happened at any point since the last graded inspection.

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils, including children in the early years, said that they feel happy and safe at Cheadle Catholic Infant School. They arrive each day excited to begin their learning.

The school is ambitious for what all pupils can achieve. Pupils grow in resilience and confidence with the care and nurturing support that staff provide. Staff help pupils to learn from their mistakes and to develop a 'can-do' attitude.

Pupils look after each other and are keen to make sure that everyone has a friend at playtimes. Those pupils who act as 'bully busters' look out for any rare signs of bullying. They are eager to provide help and support to their peers.

Starting in the early years, children respond positively to the expectations that staff have for their behaviour and attitudes to learning. For example, children in the Nursery Year learn to listen to each other and take turns. In key stage 1, pupils also behave well.

Pupils benefit from a well-thought-out offer to enhance their personal development. For example, the 'time-to-shine' curriculum expands the range of opportunities that pupils have to help and make a difference to others.

Many parents and carers shared their immense pride with inspectors at how well their children are learning. Pupils are equally proud to attend this school.

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

Pupils follow an ambitious curriculum. The school has given careful consideration to the most important knowledge that pupils need to know and remember. In most subjects, the curriculum design helps pupils to build securely on what they already know. Teachers have the subject expertise that they need to design learning that enables pupils to acquire new knowledge. The curriculum sparks pupils' curiosity to learn well.

Pupils have many opportunities to revisit previous learning. This helps them to consolidate and deepen their understanding of key ideas. The school makes regular checks on what pupils know and remember. However, from time to time, staff do not identify pupils' misconceptions quickly enough. Where this is the case, some pupils develop gaps in their knowledge. This prevents these pupils from learning as deeply as they could.

The school has effective systems in place to identify the additional needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) quickly and accurately. The school ensures that staff understand the barriers to learning for pupils with SEND. Staff provide support for pupils with SEND to enable them to learn successfully. The school makes regular checks to ensure that the support for these pupils remains appropriate.

Reading lies at the heart of the school's curriculum. As soon as children join the school in the Nursery Year, they are immersed in stories, songs and rhymes. Children in the Reception Year quickly learn to recognise the sounds that letters make. They use their phonics knowledge to write with increasing accuracy.

Staff have an expert knowledge of how to deliver the phonics programme. Staff make sure that pupils read books that contain the sounds they know. This helps pupils to read with increasing accuracy and fluency. The school quickly identifies those pupils who fall behind with the pace of the phonics programme. These pupils receive the support they need to catch up quickly.

Parents said that they appreciate the clear information they receive about the school's approach to teaching reading. This helps parents to encourage their children to read more regularly at home. Added to this, the school provides reading areas to encourage pupils to want to read for pleasure. These reading areas reflect pupils' favourite authors and interests. Pupils are exposed to a range of authors and genres.

Pupils' learning is rarely disrupted by poor behaviour. Respectful attitudes feature throughout the school. For example, pupils listen and consider the views and opinions of others, even when they differ from their own. Pupils understand that everyone should be treated fairly.

The school celebrates the differences and diversity within the community. It provides a range of opportunities within the curriculum for pupils to learn about how different people live. That said, some pupils do not have sufficient understanding of some religions, faiths and cultures different to their own. As a result, pupils are not fully prepared to be active participants in multicultural Britain.

The school provides staff with the support they need to embed new ideas. Staff appreciate the sensitivity that the school shows for their well-being.

Governors have a secure understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development. They ask the right questions to check that the school's actions have the desired impact on the quality of education that pupils receive. This includes checking on the culture of safeguarding and how pupils are protected from harm.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- In some subjects, staff do not identify pupils' misconceptions quickly enough. Consequently, some pupils develop gaps in their knowledge, and this prevents them from learning to the depth that they could. The school should ensure that

staff use the information they gain from assessments to adapt future learning and to remedy the gaps in pupils' knowledge.

- Some pupils do not have a sufficient understanding of some religions, faiths and cultures that may differ to their own. As a result, pupils are not as prepared as they could be to take their place in a modern and diverse society. The school should ensure that the curriculum enables pupils to build a secure and age-appropriate understanding of how different people live in modern Britain.

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.

Further information

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

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' is used to mean pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); pupils who meet the [definition of children in need of help and protection](#); pupils receiving statutory local authority support from a social worker; and pupils who otherwise meet the criteria used for deciding the school's [pupil premium funding](#) (this includes pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years, looked after children (children in local authority care) and/or children who left care through adoption or another formal route).

School details

Unique reference number	106111
Local authority	Stockport
Inspection number	10255998
Type of school	Infant
School category	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	3 to 7
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	282
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Anne-Marie Nugnes
Headteacher	Pamela Glynn
Website	www.cheadle-inf.stockport.sch.uk
Dates of previous inspection	11 and 12 May 2009 under Section 5 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- The school does not use any alternative provision.
- The school runs a before- and after-school club.
- This is a Roman Catholic school and is part of the Diocese of Shrewsbury. The school's most recent section 48 inspection for schools of a religious character took place in November 2014. Its next section 48 inspection is due before 2025.

Information about this inspection

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

- Inspections are a point-in-time judgement about the quality of a school's education provision.
- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the school and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.

- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: early reading, mathematics, science and history. For each deep dive, inspectors discussed the curriculum with subject leaders, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work. Inspectors also spoke to the school about the curriculum in some other subjects.
- Inspectors heard some pupils read to a trusted adult.
- Inspectors spoke with school leaders, subject leaders, pupils and parents.
- An inspector met with members of the local governing board, including the chair of governors. They also met with a representative of the diocese.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, the inspectors: reviewed the single central record; took account of the views of leaders, staff and pupils; and considered the extent to which the school has created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils' interests first.
- Inspectors considered the responses to Ofsted Parent View. This included the free-text responses. Inspectors also considered responses to Ofsted's online staff and pupil surveys.

Inspection team

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