

Inspection of St Paul's Peel CofE Primary School

Stocksfield Drive, Little Hulton, Worsley, Manchester M38 9RB

Inspection dates: 11 and 12 January 2023

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Requires improvement

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Early years provision

Requires improvement

Previous inspection grade

Good

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils, and children in the early years, are happy at this warm and welcoming school. Relationships between staff and pupils are positive. This helps pupils to feel safe and secure. Pupils try hard each day to ensure that their conduct reflects the school values of faith, hope and love.

Pupils understand the difference between bullying and falling out. If any bullying occurs, staff deal with it effectively.

Teachers expect pupils to work hard and to achieve well. Pupils try to live up to these expectations. However, in some subjects, including in the early years, the curriculum is not well designed. Some pupils, including those pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are not well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Pupils usually try to behave well. However, some staff do not share leaders' high expectations for pupils' behaviour. On occasion, some pupils' positive behaviour lapses. They do not behave as well as they should.

Leaders make sure that pupils have plenty of opportunities to develop their interests and talents. Pupils enjoy attending clubs, such as hockey and craft club. Pupils are proud to represent the school in sporting events. They can also develop their speaking skills through taking part in local competitions. Older pupils take pride in being role models for younger pupils.

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

Leaders have designed a suitably ambitious curriculum. Pupils study a broad range of subjects commensurate with the national curriculum.

In a small number of subjects, leaders have made effective improvements to the curriculum. In these subjects, the curriculum is well organised. Pupils learn key knowledge in a logical order. This helps pupils to build on what they already know. Teachers provide opportunities for pupils to revisit their earlier learning so that they remember it over time. In these subjects, teachers use their strong subject knowledge to explain concepts clearly, in ways that pupils understand. Pupils, including those with SEND, achieve well in these subjects.

In other subjects, the curriculum is less well organised. Leaders have not determined the essential knowledge that pupils must learn. This means that teachers are not clear about what they should teach pupils and in which order. It also makes it difficult for teachers to identify whether pupils have understood and remembered the most important information. As a result, some pupils, including those with SEND, and children in the early years, do not remember the important information they need for future learning.

Leaders have prioritised the development of early reading. Children in the early years enjoy singing songs, learning rhymes and listening to stories. These activities help to develop children's language and communication. Children begin to learn phonics as soon as they start in the Reception class. Leaders have provided staff with some training on how to teach early reading, but this training has not equipped all staff to be able to teach the phonics programme well. For example, sometimes staff do not encourage children and pupils to practise the letters and sounds that they know. This hinders how accurately and fluently some pupils read.

Pupils across the school have access to a wide range of books to read for their own enjoyment. This helps most pupils to develop a love of reading. That said, some pupils said that they do not enjoy reading, because they find it difficult. Some older pupils struggle to read well because they have not received the help that they need to catch up with their peers. This hampers their ability to access the wider curriculum.

Leaders and staff identify the additional needs of pupils with SEND accurately. However, leaders have not made sure that staff are well equipped to make careful adaptations to the delivery of the curriculum to support pupils with SEND to learn well. Some pupils with SEND do not achieve as well as they should.

Leaders promote pupils' broader development well. Staff are keen to support pupils' emotional well-being. Pupils are suitably prepared to take their place in modern society. For example, pupils know that learning about different cultures helps them to show respect and understanding to others. Staff encourage pupils to be aspirational for their future lives.

Leaders have not ensured that all staff consistently reinforce high expectations for pupils' behaviour in lessons. This means that on occasion, in a few classes, the poor behaviour of some pupils disrupts learning for others.

Leaders have taken appropriate action to improve pupils' rates of attendance. They work with external agencies to identify and support pupils who are absent from school often. However, despite this, some pupils do not attend school as regularly as they should.

Governors know the school well. They are committed to improving opportunities for pupils. However, governors do not hold leaders to account well enough for the quality of education that pupils receive.

Staff are proud to work at the school. They feel involved in decision making and said that leaders are considerate of their workload and well-being.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders know their school community well. They ensure a strong culture of safeguarding supported by the trusting relationships that they have with pupils and their families. Staff are well trained to identify when a pupil may be at risk of harm. Staff report any concerns about a pupil's welfare diligently.

Leaders work closely with external agencies to provide timely and appropriate support for pupils and their families. Leaders are tenacious in ensuring that pupils receive the help that they need.

Pupils learn how to keep themselves safe, including online. They understand the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships and who to talk to if they are worried.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- In some subjects, leaders have not finalised the essential knowledge that pupils, including children in the early years, should learn. This prevents teachers from making sure that children and pupils learn everything that they should. Leaders should ensure that teachers are clear about what to teach and when to teach it so that pupils build secure subject knowledge across the curriculum.
- Leaders have not ensured that all staff are well equipped to deliver the phonics programme effectively. This hinders how well some children and pupils learn to read. Leaders should ensure that they support staff to implement the phonics curriculum consistently well so that pupils can become fluent readers.
- Some older pupils do not read as well as they should. This prevents these pupils from accessing the wider curriculum sufficiently well. Leaders should ensure that they support these pupils to catch up with their reading knowledge quickly so that they can learn well.
- Leaders have not made sure that staff understand how to adapt the delivery of the curriculum for pupils with SEND. As a result, some pupils with SEND do not learn as well as they should. Leaders should ensure that all staff are trained well to support pupils with SEND to access the curriculum fully.

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](#)' 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	105941
Local authority	Salford
Inspection number	10256031
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary controlled
Age range of pupils	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	314
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Kathryn Prince
Headteacher	Joanne Barker
Website	www.stpaulspeellh.co.uk
Date of previous inspection	31 October 2017, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- Leaders do not make use of alternative provision.
- The school is a voluntary controlled Church of England Primary School. The last section 48 inspection took place in March 2016.

Information about this inspection

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

- This was the first routine inspection that the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- Inspectors met with the headteacher, other leaders, staff and members of the governing body. The lead inspector also spoke to a representative of the local authority.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in early reading, mathematics, science, geography, and art and design. 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 leaders about the curriculum in some other subjects.
- Inspectors talked with pupils in meetings and around the school at breaktimes and lunchtimes.
- Inspectors considered the responses to Ofsted Parent View, including the free-text responses. Inspectors also considered responses to Ofsted's online survey for staff.
- There were no responses to Ofsted's online survey for pupils.
- Inspectors looked at documentation provided by leaders, including the school improvement plan, minutes from meetings of the governing body and a range of documentation relating to pupils' attendance and behaviour.
- Inspectors checked the arrangements for keeping pupils safe. They looked at a range of documentation and spoke to leaders and staff. Inspectors also spoke to pupils about whether they feel safe in school.

Inspection team

Collette Mather, lead inspector	Ofsted Inspector
Ian Cooper	Ofsted Inspector
Patrick Rayner	Ofsted Inspector

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