

Sacred Heart RC Primary School

Hart Lane, Hartlepool, County Durham, TS26 8NL

Inspection dates

6–7 March 2013

Overall effectiveness	Previous inspection:	Good	2
	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
Achievement of pupils		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching		Outstanding	1
Behaviour and safety of pupils		Outstanding	1
Leadership and management		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

This is an outstanding school.

- When children enter they have skills that are just below those typically expected for their age but by the time they leave in Year 6 their attainment is substantially above the national average. This represents outstanding achievement.
- Pupils who are eligible for the pupil premium are few in number but they do extremely well.
- Disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs make very good progress across the school in line with other pupils.
- Behaviour and safety in the school is outstanding. The attitude that pupils have towards their schoolwork is exemplary.
- Pupils are very friendly and exceptionally well mannered, because from their time in the Nursery they are taught how to behave well and respect others.
- An overwhelming number of parents in both recent surveys think very highly about the school. All pupils responded positively when asked similar questions.
- Teaching is outstanding. Lessons are well planned and many teachers use inspirational ways to capture pupils' interest.
- Teaching assistants play an important role in making the school successful. They work exceedingly well in lessons, as they not only help children of different abilities to succeed, but carefully record pupil progress during lessons.
- In most lessons pupils are set work at the correct level so that they are challenged to do their best. This is not consistently the case when pupils are split into ability sets and the work is not always as closely matched to pupils' different abilities.
- Most lessons go at a brisk pace although occasionally teachers spend too long at the start of lessons explaining things, which cuts down the amount of time pupils have to show what they can do.
- Exceptional leadership and governance has built on and improved previous good work.
- The leadership of the school is outstanding because the headteacher has developed staff to become effective leaders and managers of subject areas.
- All staff feel exceptionally well supported by the senior management. Newly qualified teachers in particular are highly motivated and encouraged to develop their skills.

Information about this inspection

- Inspectors visited 18 lessons or parts of lessons taught by 17 different teachers.
- Inspectors listened to pupils read and talked to them about how much reading they do as well as looking at their work in class.
- Discussions took place with members of the governing body, staff, groups of pupils and a representative of the local authority.
- Documents were examined, including those relating to safeguarding, the school's improvement plan and records which show the school's procedures for gaining an accurate view of its own performance, as well as the school's own assessment data.
- The views of 55 parents who responded to the online questionnaire (Parent View) were taken into account, as well the school's own questionnaires, which surveyed 223 parents and 340 pupils. There were also two letters received from parents.
- Twenty-six staff also completed questionnaires about their views of the school.

Inspection team

Frank Cain, Lead inspector

Sandy Dixie

Barbara Hudson

Additional Inspector

Additional Inspector

Additional Inspector