



DIOCESE OF  
**SHREWSBURY**

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DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION REPORT:

**THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL  
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

School: St Margaret Ward Catholic Primary School  
Address: Cherry Lane  
Sale  
M33 4GY

Tel No: 0161 969 9852

URN: 106359

Headteacher: Mr J Hughes

Chair of Governors: Mrs A Toone

Date of Inspection: 28 November 2019

Inspectors: Mrs E Robb  
Mrs M Bulmer  
Mrs T Cooke (shadowing)

## SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

**'WE ARE A FAMILY WHO LOVE, BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE TOGETHER.'**

This is written large in a lovely piece of artwork in our entrance area.

Any visitors to our school immediately have a striking image of what we are about through this Mission Statement which staff, pupils, parents and governors all contributed towards.

However, it is more than just words on a wall because as you walk around our school, you will see this Mission Statement brought to life within our close-knit family.

You will see the LOVE and care which influences how we treat each other; how the close ties to our Parish ensure we BELIEVE strongly together in our Faith; while the hard work of staff and pupils, along with the support of parents, means we strive to ACHIEVE together.



**SCHOOL: St Margaret Ward Catholic Primary School,**

**DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: November 2014**

**JUDGEMENT FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION: Outstanding**

**AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION**

There were no areas for development identified from the last Inspection which was a Monitoring Visit.

**PROGRESS MADE WITH AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM THE PREVIOUS INSPECTION**

Although no actions were identified from the Monitoring Report visit in 2014, the Headteacher, who was appointed in 2017, identified key areas for development which informed the Religious Education Plan. Consequently the school continues to make excellent progress as identified below.

**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS:** how effective is the school in providing Catholic Education.

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**This is an outstanding Catholic school**

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*The above judgement on overall effectiveness is based on all the available evidence following the evaluation of:*

**CATHOLIC LIFE**

1

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

1

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

1

**Summary of key findings:**

- St Margaret Ward School is an outstanding, happy, caring, family-orientated school where the Gospel values underpin the whole fabric of the school.
- The notion of family plays a central part in the school's newly-developed Mission Statement supported by the Four Core Values.
- The inspirational Headteacher is deeply committed to the Catholic mission of the school.
- He is supported by an equally inspirational Religious Education Lead, all Staff and Governors, who continually work hard to maintain the very high standards in this outstanding school.
- All members of Staff are excellent role models and there is a strong sense of teamwork.
- All Governors are well informed, very supportive and are unwavering in their belief of the school's mission in Catholic Education.
- The pupils are delightful and behaviour is outstanding which contributes to the excellent attitude to learning and the excellent standards they achieve.
- Parents are kept well informed about the Catholic life of the school and are extremely supportive of all the school strives to achieve.
- Collective Worship is outstanding and is central to the life of the school.
- There are strong links between school, parish and home which contributes to the strong family ethos. All at St Margaret Ward School 'are a family who love, believe and achieve together'.

## What the school needs to do to improve further

- Ensure strong links are maintained in the newly-constituted parish community.
- Establish Performance Management targets which include a target relating to Religious Education for Staff, thus ensuring continuous professional development, and maintaining excellent provision.

## Information about the Inspection

The Inspection of St Margaret Ward Catholic Primary School was carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, and in accordance with the Shrewsbury Diocesan Framework and Schedule for Denominational Inspections approved by the Bishop of Shrewsbury. The inspection reviews and evaluates how effective the school is in providing Catholic education. This process begins with the school's own self-evaluation and the inspection schedule follows the criteria set by the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (NBRIA 2017).

The inspectors reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school
- The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education
- The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education
- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship
- The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school
- How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education, Collective Worship and the Catholic Life of the school

The inspection was carried out by three inspectors (one of whom shadowed) over one day, below are details of what was involved:

- Four Acts of Collective Worship were observed.
- The inspectors observed teaching in 6 classes.
- Discussions were held with the Parish Priest and Chair of Governors, both Religious Education link Governors, Vice Chair of Governors, Parent Governor and other Parent representatives

- Discussions with Headteacher, Religious Education Lead, two RQTs and one recently appointed class teacher.
- Meetings with pupils included Head Boy and Head Girl, representatives from the Prayer Group, the Mini Vinnies, and the Faith in Action group as well as general conversations with pupils throughout the school during the course of the day.
- A representative sample of pupils' Religious Education Books and Collective Worship Books were scrutinised.
- The comprehensive Religious Education files, the Governors' File were also made available for the Inspectors.
- The school website.
- A wide range of documents were made available including Diocesan Self Evaluation Form, timetables, attainment and progress data, parent, staff and pupil questionnaires, Governors' information.
- Displays around the school and in the classrooms also provided information.

### **Information about this school**

St Margaret Ward is a one-form Catholic Primary School with Nursery Provision.

There are 235 pupils on roll, with 54% Catholic and 17% of other Christian denominations, 0.5% of other Faith and 28% of no Faith affiliation.

The school is part of the newly-constituted Parish of All Saints which includes one other Catholic school.

There are 9 full-time teachers 3 part-time teachers - total full-time equivalent 10.4

There are 13 teaching assistants (11.8 full time equivalent).

All teachers teach Religious Education.

## Full report – inspection judgments

### CATHOLIC LIFE

**The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding**

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The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school	1
The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision of the Catholic Life of the school	1

- The Mission Statement has recently been reviewed - pupils have been involved in the development of a new Mission Statement which is underpinned by four core values: Ambition, Kindness, Respect and Teamwork.
- The pupils have an excellent understanding of the Mission Statement and the four Core Values. They understand how these can help them to develop further their relationship with God.
- The pupils are willing to participate in and volunteer for positions of responsibility and leadership in the Catholic life of the school and the wider community. During discussions with the pupils they stated how much they enjoyed Class and Community Masses, Collective Worship and their Religious Education lessons, with quite a few pupils saying that Religious Education was their favourite subject.
- As well as their Religious Education lessons, the pupils also enjoy the opportunities they have in extra-curricular activities. During these activities they learn and develop values of commitment, responsibility, fair play, tolerance and teamwork, discovering their God-given talents and taking pride in their own and others' achievements.
- The Pupil Voice is heard through, for example, the Prayer Group, Mini Vinnies, Faith in Action and through the involvements of the Head Girl and Head Boy. These groups enable pupils to share ideas with the school community and beyond. They also provide opportunities for service to others while developing their own faith journey. A pupil involved in the Faith in Action initiative stated: "We do little things that God will be helping with. It shows that God is in you".
- The pupils are very keen to talk about their fundraising activities. They are aware of the needs of others less fortunate than themselves and show empathy and generosity in the way they approach this aspect of Catholic life. They recognise the part they can play in improving the society in which they live.
- Funds are raised for Macmillan, NSPCC, British Legion, and Francis House. The Mini Vinnies also organised a collection of tinned foods and household items for Cornerstones - an excellent example of the way the pupils relate to the needs of others.
- Sacramental preparation is jointly led by the Religious Education Lead, the class teacher and teaching assistant, who has links with the Parish. This is viewed as a special time, not just for the pupils concerned but for the school and parish community.

- There is a strong sense of family throughout the school. The relationships between adults and pupils are based on mutual respect and trust. There is a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout the school which is rooted in the Gospel values the school embraces and promotes.
- All members of staff are excellent role models and demonstrate strong pastoral care for all pupils. There are effective support systems in place to cater for the emotional needs of pupils and families. The school also ensures that support and pastoral care is accessible for all staff, with staff commenting:  
 “I love our school and am proud of the values we live and work by.”  
 “...I am thoroughly supported and guided when delivering Religious Education by members of the Senior Leadership Team.”
- The parents are extremely supportive of the school. They appreciate the opportunities available for their children and have nothing but praise for the all the staff.  
 One parent commented, “The teachers are so lovely, caring and always available.”  
 Another parent stated, “Every child is special.”
- This is a happy school, where the caring and nurturing ethos is passed from the oldest to the youngest pupils. For example, there is an effective Buddy System in place between the older pupils in Key Stage 2 and the younger pupils in Reception and Nursery.
- The school follows ‘Journey in Love’ to teach Relationships and Sex Education which is based on Catholic teaching and principles.
- For pupils who experience any kind of loss or change in their lives, the school provides the Rainbows programme.
- Leaders and Governors are fully committed to the Church’s mission in education, and the Catholic Life of the school is viewed by the leaders and governors as a core leadership responsibility.
- As a result of effective self-evaluation, areas of strength and areas for development are accurately identified. All Governors know their school well.
- The Parish Priest and Chair of Governors are Religious Education Link Governors. They visit the school regularly and are kept well informed by the Headteacher and Religious Education Lead.
- Leaders and Governors take advantage of the training and support opportunities made available by the Diocese, for example, attendance at: Caritas, Rainbows, Day of Spirituality as well as Governor Induction and briefing meetings, NQT/RQT programme, and Religious Education Subject Leader meetings.
- There are strong links with other Catholic schools in the area. Staff and Governors of the three Catholic schools celebrate joint Parish Masses as well as training. For example, ‘Living the Love in a Catholic School’ organised by a Diocesan Headteacher.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Religious Education is outstanding

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How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	1
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education	1

- From their varied starting points, almost all pupils make at least good progress in each Key Stage, with many achievements being outstanding.
- Pupils have an excellent knowledge and understanding of Religious Education and in lessons observed the pupils were able to recall prior learning to support and develop points during the lesson. They were actively engaged, concentrated extremely well and had an understanding of how well they were doing.
- Pupils are enthusiastic about their learning and enjoy the challenges presented by the well-planned, well-structured and organised lessons. Staff ensure that provision matches the needs of all children, with differentiation used to good effect. Teaching assistants provide valuable support for pupils where tasks are adapted to meet individual needs.
- The pupils really enjoy their Religious Education lessons, especially the innovative and creative way in which lessons are delivered.
- Behaviour in all lessons observed, and around the school, was outstanding. The pupils are keen and eager to learn about all aspects of their Religious Education and are developing a religious literacy which enables them to speak confidently about their Religious Education lessons. Pupils are extremely well motivated and keen to do their best through challenge, praise and affirmation.
- From Early Years to Year 6, all members of Staff have high expectations of their pupils.
- Teachers use a wide range of teaching styles to deliver engaging and interactive learning opportunities for all pupils resulting in outstanding lessons, as observed by the Inspectors.
- In lessons observed, regular feedback was given to pupils and time allowed for their responses and comments. "I can" statements and driver words are used to great effect.
- The pupils' Religious Education books are outstanding. The pupils obviously take great pride in content and presentation of their work.
- Teachers know their children well; through formative and summative assessments, and the excellent relationships which exist throughout, pupils' needs are catered for appropriately and effectively. Attainment in Religious Education is high.
- Leaders and Governors comply fully with the requirements of the Bishops' Conference. Religious Education is well resourced, given parity with other core subjects and at least 10% of the timetable is dedicated to the teaching of Religious Education across all year groups.

- There are rigorous and systematic procedures in place which assist Leaders and Governors to provide the best possible opportunities for all pupils to progress and to achieve their potential.
- Parents are very supportive of the school. One comment received: “I am really happy with the Religious provision from the school. My daughter really enjoys her Religious Education lessons and has loved learning about God’s world and God’s family”.  
Another comment received stated: “All the Staff at St Margaret Ward give my children the opportunity to achieve their potential and provide a loving Catholic life in school”.
- There is no room for complacency at St Margaret Ward School. The Headteacher and the Religious Education Lead are inspirational and have a clear vision for the journey of their school, fully supported by the Governors and parents

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### Collective Worship is outstanding

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How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship	1
The quality of provision for Collective Worship	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship	1

- Collective Worship at all levels is outstanding in St Margaret Ward School and is embedded into all aspects of school life.
- The children pray with reverence and respect. They pray easily and are comfortable as they 'talk to God'.
- Staff are very skilled in leading Collective Worship, and in helping and supporting pupils who are keen and eager to prepare and lead Collective Worship.
- Pupils use the 'Actions to Live By' Box to comment on how the Collective Worship will help them respond to the message of the Gospel, emphasising the relevance and pertinence of the Gospels in their daily lives.
- As pupils move through the school they develop in confidence, knowledge, understanding and purpose. The older pupils are challenged to think deeply and reflect upon their experiences. This was evidenced in the pupils' Religious Education Workbooks and in lessons observed.
- There is a Buddy system in place where the older pupils assist and support the younger pupils planning and preparing Collective Worship - Year 6 are linked with Reception and the pupils in Nursery are linked with their buddies in Year 5.
- Collective Acts of Worship are well planned, prayerful and reflective.
- The Collective Worship Workbooks are of an excellent, high standard, beautifully presented, and show examples of varied Acts of Collective Worship. The high expectations relating to presentation and content of these books indicate the significance placed on Collective Worship by all involved in the school.
- An annual Values Day is organised for the pupils where pupils work in paired classes on activities which are celebrated in an Act of Collective Worship at the end of the day. The impressive mural in the school hall displays the Core Values that are lived out in the behaviours seen around the school every day by staff, pupils and parents.
- The displays in the classrooms and around the school are inspiring and contribute to the Catholic identity of St Margaret Ward School.
- Lessons on other faiths show how the pupils respect differences and are growing in their understanding of other faith practices.
- There are many planned opportunities for members of the local school and parish community, as well as parents and governors, to be involved in Collective Worship. For example, one particular way for pupils to experience Collective Worship at home, with their families, is through the provision of a Travelling Crib.

- There is a range of opportunities available for pupils which help them to deepen their faith through prayer and worship, in, for example, Community and Saturday evening Masses (Class, Parish and Community), Values Day, Prayer Group Worship, Faith in Action group and a Reflection Day for Key Stage 2 children at the Marist Centre.
- It was obvious during the Inspection visit that praying together is part of the daily experience for pupils and staff. “We pray together” is written on the Value mural in the school hall for all to see.
- There are regular meetings with the Parish Priest, who is also one of the Religious Education link Governors. He is very proud and supportive of all that the school strives to achieve and is proactive in developing the Religious life of the school through arranging Community Masses (one per term) and Class Masses (one per year for each class), and encouraging pupils to participate in Saturday evening Masses, as well as attending and supporting Acts of Collective Worship in school. He commented that the children who leave St Margaret Ward School do so with a great experience of a living faith, a faith that is alive.
- Leaders and Governors place the highest priority on the school’s self-evaluation of Collective Worship with regular reviews of school performance. The inspirational Religious Education Subject Lead is extremely supportive and, evaluates Collective Worship regularly
- There are excellent resources available for staff and pupils which are used to effectively produce high quality Acts of Collective Worship.
- Music, drama and art are used to good effect to enhance the experiences of Collective Worship and to make liturgies accessible to pupils of all abilities and faith.
- All Governors are very proud of the high standard of Collective Worship in the school as this underpins the school’s mission in education and promotes the Gospel values.