



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School:	St Alban's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Ashburton Road Wallasey Wirral CH44 5XB
Tel No:	0151 638 6373
URN:	105072
Headteacher:	Mrs C Frost
Chair of Governors:	Rev D Long
Date of Inspection:	10 March 2016
Inspector:	Mrs A Kelly

St Alban's continues to be successful in providing an outstanding Catholic education for the pupils in its care.

The Catholic life and ethos of the school is outstanding and pervades every aspect of school life. The Mission Statement 'Love one another as I have loved you' is at the heart of all the school does and is lived out on a daily basis, reflecting the living faith community that is experienced by all who come into contact with the school. The environment reflects this commitment with high quality displays and artefacts.

Leadership is outstanding. The focused, dedicated and highly motivated Headteacher is well supported by senior leaders, Parish Priest, governors and staff. They have a clear vision of the Catholic life of the school, which is effectively communicated to all. Their dedication and commitment to their pursuit of excellence is commendable. Robust monitoring strategies ensure there is no room for complacency.

The quality of teaching and learning is consistently high. Since the previous inspection teachers have positively embraced the introduction of the new Religious Education scheme 'The Way the Truth and the Life'. They have successfully ensured that a range of teaching styles and creative activities are employed in the teaching of Religious Education to enthuse and actively engage pupils, therefore providing purposeful learning.

The learning walk provided an opportunity for the inspector to witness many examples of outstanding practice, including interactive displays, pupils' enjoyment and high levels of participation in Religious Education lessons. The high standard of work and presentation in pupils' workbooks, the variety of teaching styles and the passion with which teachers deliver lessons, indicates a commitment to the promotion of high standards expected of all.

Relationships are a strength and lead to pastoral care which is of the highest standard, which contributes to an atmosphere of mutual respect and support within the school community. There is a strong sense of 'family' and 'team work'. The school works closely with parents, who appreciate all the school does to give their children such a positive experience. There are strong links with the parish and local community.

Pupils speak highly of their school and have a clear understanding of the values their school promotes, and how they impact on their own lives and those around them. Behaviour is exemplary. Pupils have a good understanding of the world beyond their school and contribute to fundraising activities. They support many agencies including CAFOD, The Catholic Children's Society, Mission together and the Ark (the local homeless charity). In addition the 'Fair Traders' group organise events within school to raise awareness of Fairtrade.

The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding. Pupils participate in Collective Worship with reverence and respect. During Collective Worship observed by the inspector pupils were prayerful, attentive and responsive, indicating the outstanding way in which they benefit from, and contribute to, the prayerful life of the school. Frequent opportunities and a wide variety of experiences of Collective Worship are provided for all pupils. Pupils regularly prepare and lead Collective Worship with skill and confidence. Parents welcome the opportunity the school offers them to join in with prayer and reflection through class assemblies and 'Stay and Pray' sessions.

Areas of Outstanding Practice

Outcomes for pupils

Collective Worship is central to the daily life at St Alban's Catholic Primary School. The outstanding quality and provision enables the school community to put Christ at the heart of all it does.

Leaders, Governors and Managers

Leaders, governors and managers are deeply committed to the Catholic Mission of the school. Robust monitoring systems, relating to provision and outcomes and their analysis provides a firm basis for accurate diagnosis of the school's strengths and areas for development. They strive to inspire and motivate all to ensure that every child has access to the best possible learning opportunities.

Provision

The school has invested much time and energy introducing a creative approach to the teaching of Religious Education and this is a great strength. It enthuses pupils and provides meaningful contexts for them to explore and understand their faith, and to be nourished spiritually both in their Religious Education lessons and in Collective Worship.