



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Raphael's Catholic Primary School

Address: Huddersfield Road  
Millbrook  
Stalybridge  
SK15 3JL

Tel No: 0161 338 4095

URN: 106242

Headteacher: Mr P Johnson

Chair of Governors: Mr A Evans

Date of Inspection: 30 June 2015

Inspectors: Mrs R Moores  
Mr K Toms

# MISSION STATEMENT

*"May God's love shine in our lives as we care,  
share and learn together".*

*At St. Raphael's Catholic Primary School God is at the heart of everything we do. God's love has made us unique. Each one of us is special. In our daily lives we try to be followers of Jesus Christ. Whatever we do in school we do for the glory of God. We work together as home, school and parish to be a welcoming Catholic community where all may realise their full potential.*

*God is central to life at St. Raphael's. The pupils and staff strive each day to reflect the mission of our school in every aspect of school life. We value everyone as unique.*

*At St Raphael's we aim to give everyone the opportunity to 'live life to the full' and develop their full potential. This is promoted through a broad curriculum, extra curriculum experiences and trips and residential visits. Our pupils are made fully aware of Gospel values and they are reflected and celebrated in daily life in school.*

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll	21	29	27	24	25	24	26	23	199
Catholics on roll	11	16	10	11	9	9	8	12	86
Other Christian denomination	0	4	12	8	13	14	15	7	73
Other faith background	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	7
No stated religious affiliation	8	6	4	3	0	0	1	1	23
Number of learners from ethnic groups	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	13
Total on SEN Register	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	5
Total with Statements of SEN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FSM	0	6	6	3	3	4	2	3	27

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	2
Index of multiple deprivation	2.2			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	1
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Peter's and St Raphael's, Stalybridge	199

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
All Saints Catholic College	0
St Damian's Catholic College	2
Mossley Hollins	11
Copley High School	8
West Hill Boys School	3

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours)		2 hours 10 mins	2 hour 10 mins	2 hours 10 mins	2 hours 15 mins	2 hours 15 mins	2 hours 15 mins	2 hours 15 mins	15 hours 30 mins

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	9
Part-time teachers	0
Total full-time equivalent	9
Support assistants	9
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	55%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	9
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	2
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	2

NAME OF SCHOOL St Raphael's Catholic Primary	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	8
Average class size KS1	25
Average class size KS2	25

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2013/14	Current financial year 2014/15	Next financial year 2015/16
RE	£2887	£5020	£5000
English	£1674.04	£1182.72	£1000
Mathematics	£2199.61	£7393.30	£1100
Science	£50	£58.37	£500

<b>Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
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<b>OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>The children of St. Raphael's Catholic Primary School are rightly, very proud of their school and they participate enthusiastically in all aspects of the Catholic life of the school. The older pupils regularly plan and lead a variety of Collective Acts of Worship and they act as exemplary role models for younger pupils. Pupils 'care, share and learn together' and demonstrate a full understanding of the mission and the Mission Statement of the school. They value and respect themselves and all those with whom they come into contact. Everyone benefits from the caring, happy, safe environment of St. Raphael's. The pupils regularly engage with the wider community through their participation in various liturgies including Mass and the Stations of the Cross. They also contribute generously to local and international charities including CAFOD and the Wellspring Centre. The children see themselves as a 'community of very different people' and they show a wonderful capacity for praise, celebration and forgiveness, which is regularly demonstrated in their everyday talk and actions both inside and outside of the classroom. A wide range of opportunities for reflection is provided through classroom prayers, retreats and Lenten and Advent liturgies. The children participate in such activities reverently and appropriately.</p> <p>Standards of attainment in Religious Education are above average, for many of the pupils, at the end of both key stages and results show an upward trend. Support is given to those pupils who have particular needs and teachers plan thoroughly for all abilities.</p> <p>Assessment procedures are becoming more rigorous and much work has been done to improve assessment since the last inspection. During lessons, observed by the inspectors, children demonstrated very good religious literacy. This was particularly evident in a KS1 lesson, where the children spoke confidently and accurately about the difference between apostleship and discipleship. Pupils enjoy their Religious Education lessons. They spoke enthusiastically to inspectors about the wide range of experiences provided within lessons.</p> <p>Pupils' behaviour is excellent and the relationships of all those within the community of St. Raphael's are affirming. Collective Worship contributes significantly to the spiritual and moral development of all pupils. Pupils are becoming confident and active in planning and leading prayer and worship, and opportunities are being provided for pupils to actively respond to these liturgies.</p>	

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>All leaders and managers work very effectively together as a team. They have given priority to the areas identified as requiring action from the last inspection.</p> <p>The School Development Plan accurately reflects the current needs of the school and demonstrates that the Headteacher, ably supported by the very effective new-to-role Religious Education Leader and the Governing Body, has developed robust systems for monitoring, promoting and evaluating the Catholic life of the school.</p> <p>Governors are actively involved in monitoring standards in Religious Education and they are very appreciative of the Diocese's involvement in recent training opportunities. There is a nominated Religious Education Governor who regularly meets with the Religious Education Leader to review progress, consider next steps for improvement and consider training needs. The school is well supported by the Parish Priest who speaks highly of the involvement of school and families in First Sacraments and of the pupils' participation in and knowledge of liturgy.</p> <p>The governors are very appreciative of the exemplary role-modelling provided by all school staff, especially the Headteacher. This was also seen as a significant strength by parents. The leadership of the school is united in its drive to improve the school further by ensuring the continued focus on good quality training and development for all staff. A number of staff are already studying for their Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies and other Catholic leadership qualifications. The Religious Education Leader provides excellent support for less experienced staff and staff who do not have a Catholic background. This is fully appreciated. The school is in a very strong position to sustain continued improvement.</p>	

PROVISION	2
<p>All teaching observed was at least good with some being outstanding. Teaching was purposeful and well planned ensuring that pupils enjoyed learning and made good progress within lessons. In the best teaching, questioning was particularly skillful and enabled pupils to reflect carefully on their learning. Most planning showed clear evidence of the range of learning that is taken into account when choosing activities best suited to the learning objectives.</p> <p>A range of teaching styles and strategies were observed by Inspectors and most lessons were pacy and highly engaging. Technology was used very effectively in most lessons and teachers clearly had very high expectations of all pupils in terms of standards of work and of behaviour. Marking and feedback in books appears to be very effective, with evidence of children's response time being embedded in teachers' practice. Throughout most lessons teachers utilised assessment opportunities effectively and celebrated achievement. The teaching and learning environment witnessed in all classrooms was very affirming and respectful of the dignity of all. Generally, teaching assistants were involved in the planning and the delivery of lessons and the school is working on making the deployment of such staff even more effective.</p> <p>The Religious Education curriculum provided by the school meets Diocesan requirements. The creative and enriching curriculum is very effective in promoting pupils' learning and provides fully for the needs of all pupils. Sufficient focus is given to other cultures and faiths, enabling the children to grow in the understanding of the diversity of our world and to understand their mission within it.</p> <p>Resources are of a very good quality and staff use a variety of engaging activities to promote effective learning. Parents are kept fully informed of what their child is learning in Religious Education through regular newsletters and half-termly overviews of topics being covered. Parents report that they are kept well informed about their children's progress. One parent also noted that 'any worries are quickly dealt with and my child adores her friends and teachers.'</p> <p>Collective Worship, including the praying of the Angelus is becoming a real strength within the school. Parents and parishioners are welcome at school Masses and liturgical celebrations that take place throughout the year.</p>	

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	2
<p>St. Raphael's Catholic Primary is a good school with many outstanding features, most notably its wonderful relationships and exceptionally well-behaved pupils. It is a very happy and affirming community, 'where everyone is made to feel valued' and the children truly walk in the 'footsteps of Jesus'. Pupils and staff enjoy their Religious Education lessons and the Mission Statement is fully lived out in the day-to-day running of the school. The Headteacher, and recently appointed Religious Education Leader, have worked hard, supported by all staff, governors, pupils and parents to improve the school since its last inspection and to raise standards. Everyone is to be commended for their hard work and dedication. The school is now in a strong position to sustain improvement.</p> <p><b>What the school could do to improve further</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase pupil involvement in, and response to, the many opportunities provided for Collective Worship</li> <li>• Embed new initiatives and measure their impact on pupils' learning experiences and achievement</li> <li>• Develop the profile given to professional development training, especially for less experienced staff</li> </ul>	

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YEAR 2 PUPILS**  
**22 children completed the questionnaires**

		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>No</b>
1	I like being at this school.	17 (76.5%)	5 (23.5)	0
2	I learn new things in R E lessons.	21 (95.5)	1 (4.5)	0
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	21 (95.5)	1 (4.5)	0
4	I have to work hard.	22 (100%)	0	0
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	20 (91%)	2 (9%)	0
6	My teacher listens to me.	15 (67.5%)	7 (32.5%)	0
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	20 (91%)	2 (9%)	0
8	I get praise when I do my best.	22 (100%)	0	0
9	Other children are kind and behave well	14 (63%)	8 (37%)	0
10	I am happy on the playground.	18 (81%)	4 (19%)	0
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	17 (76.5%)	5 (23.5)	0
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	21 (95.5)	1 (4.5)	0

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YEAR 6 PUPILS**

		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>No</b>
1	Do you like being at this school?	<b>92%</b>	<b>8%</b>	
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	<b>60%</b>	<b>40%</b>	
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	<b>25%</b>	<b>75%</b>	
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	<b>100%</b>		
5	Do you have to work hard?	<b>65%</b>	<b>35%</b>	
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	<b>88%</b>	<b>12%</b>	
7	Do other children behave well?	<b>60%</b>	<b>40%</b>	
8	Are teachers fair to you?	<b>96%</b>	<b>4%</b>	
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	<b>84%</b>	<b>16%</b>	
10	Are you given responsibility?	<b>65%</b>	<b>35%</b>	
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	<b>70%</b>	<b>30%</b>	