



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

...committed to encouraging 'fullness of life'

SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School:	Our Lady's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Wash Lane, Latchford, Warrington, WA4 1JD
Tel No:	01925 633270
URN:	111305
Headteacher:	Mrs J M Johnson
Chair of Governors:	Mr P Gibbons
Date of Inspection:	3 July 2012
Inspectors:	Mrs P Blake Mrs A Cassidy

Respect

Believe

Love

Learn

Care

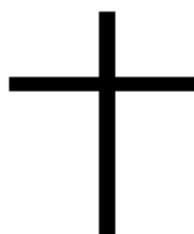
Have Fun

Take
Responsibility

Aim High

Include
Everyone

Celebrate



Love

Love one another as I have loved you.

Respect

We have **respect** for ourselves.
We have **respect** for each other.
We have **respect** for other people and their beliefs.

Responsibility

We **take responsibility** for our actions and our mistakes.
We **take responsibility** for the environment.
We **take responsibility** for school property.
We **take responsibility** for other people, especially those who are younger than us.

Care

We **care** for each other.
We **care** for other people, both near and far.
We **take care** of the environment.
We **take care** of school property.

Have Fun

We **have fun** learning inside the classroom and outside.
We enjoy our learning.

Include everyone

We don't leave anyone out.
We **include** those who are different from us.

Celebrate

We **celebrate** our own achievements and those of others.
We **celebrate** the Sacraments.
We **celebrate** our differences.

Learn

We **learn** throughout our lives.
We **learn** the best way we can.
We **learn** in different ways.

Aim High

We don't give up, even when it's hard.
We do our best.

Believe

We **believe** in ourselves.
We **believe** in God.
We **believe** in Jesus' message.

FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll	37	30	21	20	27	26	25	22	208
Catholics on roll	22	16	11	10	12	14	18	14	117
Other Christian denomination	4	5	4	3	5	6	3	2	32
Other faith background									
No stated religious affiliation	11	9	6	7	10	6	4	6	59
Number of learners from ethnic groups	2	4	1	3	1	4	7	5	28

Total on SEN Register	3	4	6	8	5	6	4	3	39
Total with Statements of SEN			1				1	1	3
FSM		33%	29%	15%	15%	15%	16%	18%	20%

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent		Fixed term	6
Index of multiple deprivation	29.3 (Jan 12)			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Blessed John Henry Newman	175
St Peter, Woolston	1
St Monica, Appleton	4
St Mary, Warrington	10
St Benedict, Orford	4
Halton	1
Great Sankey	1
St Paul of the Cross	1

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
Cardinal Catholic High School, Latchford	17
Manchester Grammar School	2
Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School	2

TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total teaching time –RE (Hours)	1	2	2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	17

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	8
Part-time teachers	4
Total full-time equivalent	10.2
Support assistants <i>Most are part-time</i>	9
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	9
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	8
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	4
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	1

Published admission number	210
Number of classes	8
Average class size KS1	24
Average class size KS2	25

FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2011/2 (actual)	Current financial year 2012/3 (actual to date)	Next financial year 2013/4 (approx.)
RE	1319	160	£1200
English	1887	0	£1200
Mathematics	125	0	£500
Science	0	0	£500

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
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OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL	2
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How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School is a good school with many outstanding features. The Mission Statement is displayed prominently throughout the school and is clearly understood by the whole school community.

The school provides an environment in which pupils feel safe and secure, and which nurtures the spiritual life and uniqueness of each pupil. The Head Teacher's drive, commitment and high expectations are commendable, and she inspires and motivates all who work with her.

The recently-appointed Religious Education subject leader has effectively led the implementation of the new scheme "The Way, the Truth and the Life". She is successful in developing all aspects of Religious Education enabling pupils to make good, and in some cases very good progress.

The provision and quality of Collective Worship, the response and participation of pupils, and the contribution of pupils to the life of this school, are all outstanding.

Links between school and the Parish are well established. The building of the new Parish Church, uniting two Parishes, has strengthened the spiritual life, development and unity within the local community.

The Head Teacher and the Religious Education subject leader have a clear and realistic view of what now needs to be done for the school to fulfill its potential to become outstanding.

What the school could do to improve further

It is the view of the inspectors that Our Lady's Catholic Primary school has an excellent capacity for improvement. It is recommended that the school should:

- Ensure work is well-differentiated, posing appropriate challenges for all pupils
- Develop and implement strategies which enable pupils to identify next steps in their learning, and what they need to do to achieve them
- Ensure the monitoring role of the supportive Governing Body includes monitoring of the quality of teaching and learning outcomes. Analysis of this should be used to inform future development.

PUPILS	2
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How good outcomes are for pupils, taking account of variations between different groups

Achievements and standards in Religious Education are good overall. Given pupils' capability and starting point, most pupils achieve well, and some very well.

On entry most pupils have little knowledge of the Church, Prayer or Scripture. The school nurtures the development of skills, knowledge and understanding in order that pupils can access Religious Education at an appropriate level. Most pupils, including those with additional learning needs, perform well. This is particularly true of pupils' ability to respond orally to work undertaken in the classroom. However, Inspectors found that this was not always reflected in the standard of recorded work. Increased provision of differentiated work and attention to presentation is recommended in order to address this aspect.

Spiritual and moral development is outstanding and relationships at all levels are excellent. Pupils are well-motivated and eager to learn. Their behaviour throughout the inspection was excellent.

The pupils' contribution to, and benefit from, the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. They participate eagerly in a wide range of activities and events such as Stations of the Cross in Lent, and the family crib scheme in Advent.

Together with the other Parish School, St Augustine's, pupils from both Key Stages took part in a 'Walk the Labyrinth Week' in the new Church. Artwork of a high calibre, by Our Lady's pupils, is used in school and in the Parish Church to enhance community prayer and worship. Pupils are confident reading at Mass or singing solos.

In response to talks by visitors from CAFOD, Fairtrade, local charities and overseas missionaries, pupils have set up their own fundraising activities. These include coffee mornings for Water-aid and a very active Mini-Vinnies group who have visited a local care home taking homemade cakes, chocolates and providing entertainment.

In discussion with Inspectors, pupils were articulate and knowledgeable; they were able to talk confidently about their work in Religious Education lessons, their faith and the Scriptures, and how these relate to their own lives.

Pupils demonstrated a good understanding of the school's Mission Statement and they were able to discuss it with genuine enthusiasm and insight. One pupil stated that "it is hard to get bullying in our school so we all feel safe..." Others felt that sanctions were "fair" and "just" and that there was "always an adult to talk to". These relationships are powerful evidence of how the school is living out its Mission.

PROVISION	2
How effective the provision is for Catholic Education	
<p>The quality of teaching at Our Lady's is good with some outstanding elements. This, together with good use of high-quality resources, a range of teaching styles, and effective use of ICT has a positive impact on achievement and standards.</p> <p>The school follows the Diocesan recommended scheme "The Way, the Truth and the Life" and this results in a consistent approach to curriculum provision. Lessons are well-prepared and teachers have a secure knowledge of the subject. Pupils also benefit from the excellent support of teaching assistants who make a considerable contribution to Religious Education in the school.</p> <p>Good assessment, moderation and tracking procedures are now in place. There was some evidence of differentiated tasks observed during the inspection, but the majority of evidence in pupils' workbooks was differentiation by outcome or support for less able pupils. Teachers now need to provide differentiated activities for those pupils who could be challenged more.</p> <p>Provision for spiritual development is outstanding. Planning for the prayer and liturgical life of Our Lady's is meticulous. The school is successful in providing a wide variety of meaningful and rich opportunities to support the development of pupils in this area. Pupils are encouraged to meditate and also learn traditional prayers. Staff work hard to make learning memorable and invite frequent visitors such as speakers from CAFOD and Fair Trade. This provision is enhanced by the school's close working with the Parish Priest.</p> <p>First Sacraments Preparation is provided by the school and is of the highest standard. It is led by a committed and dedicated teaching assistant. The programme not only engages pupils, but also parents and the whole community. Parents' involvement in their children's education is enhanced by the provision of a weekly class newsletter giving details of current topics in Religious Education as well as information on celebrations and the Liturgical Season.</p> <p>Provision for multi-faith education is excellent. In addition, pupils benefit from an extensive range of enrichment activities including working with other schools, active participation in Parish events, retreats, fundraising, visits and clubs. Community cohesion is outstanding.</p>	

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	1
How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic Life of the school	
<p>The Head Teacher has a clear vision for the school. She provides outstanding leadership and motivation for a hardworking and dedicated staff team. She is supported by an able Senior Leadership Team and a committed and supportive Governing Body.</p> <p>The school documentation reflects the importance of the Catholic life and ethos of the school, and the Religious Education Action Plan sets out detailed actions to improve and develop all aspects of Religious Education. The contribution made by the Religious Education Subject Leader is outstanding. She encourages and supports her colleagues and her enthusiasm makes a positive impact on standards in the school.</p>	

Excellent assessment procedures are in place and high-quality moderation activities are undertaken on a regular basis. An effective tracking system is used to monitor the progress of pupils and the standards of achievement for individual pupils and groups of pupils. Since the last inspection, the Senior Management Team has put in place robust systems for monitoring and evaluating the quality of Religious Education. Planning is scrutinized, and learning timetables are monitored.

The Governing Body provides a high level of support and Governors are justifiably proud of their school. They have a clear understanding of the distinctive nature of a Catholic school and ensure that the Catholic ethos is monitored and continuously developed. However, it is recommended that this activity by the Governors is now further developed to include evaluating the quality of teaching and learning outcomes, ensuring the analysis is used to inform future development. This will be beneficial in assisting the school in moving towards becoming outstanding.

Matters relating to the religious life and Mission of the school are given priority by the Governors, and they are aware of the importance of challenging the school in order to ensure the best possible provision for pupils.

There is efficient management and effective use of resources plus successful links with external agencies. Parents are kept well informed through a wide range of means including weekly class newsletters, pupil reports and opportunities to visit the school for liturgies, workshops and many events.

PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRES

47 returned.

	please tick	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	23	24			
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	25	22			
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	23	24			
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	20	22	2		3
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	31	16			
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	30	15			2
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	22	22	1		2

YEAR 2 PUPIL QUESTIONNAIRE

Completed by 17 pupils

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	12	5	1
2	I learn new things in Here I Am lessons.	14	3	
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	15	2	
4	I have to work hard.	16	1	
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	12	5	
6	My teacher listens to me.	14	3	
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	14	3	
8	I get praise when I do my best.	11	4	2
9	Other children are kind and behave well	9	5	3
10	I am happy on the playground.	12	5	
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	13	4	
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	15	2	

YEAR 6 QUESTIONNAIRE

Completed by 22 pupils

		Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	6	7	9	
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	14	7	1	
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting ?	6	11	5	
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	14	5	3	
5	Do you have to work hard?	16	5	1	
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	16	2	4	
7	Do other children behave well?	2	7	13	
8	Are teachers fair to you?	12	7	3	
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	12	8	2	
10	Are you given responsibility?	17	2	3	
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	11	6	5	

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Key to judgements: Grade 1 = outstanding, grade 2 = good, grade 3 = satisfactory and grade 4 = inadequate	Judgement
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OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL	2
How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education	2
How good outcomes are for pupils, taking particular account of variations between different groups	2
How effective the provision is in promoting Catholic education	2
How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school	1
The school's capacity for sustained improvement	1

PUPILS	
How good outcomes are for pupils, taking account of variations between different groups	2
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education – taking into account the following...	2
• <i>The quality of pupils' learning and their progress</i>	2
• <i>The quality of learning for pupils with particular learning needs and/or disabilities</i>	2
• <i>Pupils standards of attainment in Religious Education</i>	2
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school	1
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's collective worship	1

PROVISION	
How effective the provision is for Catholic Education	2
The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education	2
The effectiveness of assessment and academic guidance in Religious Education	2
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum meets pupils needs following Bishops Conference policy and Diocesan requirements	1
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school	1

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	
How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school	1
How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school and plan for improvement to outcomes for pupils with particular reference to spiritual & moral development	1
How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan for improvement to outcomes for all pupils	2
The extent to which the governing body provides effective challenge and support for the Catholic dimension of the school so that areas for development are tackled decisively and statutory and canonical responsibilities are met	2
How well leaders and managers develop partnerships with parents / carers and other providers, organisations and services to promote Catholic learning and pupil well-being	1
How effectively leaders and managers promote community cohesion	1