



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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## **REPORT ON THE S48 MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS**

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

School:	St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Manor Lane Middlewich CW10 9DH
Tel No:	01606 832164
URN:	111340
Headteacher:	Mrs J McKinlay
Chair of Governors:	Mr R Davies
Date of Inspection:	21 March 2018
Inspector:	Mr K Toms

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School is a very effective and vibrant school. It is highly regarded by all within the community and rightly earns its status as a school continuing to be outstanding in providing a Catholic education for its pupils.

The outcomes for pupils remain outstanding as all the pupils make good and outstanding progress in Religious Education. This was observed in the excellent responses they made in their lessons and discussions during the monitoring visit. They were extremely enthusiastic, showing a deep understanding of their work and how this impacts on their spiritual and religious development. They spoke with deep commitment to the importance of living out their faith in everyday life and how they were involved in supporting each other and the wider community. The children were confident in leading and preparing their own liturgies and were hugely thoughtful, prayerful and respectful. The recently formed GIFT team is proving to be very effective in helping to further pupils' involvement in developing the prayer life of the school. They spoke with knowledge and confidence about their role and the importance of their Catholic tradition. The Gift Team have their own Action Plan and spoke enthusiastically about their projects.

The recently appointed Head Teacher, together with a very effective management team and experienced and dedicated staff, continue to provide outstanding leadership in Religious Education. Teaching and learning was observed to be at least good with many outstanding features. Excellent monitoring and assessment procedures allow all staff to target next steps accurately and with appropriate challenge. All lessons now include Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development objectives. The deep spirituality of all leaders and managers, together with that of the staff, is at the heart of this Catholic community. The high standards are set within the context of the spiritual development of all. This was evident throughout discussions with the leadership team and the Governors.

The Governors are passionate in their support and work tirelessly in providing fully for the Catholic life of the school. The partnership with parents is excellent and is playing a key part in helping all to be fully involved in the prayer life of the school. The parish community is fully supportive of the preparation of the children for the sacraments. They also offer unique support in the way in which exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is celebrated in the school chapel. It truly is a "Christ-centred" community.

Provision at the school is outstanding with excellent IT resources used for the teaching of Religious Education. Great care is taken to ensure the curriculum is further developed, placing Christ at the centre of all that they do. Displays all around the school reflect the deep spirituality of this community. Celebrations and liturgies are central to the life of the school and are interwoven with the Church's year and local celebrations. The Collective Act of Worship during the visit accurately reflected the outstanding provision at the school, offering the children the opportunities to challenge their thinking in an atmosphere of prayer and reflection. Children are fully involved in leading prayers and reflections. The chapel is a tremendous asset to the school and creatively used to support prayer and celebrations for the whole community.

In essence the school remains outstanding because it continues to:

- Fully engage and enthuse the children in the mission of their school, challenging themselves to always live as Jesus taught.
- Be passionate and vibrant in its leadership in Religious Education at all levels, always seeking ways to improve and challenge themselves whilst keeping Christ at the centre of all that they do.
- Provide outstanding opportunities for worship and celebration, reaching out to all in their community.