

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:	St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Manor Lane Middlewich CW10 9HD
Tel No:	01606 832164
URN:	111340
Acting Headteacher:	Mrs S Noyce
Chair of Governors:	Mr R Davies
Date of Inspection:	6 March 2012
Inspectors:	Mr T McBeath Mrs E Inman

St MARY'S is a happy and vibrant community where each child and adult is cherished, valued and enabled to grow in confidence to their full potential.

It provides a safe environment in which each individual is encouraged to live as Jesus taught and to reach levels of personal development, creative and academic achievement in line with their capabilities.

FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		34	21	32	36	35	30	27	217
Catholics on roll		21	17	26	31	29	29	26	
Other Christian denomination		4	2	4	3	3	1	3	20
Other faith background			1	1		1			3
No stated religious affiliation		9	1	1	1	2			14
Number of learners from ethnic groups		3	3	3	5	2	3	5	24
Total on SEN Register				2	4	2	3	2	13
Total with Statements of SEN							1		1
FSM		1	1	3	2	2	0	2	11

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	0.09			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Mary's and St.Margaret Ward's	217

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
St. Nicholas Catholic High School.	27

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching/ Allocated time (Hours)		2 hrs 10 mins	2 hrs 10 mins	2 hrs 10 mins	2 hrs 20 mins	2 hrs 20 mins	2 hrs 20 mins	2 hrs 20 mins	15 hrs 10 mins

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	8
Part-time teachers	4
Total full-time equivalent	9.8
Support assistants	7
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	82%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	7
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	7
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

Published admission number	217
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	30
Average class size KS2	32

FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2010/11	Current financial year 2011/12	Next financial year 2011/12
RE	2218.95	1299.86 date	2000.00
English	2485.95	1210.00	2000.00
Mathematics	125.00	00.00	250.00
Science	444.88	208.95	250.00

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL	1
<p>How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education</p> <p>St Mary's is an outstanding school providing pupils with an excellent Catholic education and providing a safe and loving environment in which the pupils grow in the knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ. It is an open and welcoming school and all are committed to developing its Catholic ethos. Expectations and standards are high. The Catholic life of the school is vibrant and all are encouraged to participate as fully as possible. The acting headteacher, senior management team and governors are working closely to develop a robust and effective procedure for assessing, monitoring and moderating pupils' progress. All leaders and managers have a clear vision and understanding of how to maintain the very many outstanding facets of the school and of the areas for further development.</p> <p><u>What the school could do to improve further</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop and embed the current assessment, monitoring and moderation procedures and develop a more analytical approach to the use of data outcomes. • Continue to carefully plan for the implementation of the new religious scheme 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' and for incorporating all assessment procedures into his scheme. 	
PUPILS	1
<p>How good outcomes are for pupils, taking account of variations between different groups</p> <p>The expectations of, and standards of, the school are both very high. Religious Education is presented in many different and creative ways, and by a variety of methods. This enables pupils to learn and encounter Christ in their work, and also in the way pupils and staff live out their Christian lives to the full. Pupils display a great interest in their work and there is a real sense of enjoyment in their religious studies. Pupils are comfortable in articulating their feelings and ideas, and appeared during the inspection, very comfortable in discussing the way in which their work affected them in their daily life in school. One pupil stated, "I barely knew Jesus before joining this school", whilst another said, "I like that we are always a family."</p> <p>Pupils' needs are catered for and are met by the variety of teaching and learning approaches, as well as the excellent support given by teachers and support staff.</p> <p>Recently the school has introduced more rigorous assessment and tracking procedures but these have not been in place long enough, as yet, to present a true measure of the progress that the pupils appear to be making.</p> <p>Pupils participate fully in all aspects of school life. They are given many areas of responsibility, which they take very seriously. There are opportunities to participate in a variety of activities within and after school. The programme of residential trips is seen as particularly important by the pupils themselves, and complements these activities. Pupils are encouraged to not only respond and participate in Collective Worship and class prayer, but also to take responsibility for setting an enabling and prayerful environment. Consequently pupils regularly lead their worship and prayer, selecting the hymns and setting up very meaningful focus areas.</p>	
PROVISION	2
<p>How effective the provision is for Catholic Education</p> <p>The quality of teaching is good overall with some examples of outstanding practice. There is a true commitment to the importance of faith and belief. This permeates throughout the whole school and is demonstrated in all aspects of the life of the school. Teachers carefully plan their work taking into the account the needs of the class and the needs of individuals. Termly and weekly planning is monitored and scrutinized and teachers include their own evaluations. A more analytical approach is being developed is to include their assessment and monitoring procedures, enabling their detailed planning even more effective and to chart and track the progress that pupils are making in a far more detailed way.</p>	

The Religious Education of the school fully meets the requirements of the Bishops' Conference and of the Diocese. Sufficient time is discretely allocated to religious studies as a subject; and Religious Education is also found in all subject teaching. It permeates all aspects of school study and of school life; as a result pupils gain a good understanding and knowledge of their own faith. Pupils also, through the twice yearly study of other faiths, gain a good understanding and respect for the faith and religious practices of other communities. Pupils' understanding of the needs of others is demonstrated by the very many charities the school supports throughout the year. This understanding of the world around them is also being developed through an educational project in Kenya that enables pupils to learn about worship within a very different culture to their own. Pupils do demonstrate a great awareness of what is occurring in the world around them.

The quality of prayer and Collective Worship is a strong feature of the school. Pupils are fully engaged in these meaningful and reflective times. These moments are very special; they are heartfelt, rooted in faith and articulated through drama, dance and singing. They demonstrate a good balance of joint prayer and of time for silence.

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

1

How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic Life of the school

Members of the senior management team and governors are fully engaged in maintaining and developing the high standards of the school. They ensure that the distinctive Catholic nature of St Mary's is central to all activities. A governor has been appointed with the responsibility for overseeing the development of the Catholic life of the school and the Religious Education curriculum. He is a frequent visitor to the school and has a clear understanding of the standard of work within the classrooms. Governors receive information, from this particular governor, and from the Acting Headteacher's Report, and it is through this interaction that the governors support the work of the school. The governors, however, have recognised that some of the information they receive does need to be given and recorded more formally and that they would also benefit from a more analytical approach to the data that the school provides from their assessment, tracking and moderation procedures. Parents have access to information in a variety of ways including newsletters, termly topic information and an annual written report. Information is also available on the school's website. Questionnaires are sent out to parents and the responses analysed. The school has also recently consulted with parents over the amount and type of information that parents would like the school to provide.




The school has very close links with the parish, particularly since the building of the new chapel. Mass is celebrated weekly in the chapel and the chapel is used for joint worship by the parish and the school. A very successful sacramental programme has been developed by the acting headteacher; this is being used effectively to prepare pupils for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. The school is also working closely with the parish to develop a programme that enables links to be maintained with pupils after they have left their primary school, in the time before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

There are close links with St Nicholas High School, the Catholic secondary school. There are many projects that aid transition from the primary phase to the secondary phase. The school provides many opportunities to become involved in local community activities. Staff and pupils attend cluster meetings, in-service training, a varied programme of sporting activities, residential opportunities as well inter-school competitions. The school feels it is important for pupils to meet people in and out of school, and so the pupils attend many outside school events including trips. Visitors are invited into school to share experiences, and residential experiences provide pupils with an opportunity to participate in activities away from home and school.

PARENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	31	27	1	0	
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	35	22	1	0	1
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	28	25	4	1	0
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	13	42	1	0	3
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	29	26	1	1	2
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	32	25	0	0	2
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	19	29	4	1	8

PUPIL QUESTIONNAIRE (YR 2)

		yes 	sometimes 	no 
1	I like being at this school.	26	0	5
2	I learn new things in Here I am lessons.	31	0	0
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	30	0	1
4	I have to work hard.	26	0	5
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	30	0	1
6	My teacher listens to me.	27	0	4
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	28	0	3
8	I get praise when I do my best.	30	0	1
9	Other children are kind and behave well	23	0	8
10	I am happy on the playground.	18	2	11
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	21	0	10
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	29	0	0

PUPILS' QUESTIONNAIRE (YR 6)

		Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	12	9	8	0
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	18	11	0	0
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting and fun?	10	13	6	0
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	19	8	2	0
5	Do you have to work hard?	27	2	0	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	3	18	7	1
7	Do other children behave well?	3	18	7	1
8	Are teachers fair to you?	10	15	4	0
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	14	12	3	0
10	Are you trusted to do things on your own?	26	2	1	0
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	27	2	0	0

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Key to judgements: Grade 1 = outstanding, grade 2 = good, grade 3 = satisfactory and grade 4 = inadequate	Judgement
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<u>OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL</u>	
How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education	1
How good outcomes are for pupils, taking particular account of variations between different groups	1
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

<u>PUPILS</u>	
How good outcomes are for pupils, taking into account of variations between different groups	1
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	1
• <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>	1
• <i>Pupils standards of attainment in Religious Education</i>	1
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

<u>PROVISION</u>	
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	3
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

<u>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</u>	
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.	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