



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary School
Address: New Hey Road
Woodchurch
Wirral
CH49 5LE

Tel No: 0151 677 4088

URN: 105090

Headteacher: Mrs S Ralph

Chair of Governors: Mr P Regan

Date of Inspection: 9 March 2016

Inspectors: Mrs R Moores
Mr K Toms

St Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement



'Love others as Jesus loves you'

Our Mission Statement is -

- To provide the foundation for a Catholic Christian way of life in an environment of caring relationships built on Gospel values.
- To foster a living community of prayer and celebration.
- To encourage the development of the whole child.
- To ensure each child reaches their potential.

By living out our mission everyday, we journey towards fulfilling our vision –

At St Michael and All Angels we will encourage all children to reach their full potential in body, mind and spirit inspired by our Catholic Christian way of life.

Our distinctive aims are -

- To place emphasis on the teaching and learning of the gospel messages through our religious educational syllabus and through the way we relate to each other in our everyday lives.
- To foster a living community of prayer and celebration both within the school and in partnership with the Parish of St Michael and All Angels to feel that they are part of this community and indeed the worldwide family of God.
- To enable children to understand and respect other faiths.
- To equip our children with the necessary information and skills to enable them to make the right choices to keep safe and be healthy in the community of Woodchurch, Merseyside and beyond.
- To give special support to those parents and families who may need it. There maybe a variety of reasons why the school offer families extra support.

- To nurture within our children a sense of aspiration, self determination and a desire to achieve their academic and personal potential.
- To provide a curriculum that supports all children's social emotional behaviour.

In partnership with our families we aim –

- To provide a foundation for a Christian Catholic way of life in an environment where the Gospel message underpins all that we do.
- To provide a curriculum that combines high standards of literacy and numeracy with a broad and balanced curriculum where children are excited and engaged and there is joy in what they are doing.
- To provide learning that is focused on individual pupils' needs and abilities in order that all children reach their potential.
- To build a partnership with parents by giving good information and by embedding the school into the fabric of their community.
- To provide to the best of our ability an inclusive school where children with Special Educational needs, gifted and talented children and minority ethnic groups will be given support.
- To promote high standards of behaviour by teaching and modelling positive behaviour to our children.



FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll	28	30	29	30	25	27	30	24	223
Catholics on roll	12	6	10	12	11	16	10	11	88
Other Christian denomination	3	3	5	6	6	5	10	10	48
Other faith background	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
No stated religious affiliation	13	20	14	12	8	6	8	2	83
Number of learners from ethnic groups	2	3	2	2	1	5	5	4	24
Total on SEN Register	0	8	1	4	1	5	3	8	30
Total with Statements of SEN	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
FSM	0	9	10	8	5	9	9	9	59

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

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary	

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
Woodchurch High School	16
Upton Hall Convent	2
St Anselms	2
St Marys	1
Pensby	1
Ridgeway	2

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week	1.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	19

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	11
Part-time teachers	1
Total full-time equivalent	11.4
Support assistants	14
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	67%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	9
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	2
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

NAME OF SCHOOL	
St Michael & All Angels Catholic Primary	
Published admission number	29
Number of classes	7 + 1 Nursery Class + ESD Base
Average class size KS1	29
Average class size KS2	27

FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2014/2015	Current financial year 2015/2016	Next financial year 2016/2017
RE	1598	1814	1713
English	2695	2795	2890
Mathematics	3000	2890	3120
Science	1567	1600	1697

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
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OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS	1
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As the school's self-evaluation document rightly states: 'The Catholic ethos pervades every aspect of our school life.' It is clearly evident that the school fully lives out its Mission Statement: 'Love others as Jesus loves you.'

The children of St. Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary School take full advantage of the rich diversity of activities on offer, which allows them to grow in faith and spirituality. The children regularly organise and lead a wide range of Acts of Collective Worship, including opportunities for prayer in the various 'Prayer Spaces' and more formal Acts of Collective Worship, such as Stations of the Cross. The school's use of its purpose built Prayer Space is exemplary. The children participate reverently and thoughtfully whether they are at Mass in school or leading prayers in church.

The majority of children enter St. Michael and All Angels with a limited knowledge of the Catholic faith. However, standards of attainment are outstanding in upper Key Stage 2 and for those entering their first year of statutory education, whilst they are good or very good in all other areas. The children make outstanding progress in upper Key Stage 2 and in the Early Years, and at least good progress in all other areas. The older children are helped to 'look deeply into topics' and develop appropriate religious language. This enables them to confidently tackle work of significant difficulty, such as identifying the human and divine aspects of Jesus. During the inspection the youngest children were encouraged 'to put their clever hats on' as they undertook a challenge related to following in the footsteps of Jesus. It is clear that there is a great level of challenge for those pupils with a deep spiritual background and that the children thoroughly enjoy the rich, creative and challenging curriculum that is provided.

The children 'look out for one another' and they are very welcoming to those of other cultures, faiths and beliefs, which is particularly relevant in a school with a relatively low number of baptised Catholic children and a significant number of families from different ethnic backgrounds. The children show an exceptional capacity for self-reflection. They are able to speak very articulately about their Religious Education lessons and they commented that 'such lessons enable them to discuss important issues fully'. They also described the importance of Prayer Spaces in allowing them 'to reflect on how to be better people'. The children's spirituality is a particular strength of the school.

The school's Monitors, Play Leaders and School Councillors guide and support the work of the school staff in helping to ensure that the children's behaviour is excellent. The School Council summed it up very astutely by saying that children always behave well but there is 'an occasional hiccough'. The children demonstrate a keen awareness of personal, local and global issues and regularly raise funds for CAFOD and cancer charities through a wide range of activities such as Cancer Runs, Cake Stalls and Easter Fairs.

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	1
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All leaders, governors and managers are deeply committed to the vision and mission of the school and they work tirelessly to enhance provision and ensure that the school lives and breathes its 'mission in daily life'. The leadership and management of St. Michael and All Angels are outstanding. The Catholic life of the school is given significant priority and this is recognised by all the children and parents, who speak highly of the Catholic ethos of the school and the standards in Religious Education that are achieved. Senior staff and governors are pleased to note an increasing number of parents are choosing a Catholic Secondary School for their Year 6 children to attend.

The school's self-evaluation processes are thorough and rigorous and the school's leaders, managers and governors are not afraid to ask challenging questions. They have very effectively identified the strengths and weaknesses of the school and they are determined to make the school

the best it can be. The self-evaluation form is regularly updated and communication between leaders, managers and governors is frequent. Leaders, governors and managers have addressed all the issues raised at the last inspection so that monitoring is now sharp and focused; all children and staff are now fully involved in preparing and leading Collective Worship; and assessment practices are more rigorous with the use of 'I can statements' and judgements of hesitant, secure and confident now being applied. The school has been transformed by a very focused and dedicated staff and governance team since the last inspection.

The Acting Deputy Head Teacher, who is the Religious Education Leader, gives a detailed report of progress and standards at each full Governors' meeting and her leadership of the subject is outstanding. The Head Teacher also provides outstanding leadership and, together with the Chair of Governors and Parish Priest, they inspire the whole school community in its Catholic vision and mission. They are clearly committed to the spiritual and moral development of all within the school community.

The Assessment Policy and practice is now more firmly embedded in the life of the school and teachers feel more confident in using the assessment tasks and materials provided by the Diocese. The expertise of the Religious Education Leader, who is a Religious Education Consultant for the North West, has been invaluable in developing this important area. Marking has also been thoroughly reviewed and the use of pink and green marking enables teachers to be more targeted in their feedback to pupils. Through regular work scrutinies the school now knows that marking and feedback provide appropriate challenge for all learners.

PROVISION	1
<p>The Religious Education curriculum provided by the school fully meets Diocesan requirements. The standard of Collective Worship is very high and it is noteworthy that all staff members are encouraged and supported to lead Collective Worship. Preparation for First Sacraments takes place both in school and in the parish, where parents are invited to attend Mass and as a result parents are engaging more proactively in such preparations.</p> <p>Most teaching observed was highly effective and pacy and the pupils were enthusiastic about their learning and made at least good progress. All teaching was purposeful and well planned, ensuring that pupils enjoyed learning and made good progress within lessons. Excellent subject knowledge was evident, particularly in the teaching of the oldest children, and the children responded confidently and achieved high standards. Generally the children in all lessons observed were given appropriate challenge and a wide variety of resources and strategies were in evidence in all lessons. In the best teaching, questioning was particularly skillful and enabled pupils to reflect carefully on their learning. Provision in the Resource Base is outstanding and it was evident that a real priority is given to the spiritual and moral development of all children.</p> <p>All lessons were very creative and engaging and used a range of teaching styles, with technology generally being used very effectively in lessons. Teachers clearly had very high expectations of all pupils in terms of standards of work and of behaviour and they ensured that pupils were respectful and responsive in lessons. Assessment opportunities were captured effectively and effort and achievement were celebrated and rewarded. The teaching and learning environment, witnessed in all classrooms, was very affirming and respectful of the dignity of all. Prayer focus areas are creative and inviting and good quality resources were in evidence. Teaching assistants were fully and appropriately involved in the delivery of lessons and in some cases were also involved in planning activities. Teaching Assistants and other supporting adults contributed well to the quality of teaching and learning observed. Staff appraisal regularly includes a Religious Education objective and this is certainly helping to shape the vision and mission of the school.</p> <p>There is an extensive range of extra-curricular activities: dancing, film club, construction, to name but a few and the children were obviously very enthusiastic about the rich variety of activities on offer.</p>	

The children benefit from provision which is both enriching and stimulating. Pastoral care is also effective in supporting the children's needs and the children said they know who to go to if they have any difficulties or concerns and they know they will be given the help they need.

The school is very proactive in its communication with parents and the school website and the school's Twitter account captures the many inspiring activities taking place in school.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	1
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St. Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary is an outstanding school.

The strength of the leadership team is outstanding and the improvements that have been made since the last inspection are laudable. Relationships are excellent and there is a real sense of purpose about all that goes on in the school. The whole school team has faced, and continues to face, many challenges but they have grown stronger and all staff, governors and parents are united in their clear and shared vision for the school which is 'to foster a living community of prayer and celebration.' The pupils are happy, confident, well-behaved and thoughtful and they too share that vision for their school.

The Head Teacher and Religious Education Leader are to be commended for their hard work and dedication, supported by a very strong and effective governance and staff team. It would be hard to find a more effective school. The school is set to go from strength to strength.

What the school could do to improve further

- Continue to embed assessment practices to ensure greater consistency across the school
- Ensure the best practice observed, in the challenge of more able pupils, is cascaded across the school

Parents' Questionnaires

78 Parents returned questionnaires

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	54	23	1		
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	54	23	1		
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	57	19	1		1
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	48	22	2	1	5
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	43	27	1	2	5
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	46	29	1		2
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	41	31	2	1	3

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)

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

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	22		
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	22		
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	16	8	
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	22		
5	Do you have to work hard?	22		
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	21	1	
7	Do other children behave well?	18	4	
8	Are teachers fair to you?	22		
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	22		
10	Are you given responsibility?	21	1	
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	20	2	