

St Winefride's Catholic Primary School

URN: 111313

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Shrewsbury

28–29 February 2024

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

1

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

1

Collective worship (p.7)

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

1

The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference

Yes

The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop

Yes

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection

Fully

1

What the school does well

- St Winefride's provides a welcome for all - pupils, staff, parents and visitors.
- Inspirational senior leaders and governors know the school extremely well and fully articulate and promote the Church's vision in education.
- Pupils' behaviour is impeccable and their care for each other is outstanding.
- The fully committed religious education lead has a clear understanding of religious education and a vision for delivering excellence in all areas of the curriculum.
- Prayer and liturgy are integral to all areas of school life, evident across a range of opportunities offered to the whole school community, and the parish.

What the school needs to improve

- Deepen pupils' understanding of Catholic social teaching, including across the whole curriculum, so that they understand the impact of their daily actions on the wider community, both locally and globally.
- Ensure that, in all classes, marking and feedback clearly shows pupils what they need to do to improve.
- Ensure the successful coaching and mentoring model of supporting staff is extended to enable confident delivery of engaging and purposeful prayer and liturgy.

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

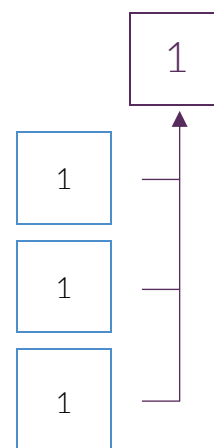
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school



St Winefride's is an outstanding school where pupils embrace the scripture of the mission statement, 'Let your light shine' (Matthew 5:16) and demonstrate a deep commitment to the Catholic life and mission of the school. From the youngest pupils, they express an understanding of what is right. They are proud to be chosen as 'Beacons of Light' in their school. Pupil behaviour is exemplary at all times. Pupils are happy and confident, daily living out the school's core values of excellence, happiness, respect, resilience, compassion, and faith, through the ways in which they 'Learn, Laugh, Listen, Live and Love, in the presence of Jesus.' In their interactions, pupils demonstrate their understanding of this in their respect for themselves, for others, and for their Catholic faith. They explain that they respect those of other faiths and none, while valuing their own. Pupils respond positively to opportunities that are offered to deepen their understanding of their faith. Parents and pupils appreciate the dedication of the school staff and the welcome and support they receive. Parents say, 'We are so grateful to have chosen St. Winefride's for all of our children.' Pupils speak of their commitment to Catholic social teaching, particularly through Mini Vinnies. However, further links to the whole school curriculum would benefit pupils' understanding of this.

St Winefride's provides an outstanding example of deep commitment to the Catholic life and mission of the school. The staff have the highest regard for the welfare of the pupils and know them well. They are exemplary role models in their dedication and support of the pupils, parents, and each other. The school offers varied opportunities within and beyond the school day, that support and enrich pupils' experiences and skills. Across the liturgical year, the school provides activities for the community to join in celebrating its Catholic life and mission. Parents appreciate this and say, 'The school has a spiritual focus which runs through everything they do.' The school

environment is enriched by carefully planned displays, with high quality resources, both in the classrooms and in other areas. A range of displays helps to explain the school's core values and vision, reviewed with pupils at the beginning of each school year. Other displays focus on the liturgical year and support pupils' understanding of this, while others, for example, emphasise the Church's call to care for God's creation. St Winefride's carefully planned, and regularly reviewed relationships and health education programme complies fully with statutory and diocesan requirements.

Leadership is a strength of this school. The inspirational headteacher, and fully committed senior leadership team, are ambitious in ensuring the continued development of the Catholic life and mission of the school. Active and engaged governors, who provide appropriate challenge and support, share this ambition. Scripture is at the heart of all they do. There is a strong commitment to partnership with parents, and the school works hard to develop effective links with the parish. Parents value the school, with one saying, 'School enriches my child, and all the family, with its positive Catholic ethos.' Staff are happy, appreciating the challenge and commitment of leaders and governors, as well as their concern and support. Training and support for staff is strong within the school, and from external providers such as the diocese and diocesan partners. Induction of new staff is a real strength. The coaching and mentoring they receive from the deeply committed religious education leader, and other senior leaders, enables staff to feel confident in their understanding of the school's mission and supports their commitment to work as part of a strong, effective team.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

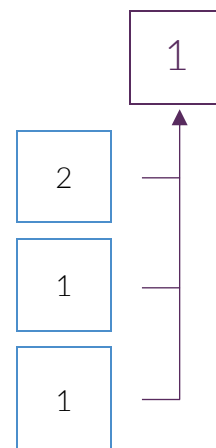
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for religious education



At St Winefride's, pupils make consistently good progress from Early Years to Year 6 and attain comparable results with other core subjects. They are developing secure knowledge and understanding of the religious education curriculum. Early Years children and Key Stage 1 pupils are able to recall previous learning and make connections to it. Key Stage 2 pupils are able to discuss Gospel references and how these influence their daily lives as they endeavour 'to live in the presence of Jesus.' Their behaviour is outstanding; they concentrate well and engage well in lessons. Pupils comment that they enjoy their religious education lessons and the creative activities they undertake. As a result, they are able to reflect on their learning and to think spiritually from a young age. However, older pupils would benefit from more opportunities to deepen their thinking around theological concepts and extend their independent learning. For example, to consider how self-denial enables us to empathise with Jesus' temptations in the desert, as well as with those in our world who do not have enough food to eat. Pupils' work is generally well-presented and most have a clear understanding of what they need to do to improve through oral and written feedback.

Teachers at St Winefride's demonstrate excellent subject knowledge and have high expectations of pupils. They are deeply committed to providing outstanding religious education. Planning is thorough and effective, and the majority of lessons are paced with high expectations of pupils. Teachers plan so that relative to their age and ability, pupils are given opportunities to develop their abilities to respond, discern, and understand. In almost all lessons, highly effective questioning extends pupils' learning and understanding. Other adults are used effectively to support and challenge pupils of all abilities. Teachers provide a range of creative opportunities and use good quality resources to ensure pupils are engaged and motivated. In addition, St Winefride's provides many opportunities in school and beyond to enhance pupils' learning.

Relationships between pupils and staff are excellent and a real strength of the school. Celebration and oral feedback are well established. In most classes written feedback, appropriate to pupils' age and understanding, is evident in pupils' work but needs to be embedded across the school.

Through comprehensive and rigorous monitoring and evaluation, leaders and governors ensure that the religious education curriculum is in line with national and diocesan guidelines. Deeply committed leaders and governors prioritise timetabling, resources, and staff development for religious education. This is evident in the quality and commitment to induction for new staff and the ongoing development of all staff, both in school and on diocesan training. Staff appreciate the support and challenge provided by the strong and inspiring religious education lead. They say, 'she is always ready to support us, giving freely of her time to help us understand the subject, and to plan and deliver outstanding lessons', and 'The senior leadership encourage all staff to undertake professional development to further their knowledge in religious education.' Supported and challenged by governors, the headteacher, and religious education lead and deputy head, provide strong, aspirational leadership. They coach and mentor staff to ensure at least good, and mainly outstanding, teaching and learning is taking place across the school. The religious education lead also works effectively to support teachers and other diocesan schools in planning and implementing new initiatives. St Winefride's now needs to address full implementation of the new *Religious Education Directory*, including further opportunities for creativity and appropriate challenge for pupils as they progress through the curriculum.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

1

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

1

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

1

1

St Winefride's pupils actively participate in, and enjoy, the many opportunities provided for prayer and liturgy throughout the daily life of the school. They articulate their understanding of Church traditions and the liturgical year by recalling Masses, assemblies, and prayer celebrations in which they have been involved, making links between the celebrations and prayer times and their learning. Pupils explain the distinct colours for the Church's seasons and activities such as the outdoor Stations of the Cross during Lent. According to their age and ability, pupils are supported to plan together effectively for school and class prayer, and Mass. Their skills and independence grow as they progress through the school. Parents and carers are invited to 'Stay and Pray' class sessions, which older pupils plan and lead, while younger pupils are supported by their teachers. Pupils evaluate what they have planned and prepared and can make suggestions for improvements. Younger pupils enjoy the help they receive when they are accompanied and supported by Year 6 'buddies' for assemblies and celebrations. Parents comment: 'I have listened to children from Reception age upwards talk about their understanding of the Gospel readings and express their thoughts and feelings on how we can follow in Jesus' footsteps'.

Prayer and liturgy are central to the life of St Winefride's school; they are celebrated at key points in the school day, and throughout the year. Throughout the week pupils experience teacher led and pupil led prayer as a whole school and within classes. Each classroom has a carefully created prayer focus, and displays throughout the school relate to the school's mission, to first sacraments, and to the liturgical year. Scripture is at the heart of the prayer life of this school; celebrations are based on the word of God. Pupils' experiences of scripture are deepened by, for example, the use of 'Open the Book', a group that reads and dramatises Bible stories. The Lantern prayer room is frequently used by classes and individual pupils for prayer and reflection.

The commitment of staff is exceptional. Parents are very appreciative of the opportunities provided by the school for them to be actively involved in the liturgical life of the school, including attending Mass with the school, as evidenced by the parents' questionnaire comments. The school website provides valuable information and support for parents in sharing their children's experiences of prayer and liturgy.

Prayer and liturgy at St Winefride's are outstanding. By their example, the headteacher, the deputy headteacher and religious education lead, and the committed governors, ensure that prayer and celebrations of the word are meaningful and reflective of the schools' core values and mission statement. Celebrations of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as well as traditions such as the Stations of the Cross are planned throughout the year. Their considerable expertise and understanding of the progression of skills required of pupils ensures a clear vision for prayer and liturgy at St Winefride's. The comprehensive policy provides a strong framework for delivering this. Staff are very well supported in their development of leading prayer and supporting pupils by the advice and practical support of the skilled and dedicated religious education subject lead. However, the benefits of the coaching and mentoring model that has been very successful in developing staff expertise in religious education, is not yet fully evident in prayer and liturgy. Pupils show increasing confidence in leading prayer and liturgy. For example, by leading a class 'Stay and Pray' celebration, planning and writing the prayer, and providing opportunities for participation and for quiet reflection. Regular self-evaluation of prayer and liturgy through monitoring, including pupil voice, enables leaders to continue to develop and improve the provision.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Winefride's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	111313
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	8963501
Full postal address of the school	St Winefride's Catholic Primary School, Mellock Lane, Little Neston, Neston, CH64 9RW
School phone number	01518325012
Headteacher	Jennifer Davies
Chair of Governors/Trustees	Mark Branch
School Website	www.stwinefrides.cheshire.sch.uk
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	N/A
Age-range of pupils	4-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	5 July 2017
Previous denominational inspection grade	2

The inspection team

Carol Morgan
Claire Marrin

Lead
Team

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement