



DIOCESE OF  
**SHREWSBURY**

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DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School:	St Clement's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Oxford Road Runcorn WA7 4NX
Tel No:	01928 572129
URN:	111320
Headteacher:	Mr M Parker
Chair of Governors:	Mrs A Williams
Date of Inspection:	17 October 2019
Inspectors:	Mrs C Morgan Mrs J Walker Mr K Toms

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Through the love of God and the person of Jesus,  
our aim is to develop the wholeness of everyone,  
striving for excellence in all that we do.

We seek to be a welcoming and caring Catholic  
community,  
respecting and accepting each other,  
as we journey together in love and faith.

**SCHOOL: St Clement's Catholic Primary, Runcorn**

**DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: November 2014**

**JUDGEMENT FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION: Outstanding**

**AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION**

- There were no areas identified for improvement at the last inspection.

**PROGRESS MADE WITH AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM THE PREVIOUS INSPECTION**

Although there were no areas identified for improvement, through continuous self-evaluation the school constructed an action plan based on the following:

- Improvement and development in Religious Education which included:
  - A commitment to supporting and developing new staff
  - Improving assessment and moderation in curriculum Religious Education
  - Reviewing and planning the school's teaching in Relationships and Sex Education

**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS:** how effective is the school in providing Catholic Education.

2

**This is a good Catholic school**

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*The above judgement on overall effectiveness is based on all the available evidence following the evaluation of:*

**CATHOLIC LIFE**

1

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

2

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

1

**Summary of key findings:**

- St Clement's Catholic Primary school is a good school with many outstanding features
- The Mission Statement is central to the life of the school. Staff and pupils particularly appreciate, relate to and daily live out the phrase, '...journey together in love and faith.'
- The welcome extended to all is exemplary
- The pastoral support offered to the school community is outstanding

## **What the school needs to do to improve further**

As identified through the school's self-evaluation and by inspectors:

- Implement the new, planned Relationships and Sex Education programme across the school
- Continue to support and challenge all teachers to ensure that outstanding Religious Education is delivered throughout the school
- Continue to seek ways in which school and parish can actively engage

## **Information about the Inspection**

The Inspection of St. Clement's Catholic Primary School was carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, and in accordance with the Shrewsbury Diocesan Framework and Schedule for Denominational Inspections approved by the Bishop of Shrewsbury. The inspection reviews and evaluates how effective the school is in providing Catholic education. This process begins with the school's own self-evaluation and the inspection schedule follows the criteria set by the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (NBRIA 2017).

The inspectors reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school
- The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education
- The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education
- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship
- The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school
- How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education, Collective Worship and the Catholic Life of the school

The inspection was carried out by two inspectors over one day:

- The inspectors observed teaching and learning in seven classes
- A range of Collective Worship was observed including a whole school Act of Worship led by Year Six pupils, attended by parents and members of the school community, and Collective Worship in two classrooms

- Discussions were held with the Headteacher, the Religious Education Coordinator, the Parish Priest, the Chair of governors and the Religious Education link governor, pupils, and two members of staff
- A sample of pupils' Religious Education workbooks was scrutinised from every class along with the Religious Education Coordinator's files and school/class books evidencing Collective Worship, liturgies, Masses and parental comments
- Pupil, parent and staff questionnaires were reviewed
- A range of documents was made available and scrutinised including the Diocesan Self Evaluation Form (DSEF), the Religious Education Action Plan, the School Development Plan, school policies and minutes of governing body meetings
- Attainment and progress data and monitoring of lessons was scrutinised. The analysis of this and the impact of relevant support and training for staff was discussed with the Religious Education coordinator
- Displays around the school and in classrooms were also noted.

### **Information about this school**

St Clement's is a small Voluntary Aided Catholic primary, catering for pupils from 5 -11 years old. The school has an annual admission number of 30, and there are currently 204 children on roll, 55% of whom are baptised Catholics. The school is organised into seven single age classes.

The school serves the parish of St Maximilian Kolbe in Runcorn, incorporating St Edward's church.

The Headteacher and the Deputy Head/Religious Education Coordinator have been in post since 2010. There has been some change in staffing and governing body membership since the last inspection.

Staffing includes a full time equivalent of 9.4 teachers and 8 support staff. 50% of teachers are Catholic. 3 teachers hold the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies (CCRS) and 2 teachers have achieved the National Primary Qualification for Middle Leadership (NPQML).

## Full report – inspection judgments

### CATHOLIC LIFE

#### The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding

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The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school	1
The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision of the Catholic Life of the school	1

- The Mission Statement is reviewed regularly and is central to everything that is done by the school. All members of the community understand and live the phrase, '... we journey together in love and faith.'
- The proactive Headteacher, very experienced Religious Education Coordinator and governors are deeply committed to the Catholic Life of the school and give daily witness through their welcome and support for all involved with the school.
- Almost all pupils understand and appreciate the Catholic Life of the school and the opportunities they are offered to develop their personal faith.
- School leaders and governors meet regularly to review progress and impact of the plans for developing the Catholic Life of the school.
- The behaviour of pupils is exemplary; they report that almost all pupils behave well reflecting the school's commitment to its Catholic ethos.
- Pupils show deep respect, love and care for each other and they are quick to recognise and celebrate each other's efforts and abilities.
- Pupils appreciate and embrace membership of the school community; they understand, from an early age, that love, and forgiveness are essential parts of their school life. Pupils said, 'If we do wrong, God forgives us,' and, 'Teachers forgive us too... Mr. Parker is big on fresh starts.'
- Almost all pupils recognise that helping others, especially those who are less fortunate than themselves, is a vital part of the mission of the school and the church. They are enthusiastic prayer leaders and members of Mini Vinnies, raising funds for charities including CAFOD and Mission Together, as well as regularly contributing to the Halton foodbank.
- Members of the school community are supported in living out their faith through their actions; the whole school embraced 'Laudato Si' and has addressed global issues, including supporting refugees.
- Pupils enjoy taking leading roles in chaplaincy activities which promote the school's Catholic Life, both within the school and in the wider community. They enjoy their times of prayer and celebration together.
- The school provides outstanding pastoral support and staff and pupils appreciate and take advantage of the many ways in which they are encouraged to develop their personal skills and attributes to become happy, confident members of the community.
- Pupils have responded well to the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) planned by the school and, appropriate to their age and ability, have a good understanding of loving relationships within a Christian context.

- Most pupils value and respect the Catholic tradition of the school. They are involved in Diocesan activities and have links with other local, Catholic schools. Sacramental preparation is held within the parish. The Parish Priest visits school and Mass is celebrated in school over the school year. Parents and parishioners are invited to key celebrations within school and these are well attended.
- School leaders ensure that Diocesan policies and initiatives are implemented, and that new staff are supported in developing the Catholic Life of the school.
- Leaders and governors attend relevant Diocesan events and CPD as well as engaging with and representing Diocesan and local groups.
- Leaders and governors have reviewed the current RSE scheme and, after trials of new materials, have plans for consultation with parents with a view to implementing the new scheme in the next academic year.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Religious Education is good

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How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	2
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education	2
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education	1

- Pupils make good progress in each key stage relative to their varied starting points. They enter St. Clement's where accurate assessments of their Religious knowledge help staff to ensure that almost all children make good progress, and this is built on in each key stage.
- During the inspection the children were exploring the season of Advent and one class "justice." They showed good prior learning, using appropriate religious language and the tasks helped to consolidate and enhance their learning.
- In one class, the pupils came together to reflect on their Advent promises. It was a very prayerful time, allowing the children develop their own spirituality. This was a very good example of how children can respond in prayer to this season of the year.
- Most children were very engaged in the task set them, they were enthusiastic and keen to deepen their knowledge. Behaviour throughout the learning walk was good.
- Pupils with particular needs were well supported by learning assistants, allowing them to make good progress too.
- Displays in Religious Education were good, reflecting the high priority given to this subject and the opportunities they offered for further prayer and reflection.
- Consistently good planning, tracking and assessment systems in Religious Education support and enhance most pupil progress.
- Most lessons had clear objectives which were effectively shared with the pupils. The use of talk partners and appropriate questioning by teachers helped pupils to consolidate their learning.
- All teaching through the learning walk was at least good with an example of outstanding practice.
- Older pupils were animated in their study of Oscar Romero, they understood the importance of justice for all and the sacrifices made by people of faith in pursuing it.
- The school offers good quality resources to support Religious Education and to enhance the learning and prayerful environment.
- A scrutiny of pupils' books reflected the pride they took in their Religious Education work. Books were well presented and showed the good progress most of the children were making.
- Leaders and Governors ensure that St Clement's meets all Diocesan and Bishops' Conference requirements. This was reflected in the quality of documentation present during the inspection.
- All classes meet at least 10% dedicated Religious Education time on the individual class timetables.
- Leaders and Governors provide excellent opportunities for Continuing Professional Development in Religious Education.
- The outstanding Religious Education Coordinator knows her subject well and supports all the staff in their own personal development. Monitoring and assessment are extremely accurate and provide excellent guidance for future development and direction.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### Collective Worship is outstanding

1

How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship	2
The quality of provision for Collective Worship	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship	1

- The quality of Collective Worship at all levels is at least good with some outstanding features. Collective Worship is central to the life of the school.
- Over the year the school promotes a variety of Collective Worship experiences, including whole school worship, class group worship and Key Stage worship.
- The pupils are encouraged to develop a good understanding of the Church's Liturgical Year, seasons and feast days and this was evident in many displays.
- Staff are supported by the deeply committed and experienced Headteacher and Religious Education Coordinator through modelling and through CPD. This helps pupils to deliver quality Acts of Collective Worship.
- From the earliest years, pupils are involved in the planning of Collective Worship. They are encouraged to choose appropriate readings and music as well as religious artefacts for their prayer focus.
- The Collective Worship books show examples of pupil led and some adult led Collective Worship. There is a clear focus on high quality experiences of Collective Worship for the whole school community.
- Parental responses show appreciation for the opportunities offered by the school for parents' involvement in pupil led Acts of Collective Worship.
- Pupils experience daily prayer, relative to their age and ability, either individually or collectively.
- During the three Acts of Collective Worship observed, almost all pupils' behaviour was very good.
- By the time they enter Year 6, all pupils have had experience of planning and leading Collective Worship. During the inspection they were seen to lead with confidence and were able to make links between Scripture and how, as Catholics, they are asked to live out the Gospel message in their daily lives.
- The majority of pupils are confident when praying traditional and more contemporary prayers. They offer their own spontaneous prayers during Class Collective Worship.
- St Clement's ensures that pupils are offered a wide range of experiences which help them to deepen their faith. For example, in prayer and worship during Masses in school and in church, during liturgies and retreat days.
- Inspectors observed a thoughtful and prayerful reflection on The Lord's Prayer throughout the school, which encouraged pupils to consider the importance of each phrase in a prayer they know well.
- Pupils and staff have access to good quality resources. However, some classrooms could be further enhanced by the provision of a high-quality prayer focus and a relevant crucifix

- The committed link governor for Religious Education visits school regularly and participates in meetings to discuss the Collective Worship planned for the school. She, along with the Headteacher and Religious Education Coordinator, report regularly to governors on the quality and provision for Collective Worship either through verbal feedback or more formal reports.
- Governors and parents are proud of the high standard of Collective Worship offered by the school and appreciate it as a firm foundation for the school's mission in celebrating its Catholic faith.