



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:
**THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

School: St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Address: Coronation Crescent
Madeley
TF7 5EJ

URN: 123556

Headteacher: Mrs S Griffiths

Chair of Governors: Mrs P Boyle

Inspectors: Mrs E Robb
Mrs R Hedger

Date of Previous Inspection:
18 June 2010
Overall Grade 3 (Satisfactory)

Date of Current Inspection:
7 July 2014
Overall Grade 2 (Good)

MISSION STATEMENT



St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a school we are all very proud of. Our school is a vibrant, positive place that provides a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn. Our children enjoy coming to school, are motivated by their successes and become confident, responsible citizens. Jesus told us to 'Love one another as I have loved you', and this reminds us every day to go the extra mile for the pupils within our care. They are secure in the knowledge that our school welcomes their whole family and works with them as a team, with the welfare and education of each child being our focus. They are also secure in the knowledge that each of them has been created by God the Father in His own image; they are loved for who they are and for what they bring to our school community. We are committed to ensuring that our wonderful children, irrelevant of their background, achieve the very best of standards and we accept the responsibility that the quality of our school offer does have a significant impact upon the quality of life outcomes.

As a school we have agreed that to be outstanding, St Mary's Catholic Primary School needs to absolutely committed to developing and then maintaining:

- ❖ A high quality teaching offer that is informed by the systematic use of high impact assessment for learning approaches that secure good progress for all
- ❖ High expectations for ourselves and each other
- ❖ Clear understanding by everyone of their roles and responsibilities and absolute commitment to carrying them out
- ❖ A creative, broad and relevant curriculum that motivates and engages pupils and teaching staff
- ❖ Rich care and value for ourselves and each other rooted in strong Christian values

The school community as a whole is working coherently together with a clear understanding of the school's agreed mission statement. Development and improvement is continuous and constantly strived for with all staff, governors and parents displaying high expectations and goals.

FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The school's context and, particularly, any significant changes in its circumstances since the last inspection

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		19	15	18	15	14	15	13	109
Catholics on roll		8	2	6	4	6	8	6	40
Other Christian denomination		11	12	11	11	8	6	7	66
Other faith background		0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
No stated religious affiliation		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of learners from ethnic groups		1	2	4	1	3	0	2	13
Total on SEN Register		0	4	4	6	7	6	0	27
Total with Statements of SEN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FSM		7	8	5	8	6	7	6	47

Total RE teaching time (Hours)		2	2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	16
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Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	3
Index of multiple deprivation				

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Good Shepherd Parish	38
Other parishes	2

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
BLESSED ROBERT JOHNSON	0

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	3
Part-time teachers	2
Total full-time equivalent	4
Support assistants	5
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	40%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	5
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	0
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

NAME OF SCHOOL	
Published admission number	20
Number of classes	4
Average class size KS1	29
Average class size KS2	28

FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year	Current financial year 2013/14	Next financial year 2014/15
RE	300	2000	3500
English	4500	2500	2300
Mathematics	2500	2500	2000
Science	1000	2000	1000

Please give an indication of the key areas of spending in Religious Education including In-service costs, in the past 2 years.

Purchase of new RE Scheme
 In-service courses –Leadership and NQTs
 Catholic Schools' PD Day
 Resources and artefacts- including for Sacramental preparation and celebration

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
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OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS	2
<p>The children at St Mary's Catholic Primary School are proud of their faith, their school and the school community. One child commented, "We know the school is trying to make us the best we can be." This was clearly visible to the Inspectors as they walked around the school. There was an atmosphere of trust and respect. The children are fully aware and understand the school's Mission Statement. They show kindness and respect to each other, as well as to the adults working within the school.</p> <p>A significant number of children start school in the Reception class with skills and abilities well below those considered to be appropriate for their age. However, children quickly settle into school life and the majority of pupils make good progress. Standards in Religious Education throughout the school are in line with those of other subjects and are within national expectations.</p> <p>All lessons observed by the Inspectors were judged to be good, some with outstanding features. Many children showed considerable depth of thought and enthusiasm for new challenges. Lessons were well prepared and differentiation was evident, although this is an area for further improvement.</p> <p>The behaviour of the children is excellent. The older children fund raise energetically for various charities throughout the year. The School Council and the Minnie Vinnies take a leading role. The children make contributions to CAFOD, engage in the sponsorship of Sudan babies and support the Marie Curie Trust, to name but a few.</p> <p>Provision for Collective Worship is outstanding. The children enjoy participating and speak enthusiastically about their involvement in planning and delivering assemblies and other Acts of Collective Worship. Each week a guided reading group chooses a Gospel reading. They discuss its implications, plan its delivery and skillfully use a range of resources, including drama, music and IT, to enhance the message or theme of the activity. Pupils are aware of, and understand the importance of, key celebrations throughout the liturgical year and are comfortable praying within their school community. They show reverence and respect at prayer times. The provision of Religious Education meets diocesan requirements.</p>	

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	2
<p>The staff and governors are fully committed to the Church's mission in education. The recently appointed Headteacher, who is also the Religious Education Co-ordinator is dedicated, focused and highly motivated. She is ably supported by an equally dedicated, highly motivated Assistant Headteacher. Together they lead a team of committed staff, who fully support the ethos of the school and work extremely hard to ensure children have access to good quality lessons.</p> <p>The leadership team and governors carefully monitor all areas of the Religious Education curriculum. Outcomes from the scrutiny of planning, teaching, learning, pupils' workbooks, assessment and tracking of pupils' progress, are used effectively to inform improvement plans and guide professional development training. The Religious Education action plan forms an integral part of the school development plan and underpins the vision and direction of the school. The Governing Body provides a high level of support and is justifiably proud of the progress made by the school in a relatively short period of time.</p> <p>Questionnaires, returned by parents, indicate overwhelming support for the school. Parents attend school Masses and are always made welcome. The children's questionnaires indicate that they enjoy their school and their lessons. They appreciate the work that staff do to provide extra-curricular activities. Comments such as, "lessons really educate you", "I wouldn't change anything about our school", "there is more colour everywhere", "our school has had a facelift" and "we like that our family comes to school for assemblies and grandparents' lunch" give an indication of just how much children are involved in the life of the school.</p>	

PROVISION	2
<p>The quality of teaching and learning across the school is good with some outstanding practice observed. Lessons are well planned to challenge, interest and engage children, Assessments and recorded work show that children have a good understanding of topics taught and are making progress. There is evidence of differentiation to meet the needs of individuals and groups of children. However, this needs to be developed further to address the needs of the more able.</p>	

Children enjoy their Religious Education lessons. They are eager to participate in activities prepared for them. The children enjoy the topics in 'The Way The Truth and The Life' and are encouraged to reflect, and to use quiet time and talking partners, which helps and encourages them to think more deeply about concepts and Gospel teachings.

Teaching assistants play a valuable role in supporting the children in their learning. They work alongside teachers to ensure that learning is fully inclusive, enabling all children to work towards their potential. Teachers have high expectations of all children which encourages them to do the best they can. Each class has an attractive Religious Education display and prayer corner which reflects the topic taught and/or the liturgical time of the year. Staff have good subject knowledge and there are support strategies in place for any member of staff who may wish to access additional support. The Parish Priest is always available to help in this area. Children are given detailed feedback, either verbally or written, relating to the standards in their work. This helps them to move on to the next steps in their learning and understanding.

There is great emphasis on the emotional, spiritual and moral development of the children which is deeply rooted in the school's Mission Statement. Children have opportunities to explore the cultural diversity of their community and the wider community. They are encouraged to reflect on moral values, relevant to their age and understanding, which are firmly rooted in the Gospel values. Caring, courteous committed relationships are encouraged throughout the school. Both effort and achievement are celebrated.

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school and contributes strongly to the feeling of family and to the shared vision that exists in St Mary's school. Planning for spiritual and moral development and planning for prayer and for the liturgical life of the school are undertaken thoroughly and conscientiously. A great deal of thought is given to ensure that celebrations are rich and meaningful experiences for all. The provision is enhanced further by the close work and involvement of the Parish Priest. There are opportunities for children to experience spirituality at their own level and they skillfully lead Acts of Worship. Parents attend Family Masses in church and School Masses. They are made welcome in school. All members of the school community have a clear understanding of the importance of prayer in the daily life of the school.

The attractive welcoming environment, along with the quality displays and artefacts, around the school reflect the importance and commitment given to enhancing the Catholic life and ethos of the school.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	2
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St Mary's is a successful school providing a good Catholic education for all of the children in its care. There is clear evidence of improvement in all areas of Religious Education since the last inspection.

The entrance to the school is warm and welcoming. The corridor and classrooms are vibrant, lively and colourful. Gospel values permeate throughout the school. The Mission Statement "Love one another as I have loved you" underpins the shared vision which clearly states what is on offer for all at St Mary's and what the parents sign up to when they send their children to this good school.

The children enjoy school and their behavior is excellent. Their spiritual and moral development is supported through a range of formal and informal opportunities. Teaching and learning are good. Children make good progress in their knowledge and understanding in Religious Education. The dedicated staff strive to make lessons interesting and challenging for children. The Headteacher, staff and governors form an excellent team and are deeply committed to promoting the shared vision of the Catholic life of the school. The children are delightful, extremely courteous and can express their beliefs with confidence.

The new Headteacher has made a significant impact on the school. She inspires others to ensure that the shared vision has a significant positive impact on the outcomes for the children of St Mary's Catholic Primary school.

The areas requiring improvement in the last inspection have been addressed.

What the school could do to improve further:

- Continue to develop robust systems for the monitoring and assessment of Religious Education.
- Continue to develop assessment procedures to support greater differentiation, particularly for more able children.

Parents' Questionnaires (47 questionnaires were sent out - 47 returned)

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	39	7	1	0	0
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	31	12	1	0	3
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	37	9	0	0	1
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	37	9	0	0	1
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	30	16	0	0	1
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	36	10	1	0	0
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	34	12	0	0	1

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	16	1	0
2	I learn new things in Here I am lessons.	15	2	0
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	17	0	0
4	I have to work hard.	16	0	1
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	14	3	0
6	My teacher listens to me.	15	2	0
7	<i>When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.</i>	17	0	0
8	I get praise when I do my best.	17	0	0
9	Other children are kind and behave well	14	3	0
10	<i>I am happy on the playground.</i>	17	0	0
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	16	1	0
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	16	1	0

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)

		Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	6	5	0	0
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	5	6	0	0
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	2	7	2	0
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	9	1	1	0
5	Do you have to work hard?	5	4	2	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	6	4	1	0
7	Do other children behave well?	2	9	0	0
8	Are teachers fair to you?	6	5	0	0
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	7	4	0	0
10	Are you given responsibility?	7	4	0	0
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	6	5	0	0