



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School:	SS John Fisher & Thomas More Catholic Primary School
Address:	Woodhouse Lane Benchill Manchester M22 9NW
Tel No:	0161 998 3422
URN:	139467
Headteacher:	Mr D Hemington
Chair of Governors:	Mr M Fox
Date of Inspection:	21 June 2018
Inspectors:	Mrs E Robb Mrs C Morgan

# **Journeying Together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn.**

## **Mission Statement**

Our Mission here at SS John Fisher and Thomas More is to value the uniqueness of every person in our Catholic Christian Community, realising that each individual is created in God's likeness.

While striving for excellence we accept the children as they are and seek to teach them all the Gospel values with Jesus at the centre of all our lives. Prayer frames each of our days and strengthens us to fulfil our purpose as educators.

We acknowledge our parents/carers as the first educators and appreciate their support and involvement in school life. Daily, we seek to provide opportunities and rich learning experiences to further the development of the whole child.

We celebrate the children's achievements, strive to realise their hopes, encourage them to reach their goals and dream of whom they may become.

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	EYFS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	N	REC							
Number on roll	47	45	40	45	43	43	41	44	349
Catholics on roll	19	31	23	33	26	31	27	30	220
Other Christian denomination	17	11	11	10	9	5	6	5	77
Other faith background	1	0	1	1	1	3	4	2	13
No stated religious affiliation	10	3	5	1	7	4	3	6	39
Number of learners from ethnic groups	21	24	26	21	22	22	20	25	181
Total on SEN Register	-	6	<5	8	5	6	5	11	44
Total with Statements of SEN		-	-	<5	-	-	<5	-	<5
FSM (Ever 6)	-	16	13	20	24	25	26	31	155 52%

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	6
Index of multiple deprivation	176 out of 32,844 (2015)*			

\*All wards in the country are ranked with 1 being the most deprived.

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	1
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Our Lady Queen of Peace	

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
St Paul's High School	21
Loreto High School	1

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week		2.25	2.25	2.25	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	16.75

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	17
Part-time teachers	3
Total full-time equivalent	18.56
Support assistants	14
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	55%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	100%
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	3
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	1

NAME OF SCHOOL	
Published admission number	45
Number of classes	12
Average class size KS1	30
Average class size KS2	28

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year	Current financial year	Next financial year
RE (including CPD)	£3623	£3500	£3500
English	£18721	£5000	£5000
Mathematics	£6600	£5000	£6000
Science	£837	£1500	£1500

<b>Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
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<b>OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>SS John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Primary School as part of the Wythenshawe Catholic Academy completely embraces the motto  “Journeying together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn”.</p> <p>The School’s Mission Statement, which celebrates the value of the uniqueness of every person made in God’s likeness, is at the heart of the Catholic life of the school.  The commitment to this has supported and maintained the school during particularly difficult times. The school is now in a better place and continues to promote and live by the Gospel values.  There is an atmosphere of trust, respect and care in SS John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Primary school.</p> <p>All Staff work hard to create a happy and caring environment where children feel safe, secure and motivated to work hard to achieve their full potential.  Teachers use a school emoji system effectively and as a result of this initiative, the children demonstrate the ability to forgive and be forgiven and to show tolerance for one another.  The motto “Journeying together with Jesus Christ we learn to love and love to learn” is lived out each day.</p> <p>There are a range of activities and events which celebrate the Catholic life of the school and children are encouraged to fully participate in these.  Children are involved in preparations for Masses relating to the Liturgical year as well as Collective Acts of Worship. A programme of assemblies follows the liturgical year and celebrates the children’s academic, religious, social and cultural achievements and responds in a supportive manner to the success of others.  Within the Wythenshawe Catholic Cluster the children have the opportunity to celebrate their Catholic faith together with other schools for example, Mini Vinnies, GIFT (Growing In Faith Team) and Y6 transition.</p> <p>The children enter school with limited experiences of prayer and religious knowledge. However, as a result of an effective Religious Education Curriculum in the Early Years, good progress is made as the children prepare to enter KS1. This progress is maintained and developed further in Key Stage 1. Children in Key Stage 2 also make good progress and attainment is in line with standards in English and Maths. Scrutiny of data indicates that disadvantaged children are closing the gap to their peers and in some cases performing just as well as children in their cohort.</p> <p>The children enjoy all aspects of assemblies and collective worship.  There are many opportunities for the children to develop their prayer life. There are permanent areas in the school grounds which children can access, for example the Prayer Garden and the Anam Cara Cross entrance to an amphitheatre.</p> <p>Children are developing their confidence in leading prayer and worship in the classroom and in the wider school setting.  The children demonstrate knowledge of religious seasons and key artefacts. They can choose appropriate hymns for specific celebrations and often pray with the Deputy Head in the weekly Prayer Group. This time for prayer helps the children to see how they can live out their prayer intentions through all aspects of their daily lives.  The Prayer Garden is often used at playtimes or lunch times.  The children enjoy praying and show reverence and respect at prayerful times.  Their behaviour is excellent and they are encouraged and supported by “Golden Rules” which promote the Gospel Values.</p>	

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>All involved in the leadership of the school are fully committed to the Gospel values.</p> <p>The inspirational leadership and vision of the Headteacher has ensured that the school made considerable progress, especially during the last eighteen months.</p> <p>A new Religious Education Subject Leader has impacted positively on the provision and development of Religious Education throughout the school. As a result Staff are becoming more confident in the delivery of The Way, The Truth and The Life, and are developing creative ways to deliver the Religious Education programme.</p> <p>The Interim Management Board and Governors provide support and challenge in all aspects of school life and they work closely with the leadership team to monitor provision and outcomes. They are well informed about the Religious Curriculum and the religious life of the school through regular meetings and reports from the Religious Subject Leader and Headteacher.</p> <p>Book scrutinies, learning walks and lesson observations are used to good effect and these ensure that there is no complacency in the pursuit of high standards for all children. Recent findings from learning walks and book scrutinies indicate clearly the progression in Religious Education knowledge, skills and understanding acquired from Early Years to Year 6. This is the result of effective teaching and high expectations from Staff.</p> <p>The Interim Management Board and Governors are unwavering in their commitment to provide the children at SS John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Primary School with the best possible opportunities to achieve their potential.</p> <p>The Religious Education Subject Leader and Senior Leadership Team ensure that good practice is shared and that less confident Staff are well supported to teach the Religious Education curriculum effectively. There is an evident atmosphere of trust and co-operation.</p> <p>The Parish Priest leads the Wythenshawe Team Ministry which enables children to learn how Christ can be placed at the heart of every day living, and provides regular opportunities for the children to come together and celebrate their faith with other schools.</p> <p>Parents' views are sought each year (questionnaires collected at Spring Term Parent Consultation evening) Feedback from the evaluation of these forms is used to help improve the quality of Religious Education provision.</p> <p>Performance Management is implemented, and is seen as a tool which when used effectively can support the Catholic ethos of the school.</p> <p>The leadership and management of the school place great value on pastoral care and guidance.</p>	

<b>PROVISION</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>The Way, the Truth and the Life is embedded across the school and all year groups use resources effectively and confidently. The Religious Education Curriculum fully meets the requirements of the Bishops' Conference.</p> <p>Lesson planning is thorough, clear and builds on previous knowledge. Differentiation is evident and ensures all children access the curriculum. Excellent use is made of ICT resources and the development of the creative curriculum enhances further the children's experiences. The children enjoy their Religious Education lessons and are fully engaged and curious about their faith.</p> <p>"R.E. is great and it is fun" ( Pupil Voice).</p> <p>All lessons observed during the inspection were at least good with some displaying outstanding features.</p> <p>The children were presented with excellent resources; they worked individually or in groups to good effect. They were able to articulate clearly their views, confident in their explanations and reflections and listened to each other with respect. Working relationships between staff and children are excellent.</p>	

“Teachers give you freedom to explain in your words and explain your ideas” ( Pupil Voice).

The stimulating displays around the school and in the classrooms and the high standard and quality of the children’s work in their Religious Education books indicate the commitment of all in placing Religious Education at the centre of the children’s learning.

The children are energetic fund raisers and the school is committed to supporting CAFOD and Mission Together, as well as local charities, such as the Cornerstone and Wythenshawe food bank. The children were recently given an opportunity of seeing their “faith in action” when resources acquired through fund raising activities, led by the Mini Vinnies, were taken to India by a member of Staff. The children could see the impact of their charitable works.

For children who may experience social, emotional or behavioural needs, a Nurture Group has been established which enables children to work in small groups in a cosy, nurturing environment for parts of their school day, thus fulfilling the commitment to cater for the needs of all children.

There is a comprehensive timetable for Collective Worship. The Religious Education Subject leader has developed a range of resources for Staff to use in the preparation for, and delivery of, Collective Worship.

Parents, Carers and members of the community are invited to class led assemblies, liturgies and Masses. Parents and Carers are also involved in the ten week Sacramental programme organised each year.

Parental questionnaires indicate that the parents fully support the mission of the school.

The children love singing and music plays an important part in all aspects of prayer and Collective Worship to set the scene, create an atmosphere of calm or serenity, or to celebrate and praise.

The children are becoming more confident in organising Collective Worship. The Inspectors were invited to an excellent class organised Act of Collective Worship which was reverent, prayerful and thought provoking.

## OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

**2**

SS John Fisher and Thomas More school is successful in providing a good Catholic education, with outstanding features, for all children.

The children are happy, friendly and courteous. They enjoy all aspects of school life and respond positively to the many opportunities the school provides. They are proud of their charitable works and rightly so.

They enjoy their Religious Education lessons and are becoming more confident in preparing and organising excellent Acts of Collective Worship, as observed by the Inspectors.

The inspirational Headteacher, supported by the Senior Leadership Team, the Religious Education Leader, the Interim Management Board and Governors, has provided direction, support and vision to move the school through a difficult period. His commitment to the Gospel values has remained constant and provided the foundations for the school to grow, knowing that if the faith of the school is strong other issues will fall into their rightful place.

The school has excellent capacity to improve further.

All Staff are fully committed to supporting the Mission of the school and work very hard to provide the best possible outcomes for all children.

Relationships at all levels are excellent.

Responses from the questionnaires indicate that the parents are fully supportive and proud of their school.

There is a welcoming, calm and friendly atmosphere throughout the school.

Although there is still work to do the school is to be congratulated on the way in which the significant changes have not diminished in any way the Catholic ethos and Gospel values promoted by all who work at SS John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Primary School.

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

In order for the school to improve further the school could:

- provide further opportunities to teach Religious Education through the development of the Creative Curriculum;
- develop ways in which the children and staff can enhance their spiritual development;
- continue to implement the excellent work of Leaders, Managers , Staff and Governors in developing the Religious Education Curriculum and Catholic life of the school, so that the school can move from good to outstanding;
- continue to share the good practice in Collective Worship throughout the school.

**Parents' Questionnaires**  
**167 Parents returned questionnaires**

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	93	71	1	1	1
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	94	67	4	0	2
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	100	63	4	0	0
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	74	75	13	0	5
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	74	78	8	0	7
6	The school enables my children to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	85	72	4	0	6
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	70	72	14	4	7

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	33	8	1
2	I learn new things in Religious Education lessons.	32	10	0
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	36	5	1
4	I have to work hard.	35	6	1
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	30	11	1
6	My teacher listens to me.	36	5	1
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	34	8	0
8	I get praise when I do my best.	31	11	0
9	Other children are kind and behave well	26	14	2
10	I am happy on the playground.	26	15	1
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	27	12	3
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	33	6	3

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	13	20	3
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	25	9	2
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	14	16	6
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	28	8	0
5	Do you have to work hard?	31	5	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	29	6	1
7	Do other children behave well?	10	24	2
8	Are teachers fair to you?	22	12	2
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	25	10	1
10	Are you given responsibility?	25	7	4
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	20	10	6