



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

---

## **REPORT ON THE S48 MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS**

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

School:	St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Calve Croft Road Peel Hall Wythenshawe Manchester M22 5EU
Tel No:	0161 437 3890
URN:	140758
Headteacher:	Mrs L Kelly
Chair of Governors:	Mrs Gabrielle Higham
Date of Inspection:	26 June 2018
Inspector:	Mrs J Johnson

## **Areas of Outstanding Practice**

### **Outcomes for Pupils**

Pupils at St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School are extremely confident in articulating the Gospel values that clearly permeate each and every aspect of the school's work. They can describe very eloquently how this school differs from a non-faith school, and they take full advantage of the many and varied opportunities on offer to develop their Catholic faith. They can describe in detail how their faith impacts on their lives. Pupils are rightly proud of the school, and they truly understand how to 'Let their light shine'.

Pupil voice is a real strength of the school, and through the Pupil Parliament, pupils regularly evaluate the school's work, and feed this back to stakeholders. They are skilled at giving feedback to each other and to the adults in school, and they know that adults 'definitely listen' to their opinions. They can describe a range of initiatives and activities that have been implemented as a result of their ideas. Pupils are very respectful of each other, are quick to praise others and celebrate their achievements.

The behaviour of pupils is exemplary, and this means that staff can be ambitious in their teaching, and that lessons can be exciting. As one pupil put it, 'I am really proud to say that our Religion is amazing'. High quality displays all around the school, as well as the pupils' books, are evidence of the creativity of staff. Attainment in Religious Education across the school is high, and the pupils know that the school has the highest expectations for them with regards to Religious Education.

Marking and feedback to pupils are very good, so that pupils have a good understanding of what they have done well, and how they can improve. Pupils generally respond to the comments made by staff, thus taking their learning forward. Pupils use the 'I can' statements to make assessments of their own learning. Pupils are building up a rich religious literacy. For instance, one Y6 pupil described a parable as 'a story that we can relate to in our lives, but has a meaning from high above, from God'.

Pupils benefit greatly from their full involvement in the Catholic life of the school and the wealth of opportunities on offer for developing their spiritual life. Their recent 'Pentecost Party' must have been a wonderful experience to be involved in, as many members of the school community, especially the pupils, mentioned it. They particularly enjoyed being able to work with pupils from different classes. The Faith Council and Mini Vinnies clearly shape the life of the school, and were very proud of their recent work with the Wythenshawe Foodbank.

From the Nursery up through the school, staff model high quality Collective Worship to the pupils and so by the time pupils reach Y6, they are extremely skilled in planning and leading high quality Collective Worship themselves. One Y4 pupil described how a Collective Worship should be planned, clearly showing her understanding of each part. Pupils value the calm and reflective time that Collective Worship offers, and throughout, they show great reverence and respect. They are joyful in their singing. Pupils described the school's poignant response to the anniversary of the Manchester Arena incident with great pride.

### **Leaders, Governors and Managers**

The Headteacher, most ably assisted by the Deputy Headteacher, the recently appointed Religious Education Co-ordinator and the Governors, has been relentless in her quest for the best Catholic education for the pupils in the school. All staff are fully committed to the school's Catholic Mission and ethos. Fr Michael is a frequent visitor to the school, and the impact of his work with staff and pupils is clearly evident. The Governors, who are fully committed to the school, are also extremely knowledgeable about the school. They have termly Review Days when they come in to evaluate the school's provision (including for RE and the school's Catholic Life) and to find out things for themselves first hand. They are particularly pleased that school staff are benefitting from

participation in the Catholic Leadership Programme and Building the Kingdom, and can see the impact of these in school.

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher provide inspirational leadership, and have been successful in building a strong staff team, including a number of newly qualified teachers. The Religious Education Co-ordinator, who has only been in this role since September, is clearly making his mark, through developing staff, and through leading by example with his exemplary practice in all areas of Religious Education. The school's Self-evaluation is accurate, and fully embedded. The Religious Education Plan is strategic and monitored carefully.

Parents are now kept well informed about developments in Religious Education, and are given very good support by the school to assist them in further developing the faith of their children. Many more opportunities are now on offer to parents to share in school and class celebrations.

### **Provision**

Teaching throughout the school is very creative, and consistently of high quality, and as a result, pupils are fully engaged in their learning, and achieve high standards. On the day of the Inspection, St Elizabeth's was an exciting place to be! Teachers have secure subject knowledge, and Teaching Assistants provide good support for learning, across the ability range. Each topic begins with: 'What I already know' and 'What I would like to find out' and ends with 'What I have learned', which helps pupils to take ownership of their learning. Assessment procedures are fully embedded.

The learning environment throughout the school, both in classes and communal areas, is particularly engaging, and it is very clear that Religious Education is given a high priority. The school has very strong links with other schools, most notably with the schools in the Wythenshawe Multi-Academy Trust as well as other local Catholic schools, and it is evident that both staff and pupils benefit from these collaborations. There are also well established links with the parish, particularly for the Sacramental Programme, which is very well led by the Parish Catechists.

Collective Worship is a key part of every school celebration, thus ensuring that Jesus is placed at the heart of everything the school does.

Many and varied opportunities are provided to enable pupils to take on a wide range of responsibilities in the school, and these are much valued by the pupils.

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School continues to show exemplary practice in all areas and is an outstanding Catholic school.

In order to develop further, the school should

- Share examples of the outstanding practice seen in some classes, in relation to the provision of challenge for more able pupils, so that it is embedded throughout the school