



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
Address: Cheetham Hill Road  
Dukinfield  
SK16 5LB

Tel No: 0161 368 4824

URN: 106240

Headteacher: Mr J Murray

Chair of Governors: Father O O'Doherty

Date of Inspection: 6 March 2018

Inspectors: Mrs E Inman  
Mrs C Morgan

## **THE SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT:**

**Our mission is to work to develop the full potential of each individual in an environment where the Gospel values of love, peace, truth and justice are lived out.**

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		30	30	32	30	32	32	30	216
Catholics on roll		19	23	19	16	18	27	21	143
Other Christian denomination		2	2	7	6	4	2	4	27
Other faith background		1			1		1		3
No stated religious affiliation		8	5	6	7	10	2	5	43
Number of learners from ethnic groups									
Total on SEN Register		5	4	2	2	4	2	2	21
Total with Statements of SEN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FSM		6	4	3	2	6	6	3	30

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation				

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Mary's Dukinfield	139
St Paul's Hyde or St James' Hattersley	58
St Peter's & St Raphael's Stalybridge	11
St Christopher's Ashton	4
Other	4

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
All Saints Catholic College	12
St Damian's	8
St Thomas More	3
Other (non-RC)	5
Total:	28

RE TEACHING TIME	REC	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week	2	2¼	2¼	2½	2½	2½	2½	16½

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	8
Part-time teachers	
Total full-time equivalent	
Support assistants (TAs)	11
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	62.5
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	8
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	3
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	2

NAME OF SCHOOL	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	30.66
Average class size KS2	31

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year	Current financial year	Next financial year
RE	£2,155.14	£5,102.00	Approx £3,000
English	£7,986	£3,134	Approx £3,000
Mathematics	£1,068	£301	Approx £2,000
Science	£24	£253	Approx £1,000

<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>1</b>
<p>At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Dukinfield, pupils benefit from a variety of opportunities. Being part of a Family Group, including Year 6 and Reception Buddies encourages and develops collective responsibility, individual responsibility, nurturing qualities and a sense of team. Forest School utilises the extensive school grounds to develop teamwork, collaboration, a love and respect for the outdoors, resilience, independence and communication skills. Targeted groups of pupils benefit from the Junior Award Scheme for School. There is an Animal Nurturing Group which encourages a sense of wellbeing, contentment, purpose and responsibility. Pupil sport leaders, Junior Joes, also encourages and promotes leadership and responsibility. Pupils raise funds for a range of charities. They are involved in community social events. They benefit from retreat days both in school and off site.</p> <p>Standards attained in Religious Education by the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 are demonstrably high. The evidence seen in lessons, in the pupils' books and from talking to pupils confirms the school's judgements. A rigorous pupil tracking system is in place and this is used effectively to set targets for achievement. Pupils are keen to talk about their achievement and what they are working on. Teacher judgements are moderated both within school and in the local cluster of Catholic schools to ensure accuracy as well as aspiration.</p> <p>The pupils are rightly proud of their school and eager to share their favourite aspects of learning and life at St Mary's. One of the youngest pupils wanted the inspectors to know about the words they live by: love, peace and truth. An older pupil prompted him to add the word justice. The mission statement is known and understood by everybody; the pupils could explain what this means and how the words are lived out daily at school.</p> <p>Behaviour across the school is outstanding; this is a secure, happy place in which to learn.</p>	

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>1</b>
<p>Knowledgeable, enthusiastic and committed school leaders are untiring in their dedication to embedding the outstanding practice, and improving, their highly successful Catholic primary school. The priority that they afford the Catholic nature of their school is evident through there being three senior leaders responsible for overseeing an aspect of Religious Education and the Catholic Life of the school. A governing body sub group, Catholic Ethos, Performance and Standards, has the remit of accountability for outcomes and standards in Religious Education and the Catholic ethos of the school.</p> <p>Meticulous systems are in place for monitoring, evaluating, reporting and planning improvement. This work is validated externally by a cycle of reflective Headteacher visits with four other Shrewsbury Diocesan Primary schools in Tameside. There is one full morning visit per school per year to observe teaching, learning and behaviour in all classes as well as a scrutiny of pupils' books to moderate standards. This activity enhances the provision of all the schools involved.</p> <p>New members of staff are well supported. There has been a recent turnover of staff within the school year and the induction and encouragement of new colleagues is exemplary. In-service training opportunities are regular, many and varied. Staff benefit from opportunities to attend Diocesan courses and conferences and the impact of these courses is evident in lessons and in pupils' work books. Currently two teachers are studying for the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies, which is a considerable commitment on their part and much appreciated by leaders of the school. Most of the senior leadership team have completed the Catholic Leadership Programme, again an additional commitment for them and for the school financially which benefits pupils.</p> <p>The distribution of the Religious Education subject leader role ensures that no stone is left unturned in the pursuit of excellence. The current Maternity leave of a highly valued Religious Education</p>	

leader is covered very effectively because of this distributed leadership.

School leaders are very aware that they could, and should, distribute the leadership of prayer among pupils. They are keen to develop this aspect of current good practice further so that pupils of all ages, abilities and backgrounds learn to use their growing knowledge and understanding to plan, prepare, lead and evaluate worship in their classes and across the school. The development of staff expertise in this area is also a priority for development.

<b>PROVISION</b>	<b>1</b>
<p>The quality of Religious Education lessons observed on the day of the inspection was outstanding overall. The best lessons seen were characterised by enthusiastic teachers who displayed secure subject knowledge, dialogic teaching which harnessed the use of talk to stimulate and extend pupils' thinking, innovative pupil activities which engaged learners of all abilities. Links are made to prior learning, referring back, and deepening, understanding. Teachers use knowledge of pupil attainment to pitch their lessons at an appropriate and challenging level. Pupils know what they must do to make progress in Religious Education knowledge and understanding; they are very enthusiastic. Aspirations are high, and teachers empower pupils to take responsibility for their learning. A scrutiny of pupils' books showed that most pupils benefit from outstanding teaching, even in classes where lessons seen on the day were judged to be good. Support staff made a valuable contribution to pupils' learning in lessons seen.</p>	
<p>Considerable thought has been put into the way that the core material of the scheme adopted by the Diocese of Shrewsbury, The Way, the Truth and the Life, is presented to pupils to ensure that all pupils are empowered to achieve at the highest level and that they enjoy their learning in Religious Education. Plans are detailed and ensure comprehensive coverage of the Religious Education content as well as making links across the curriculum. A wide variety of teaching styles and pupil activities ensures that lessons are engaging, challenging and promote learning. Teachers make good use of the Creative Curriculum materials and approaches learned at courses offered through the Diocese. They apply teaching styles used across the curriculum to enhance attainment as well as enjoyment.</p>	
<p>Pupils benefit from opportunities to engage with the local community. For example, pupils spoke enthusiastically of their shared activities with pupils from Oakdale Primary, a school for pupils with additional needs.</p>	
<p>Prayer is an important part of the school day. The spirituality of pupils and staff is recognised and valued by the parish community. Pupils are nourished in reflecting upon, and talking about, their faith; This is a very inclusive community and pupils, whether from faith backgrounds or none, benefit. Prayer leaders have been selected from Year 6 to contribute to the prayer life of the school. Collective Acts of Worship would be enhanced further by enabling all pupils to plan, prepare and lead worship. They have the capacity to be fully involved in evaluating the impact of the quality of their prayer life in school. Leaders and managers are aware of this next step on their journey of development and are enthusiastic about moving forward.</p>	
<p>Parents are kept well informed about the religious life of the school, and their child's learning opportunities, through a comprehensive curriculum guide on the school website, regular Twitter feeds, weekly newsletters and annual pupil reports to parents which describe their child's achievements and next steps in Religious Education. Parents, as well as pupils and staff, are proud of the school and grateful for the hard work of the staff. A parent took the opportunity to write, "My children absolutely enjoy school and when, as a parent, I have needed support, the school have been there to help both emotionally and physically."</p>	

<b>OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS</b>	<b>1</b>
<p>St Mary's is an outstanding Catholic Primary school. Leaders and managers are talented, conscientious, committed and passionate about pupils and their families and strive for excellence in all that they do, constantly seeking ways of enhancing the provision of Catholic education in Dukinfield. The school community embraces opportunities for growth and development. This welcoming, inclusive community is highly successful in promoting the mission of the Church in promoting the Gospel values of love, peace, truth and justice.</p> <p><b>What the school could do to improve further</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To enhance provision for all pupils, the school should explore further how opportunities for prayer and worship can be enriched through teaching pupils to plan, prepare and lead collective worship.</li></ul>	

**Parents' Questionnaires**  
**146 Parents returned questionnaires**

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	99	42	2	0	3
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	96	46	1	0	3
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	96	45	2	2	1
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	69	67	5	2	3
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	73	62	10	0	1
6	The school enables my children to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	93	49	0	0	4
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	75	58	10	1	2

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	27	4	
2	I learn new things in Religious Education lessons.	31		
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	30	1	
4	I have to work hard.	31		
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	26	5	
6	My teacher listens to me.	30	1	
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	31		
8	I get praise when I do my best.	29	2	
9	Other children are kind and behave well	19	12	
10	I am happy on the playground.	21	10	
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	9	21	1
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	29	2	

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	17	13	
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	28	2	
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	22	8	
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	28	2	
5	Do you have to work hard?	30		
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	29	1	
7	Do other children behave well?	14	16	
8	Are teachers fair to you?	29	1	
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	28	2	
10	Are you given responsibility?	26	4	
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	25	5	