



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE S48 MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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| School: | St Mary's Catholic Primary School |
| Address: | Danebank Avenue Crewe CW2 8AD |
| Tel No: | 01270 685174 |
| URN: | 111342 |
| Headteacher: | Mrs S M Fau-Goodwin |
| Chair of Governors: | Mrs J Weston |
| Date of Inspection: | 22 November 2016 |
| Inspector: | Mrs E Inman |

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery continues to offer an outstanding Catholic education. It is an inspirational, cohesive, Catholic community in which every pupil is valued, respected, nurtured and trusted to achieve. An enthusiastic, talented staff team, led by a deeply committed Head Teacher, dedicated Religious Education leaders and strong Governing Body ensure that Faith is lived and learning is deep. There is a clear, shared vision and purpose. A young pupil stated, "The impossible is happening."

The leadership of Religious Education is focused, rigorous, tenacious and passionate. The Religious Education leader has worked tirelessly with her colleagues to ensure that assessment practices impact positively on advancing pupils' learning. All topics are assessed. There is regular moderation of outcomes, the results of which are stored in a reference file to support teacher judgements. Key questions are used in teacher marking of pupils' work to further challenge and extend thinking; pupils respond. They know what they need to do to improve by reflecting on their attainment as they can use the 'I can' statements in their books to guide them in their lessons. The pupils' workbooks are beautifully presented and reflect the creative approach to Religious Education teaching and learning embraced by the school.

The excellent, moving and uplifting worship on the day of the monitoring visit was entirely planned, prepared and led by pupils. The provision of well stocked liturgy boxes in each class supports the pupils in their choices. The younger pupils selected appropriate religious artefacts for their class prayer focal point whilst the oldest pupils used images, a range of music and technology to enhance the prayer experience of their planned worship. Beautiful singing enhanced worship throughout the school, from the sung Angelus shared with the Nursery and Reception, to the hymn in worship led by a Year 6 class.

A pupil said, "We have choices as teachers listen. We can decide how our work is presented in our books and around the school." In lessons and in discussion, pupils were articulate, active listeners. It was particularly striking how they listened to one another and adjusted their own viewpoint or challenged the shared thought. They engaged confidently and politely with adults and with each other. They are very proud of their exceptional school and were keen to talk about what makes it unique. They enjoyed talking about the many and varied wider opportunities on offer such as Mini Vinnies, whose current project is supporting the Macmillan Cancer charity through a fund raising colouring competition, the Junior Recycling Officers, who encourage staff and pupils to improve the environment and the British Values Day attended by their local Member of Parliament.

Areas of Outstanding Practice

- Highly effective use of well-planned and moderated assessment informs next steps in planning for learning.
- Passionate, visionary, focused and tenacious leadership of Religious Education and the Catholic life of the school ensures excellent learning opportunities in a secure, harmonious, high quality environment.
- The opportunities for pupils to plan, prepare and lead high quality worship throughout the school day are many and varied.