



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE S48 MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School:	St Christopher's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Warwick Road Romiley Stockport SK6 3AX
Tel No:	0161 430 4473
URN:	106117
Headteacher:	Mrs M Waters
Chair of Governors:	Dr K Burton
Date of Inspection:	9 July 2018
Inspector:	Mrs R Moores

St Christopher's Catholic Primary School continues to provide an outstanding Catholic education for all its pupils. The school strives every day to 'Carry Christ to All'. The Catholic Life of the school is exemplary and it is underpinned by the 'St Christopher's Way': a set of values upheld by all within the community. The Head Teacher, who has been appointed since the last inspection, has a very clear vision for the school and she has worked very effectively to share this vision with the whole school community. She is supported by a strong and dedicated Senior Leadership Team, a very hard-working staff team and a very knowledgeable and committed Governing Body. There is a real sense of team within the school and all work tirelessly in securing the best outcomes for all within their care.

Outcomes for all pupils are very good and are rapidly improving; there are high standards of attainment and all pupils make good progress. The needs of all pupils are met very sensitively and pupils are encouraged to be the best they can be through the use of a 'Personal Capabilities' curriculum. The school has very expertly weaved Restorative Approaches within the daily life of the school to ensure that forgiveness is central to all and to ensure pupils' emotional literacy skills are fully developed, particularly those of the older boys. Pupils are very proud of how they use Restorative Approaches to resolve conflict and a group of pupils has been trained to support these approaches. As one pupil said; 'We don't get told off, we get help to deal with our problems.'

During the Learning Walk, where all classrooms were visited, examples of outstanding practice were clearly visible. The Religious Education has been personalised to ensure that it is relevant and appropriate. The school environment is bright and attractive and an excellent range of resources is used to support learning; for instance a 'Skype' session was used to provide purpose and a real buzz to an activity in the Year 6 classroom and drama and role play were evident in a number of other classrooms. Pupils' books are treasured and individualised by the use of specific scripture quotes on the front covers or in the case of the youngest pupils, the phrase 'Thank you for loving me' inserted next to their name.

Pupils enjoy their Religious Education lessons and through the use of pupil voice they have given feedback to their teachers to ensure lessons continue to be purposeful, engaging and relevant. The school values pupil voice and has worked hard to ensure there are a variety of ways for pupils to express their views, such as pupil surveys, feedback slips following Collective Worship and through the work of the very well established and effective Mini Vinnies group. Pupils' behaviour in lessons is excellent – they work with enthusiasm and concentration. Lessons are tailored to the pupils' needs and pupils appreciate how hard their teachers work to make their lessons so creative. Regular use is made of assessment strategies such as 'checking in' to ensure that work is pitched appropriately. Teachers plan thoroughly for their lessons and are a strong and encouraging presence within lessons.

Collective Worship is outstanding and a significant strength of the school. There are many opportunities for pupils, their families, staff and governors to worship together. The Parish Priest is very supportive and encouraging of the school and its efforts to become a worshipping community. A variety of liturgies are celebrated such as: 'Light Fever' where there is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after school during Lent and Advent, and Prayer Trails such as the recent Eucharist Prayer Trail where all pupils visited Church and after school invited their parents to join them in Church to find out what they had been learning. One parent who attended wrote; 'We all left Church that day with a warm feeling in our hearts - I just knew from looking at my children's faces how much they had learned from it.'

Staff pray together and are encouraged to do so and on the day of the inspection all the staff met together in prayer at the beginning of the day. As one new member of staff commented: 'I couldn't do this job without being given time to reflect and worship together as a staff before every staff meeting.' Staff support the children in being effective Collective Worship Leaders and are outstanding role models, especially the very dedicated Deputy Head Teacher who is the Religious Education Lead. All classes participate in a weekly class liturgy led by pupils. Each class has its own class book where they reflect on the liturgies that have taken place. Following the weekly whole school Act of Collective Worship two members of every class record their reflections to

provide useful feedback to those leading Collective Worship. During the engaging and uplifting Act of Collective Worship that took place on the day of the inspection, pupils participated enthusiastically, sang joyfully and were given many opportunities to reflect and respond to the story of the Loaves and Fishes and then they considered how they could carry out the mission of sharing food with others. As a result, they decided to hold a non-uniform day and requested that all pupils bring in a food donation for a local Foodbank. One Year 5 pupil reflected: 'I enjoyed today's assembly because it really made me think about how to help the hungry and it felt like God was there with us, watching over us.' Pupils are keen to respond to the needs of their local community and are supportive of a local Homeless Shelter, a local Care Home and CAFOD.

Governors are very proud of their school and are regular and very welcome visitors to it. They are very knowledgeable and provide effective challenge and support to it. They are enthusiastic in accessing training and are very keen supporters of the Restorative Approaches used in school. The Governors are regularly updated about the work of the school and know the school's strengths and areas for development and they are fully involved in the school's rigorous and systematic programme of monitoring and self-evaluation. They speak highly of the outstanding work of the Senior Leadership Team, especially the dedication of the Religious Education Lead, who is also a Senior Leader in Religious Education for the Diocese.

Parents are overwhelmingly in support of the work of the school as evidenced by the very positive and enthusiastic questionnaire responses. One parent summed it up by saying: 'St Christopher's is a great school which instils its values in everything it does. No query is too much trouble and you are made to feel important.'

St Christopher's Catholic Primary School continues to show exemplary practice in all areas, especially in:

Its creative and personalised Religious Education curriculum

Its tailoring of Restorative Approaches to weave its values into the Catholic fabric of the school

Its induction of new staff and its support and nurturing of them in the Catholic faith