



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

## REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

School:	St Christopher's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Warwick Road Romiley SK6 3AX
Tel No:	0161 430 4473
URN:	106117
Headteacher:	Mrs C Garner
Chair of Governors:	Dr K Burton
Date of Inspection:	23 May 2013
Inspectors:	Mr K Toms

St. Christopher's not only maintains its outstanding status but through its extremely dedicated Headteacher, enthusiastic and innovative Religious Education Coordinator and very effective Governing Body is constantly seeking ways to improve the outcomes for all pupils. Since the last inspection, monitoring and assessment procedures have been strengthened still further to ensure a greater number of children are able to achieve at the higher level 5 in Religious Education. The senior management team ensures that assessment in Religious Education is in line with all assessment procedures throughout the school.

Central to the school's success is the emphasis on the Mission Statement and the way that this is seen to be lived out through the whole community. Parents spoke highly of the school's ethos and the tremendously positive impact this has on the children. One parent commented that "My children's spiritual development is far more important to me than academic results. However, I have the luxury of knowing my children are being guided in both!" These sentiments were reflected in many comments parents made.

The school has a very active "Mini Vinnies" group and this is playing a significant part in developing children's independence in their own spiritual journey. The children are extremely well-motivated and confident in leading their own liturgies. Through the "Mini Vinnies" they are also very well placed to respond to the wider needs of the school community. The school's mission to "Carry Christ to All" is very much at the centre of all that is done.

Teaching and Learning throughout the school is good with much that is outstanding. This is due to the expert guidance of the Headteacher, ably supported by the enthusiastic and innovative Religious Education Coordinator. The Coordinator has introduced Candles of Faith to help children to reflect on their own faith development and prayer trails that unite all classes on Gospel themes. All staff feel very well-supported and reflect this in their enthusiasm for promoting the school's Catholic ethos. They are working hard to develop the new Religious Education scheme, using supplementary material when appropriate, and they make excellent use of ICT to support learning. In summary, St. Christopher's continues to be outstanding because it continues to drive standards upwards but always with an emphasis on the school's Catholic mission.

## **Areas of outstanding practice**

### **Outcomes for Pupils:**

Outcomes for pupils are further enhanced by their involvement in the "Mini Vinnies" scheme which helps children develop their own independent spiritual awareness.

### **Leaders and Managers:**

Leaders and managers continue to be totally focused on their Catholic Mission and ensure that all staff are supported with ongoing formation.

### **Provision:**

Excellent monitoring and assessment systems allow the school to continue to drive up standards in Religious Education.