



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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

**School:** St Martin's Catholic Primary School

**Address:** St Martin's Lane  
Murdishaw  
Runcorn  
WA7 6HZ

**URN:** 111380

**Headteacher:** Mr P Hallman

**Chair of Governors:** Mr D Littlewood

**Inspector:** Mrs A Kelly

**Date of Previous Inspection:**  
12 June 2009  
Overall Grade 1 (Outstanding)

**Date of Current Inspection :**  
19 June 2014  
Overall Grade 1 (Outstanding)

The Catholic life and ethos of the school pervades every aspect of school life. The Mission Statement is at the heart of everything the school does and is lived out on a daily basis, providing a haven of tranquillity and reflecting the living faith community that is experienced by all who come into contact with the school.

Leadership is outstanding. The inspirational and charismatic Headteacher is well supported by senior leaders, Parish Priest, governors and staff. They have a clear vision of the Catholic life of the school which is effectively communicated to all. Their dedication and commitment to their pursuit of excellence is commendable.

The Religious Education subject leader has been instrumental in continually looking at ways to improve and enhance the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship. She provides strong leadership, supporting staff in an unassumingly quiet manner. The quality of teaching and learning is consistently high. There is no room for complacency, improvements to the Religious Education curriculum and the wider Catholic life of the school drives the school development plan.

Pupils are enthusiastic learners, enjoy school and behave in an exemplary manner. They are justly proud and speak highly of their school. One pupil commented, "We are very much a community" another said, "everyone matters no one is left out". Pupils have a great knowledge of the world outside their school and make a great contribution with their practical fundraising activities to support agencies such as CAFOD, Mission Together, the Halton foodbank, and the Good Shepherd.

Relationships are a strength and lead to pastoral care which is of the highest standard and contributes to an atmosphere of mutual respect and support within the school community. There is a strong sense of team work where 'every person matters', morale is high and pupils flourish. The school works closely with parents, who appreciate all the school does to give their children such a positive experience.

Teachers have positively embraced the introduction of 'The Way the Truth and the Life' Religious Education scheme. They have successfully ensured that a range of teaching styles and activities are employed in the teaching of Religious Education to enthuse and actively engage pupils, therefore providing purposeful learning. This is evident, for example in, drama, art work, written work and creative learning journals. The school plans to develop further the use of the 'I can' statements in order to involve pupils more in the self- assessment of their work.

The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding. Frequent high quality opportunities for prayer, collective worship and liturgical celebration are provided in close partnership with the Parish Priest, Parish Sister and local community. Staff and pupils' contribution and enjoyment of Collective Worship is outstanding. This was evident in the whole school Collective Worship observed, which was skilfully led by members of Year 6. The theme was celebrating the feast of Corpus Christi and incorporated CAFOD resources, through music, scripture, meditation, song and prayer. Excellent use of technology enhanced the experience for all.

The learning walk provided an opportunity for the inspector to witness examples of outstanding practice, including the interactive displays, and pupils' enjoyment and high level of participation in Religious Education lessons. The high standard of work and presentation in pupil workbooks, the variety of teaching styles and the passion with which teachers delivered the lesson, indicate the commitment to the promotion of high standards expected of all.

## **Areas of Outstanding Practice**

### **Outcomes for pupils**

Pupils enthusiastically take on responsibility and leadership in the Catholic life of the school and the wider community, such as members of the School Council, buddies and playground leaders and through fundraising activities. They also plan and lead assemblies and Collective Acts of Worship. This is further enhanced by the Year 6 involvement in the 'Mini Vinnies' scheme, which not only helps develop their own independent spiritual awareness, but also ensures pupils are actively involved in living out the Mission of the school.

### **Leaders Governors and Managers**

Leaders, governors and managers are deeply committed to the Catholic mission of the school. Robust monitoring systems, relating to provision and outcomes, and their analysis provides a firm basis for accurate diagnosis of the school's strengths and areas for development.

### **Provision**

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school community and a key part in every school celebration. The outstanding quality and provision of Collective Worship enables the school community to put Christ at the heart of all it does.