



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: Shrewsbury Cathedral Catholic Primary School  
Address: New Park Road  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY1 2SP

Tel No: 01743 351032

URN: 123554

Headteacher: Mrs K Lewis (Acting Executive Head)

Chair of Governors: Canon J Mitchell

Date of Inspection: 4 July 2016

Inspectors: Mrs E Robb  
Mrs R Hedger

Christ taught us to love one another.

As a school we follow his example,  
appreciating everyone as a unique gift from God.

We encourage each individual at Shrewsbury  
Cathedral School

to achieve their true potential,  
giving them a firm foundation  
through love, learning and worship,  
to guide them on their journey through life.

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you."  
(John 13: 34)

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

| Pupils                                | FS |    | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 | Total |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
|                                       | PT | FT |    |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| Number on roll                        |    | 20 | 23 | 25 | 23 | 18 | 20 | 15 | 144   |
| Catholics on roll                     |    | 11 | 13 | 12 | 9  | 6  | 13 | 8  | 72    |
| Other Christian denomination          |    | 6  | 5  | 10 | 12 | 9  | 6  | 2  | 50    |
| Other faith background                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| No stated religious affiliation       |    | 3  | 5  | 3  | 2  | 3  | 1  | 5  | 22    |
| Number of learners from ethnic groups |    | 5  | 9  | 9  | 8  | 2  | 6  | 3  | 42    |
|                                       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| Total on SEN Register                 |    | 2  | 3  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 1  | 2  | 17    |
| Total with Statements of SEN          |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    | 1     |
| FSM                                   |    | 2  | 3  | 2  | 3  | 0  | 1  | 3  | 15    |

|                                  |           |   |            |   |
|----------------------------------|-----------|---|------------|---|
| 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 |
| CATHEDRAL PARISH WITH OUR LADY OF PITY (HARLESCOTT) AND ST.WINEFRIDE'S (MONKMOOR) | 22           |
|   |              |
|   |              |
|   |              |
|   |              |
|   |              |

| With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred                           |              |
|--|--------------|
| PUPILS TRANSFER  |              |
| Name of School   | No of Pupils |
| NO PUPILS TRANSFERRED TO THE ONLYCATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SHROPSHIRE, SITUATED IN TELFORD & WREKIN LA. | 0            |
|  |              |
|  |              |
|  |              |
|  |              |
|  |              |

| RE TEACHING TIME                           | FS |    | Y1 | Y2 | Y3/4 | Y4 | Y5/6 | Total |
|--|----|----|----|----|------|----|------|-------|
|  | PT | FT |    |    |      |    |      |       |
| Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week |    | 2  | 2  | 2  | 2    | 2  | 2    | 12    |

| STAFFING                                      |    |
|---|----|
| Full-time teachers                            | 6  |
| Part-time teachers                            | 1  |
| Total full-time equivalent                    | 6  |
| Support assistants                            | 10 |
| Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.        | 5  |
| How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.         | 6  |
| Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent    | 0  |
| Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS | 1  |

| NAME OF SCHOOL             |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Published admission number | 210 |
| Number of classes          | 6   |
| Average class size KS1     | 25  |
| Average class size KS2     | 25  |

## FINANCIAL DATA

| EXPENDITURE (£) | Last financial year<br>2014/2015 | Current financial year<br>2015/2016 | Next financial year<br>2016/2017 |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| RE              | £523.70                          | £678.33                             | £120                             |
| English         | £664.60                          | £7734.06                            |                                  |
| Mathematics     | £727.07                          | £2070.95                            |                                  |
| Science         | £116.09                          | £288.14                             |                                  |

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate</b> | <b>Judgement</b> |
|---|------------------|

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS</b>   | <b>2</b> |
| <p>This is an exciting time for the pupils at the Shrewsbury Cathedral Catholic Primary School. This good school is embedding new ways of working to ensure that the pupils have the best possible opportunities to improve their learning and secure the best possible outcomes for all. The pupils have a great sense of Mission, and a sense of really “living” the Mission Statement, as they learn, pray and play together. One pupil commented that the Mission Statement, “Love one another as I have loved you” is what Jesus said.</p> <p>There is a caring attitude which permeates throughout the school. A member of the School Council told the inspectors, “Everyone looks out for each other”. The behaviour of pupils is excellent. The older pupils especially recognise and respond positively to their responsibility to act as role models for the younger members of their school. The very active School Council has a voice in how to make their school a better place. Their views are listened to and consequently they feel and are valued. Pupils are involved in raising funds for charitable organizations such as Cafod and the Shrewsbury Ark. There is also a children’s Fair Trade Committee organised by one of the Teaching Assistants. This committee helps to raise awareness of the need for a fairer distribution of the world’s resources. Committee members plan activities, including assemblies, during Fair Trade Fortnight. When interviewed by the Religious Education Governor, the pupils thought that this was important because “they were making the world a better place” and doing these things was just “part of our school”.</p> <p>Teachers are becoming more knowledgeable of the Religious Education curriculum. This is having a positive impact on the outcomes for pupils as their work continues to improve. Rigorous monitoring throughout the school shows that pupils in all year groups make progress. The quality of work produced is improving, as evidenced in the scrutiny of pupils’ books, lesson observations, recording documents and discussion with the Religious Education Subject Leader.</p> <p>Pupils enjoy their experiences of Collective Worship and understand the importance of key celebrations throughout the liturgical year. They are able to plan and lead Collective Worship.</p> |          |

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>  | <b>2</b> |
| <p>Leaders and managers are fully committed to the Church’s mission in education. The newly appointed Governing Body have set up an Ethos and Worship Committee whose role is to ensure that the Catholic life of the school has a positive impact on the moral and spiritual development of the pupils. The Religious Education Lead Governor, who is a member of this Committee, is often in school and supports the Religious Education Leader in whatever way she can. The Governors are aware of the strengths and areas for development in their school. They are delighted with the success so far, and see this as part of a journey where success builds on success. They are not complacent in their role to ensure that every pupil has access to the best possible Catholic education.</p> <p>The Parish Priest works with the school to provide meaningful experiences of faith for the children, which include, for example, the Crib Service in the Cathedral and Ash Wednesday Service in school.</p> <p>The inspirational Deputy Headteacher, who is also the Religious Education Leader, ably supported by the Executive Headteacher, have embraced the challenges of finding new ways of working to improve outcomes for pupils and they are supported by a committed team of teachers, teaching assistants and all members of the Cathedral School community.</p> <p>Staff new to the school are encouraged to develop their subject knowledge and are supported effectively by the Religious Education Leader. All staff have access to professional development training, such as recent Diocesan training to develop creativity within the teaching of the Diocesan Religious Education curriculum.</p> |          |

Leaders and governors carefully and rigorously monitor all areas of the Religious Education curriculum. Outcomes from the scrutiny of planning, teaching and learning, pupils' workbooks, assessments of pupil progress and attainment are used effectively to inform improvement plans and guide professional development training. Planning for Religious Education plays a key part in the vision and direction of the school. The Governing Body provides a high level of support and is justifiably proud of the progress made by the school in a relatively short period of time.

Questionnaires returned by parents indicate significant support for the school. One parent commented, "As a Catholic parent I am very happy that my children are able to go to this wonderful school. The ethos and daily life are enhancing their faith and personal development." Parents attend school Masses and are always made welcome. They receive Cathedral newsletters each week to keep them informed of parish news and events, the Wednesday Word to help share and deepen an understanding of the Gospel readings and a termly newsletter advising parents of the units of work their children are studying in Religious Education. This information is also published on the school website.

Questionnaires returned by the pupils indicate that they really enjoy all aspects of Religious Education, particularly preparing for Collective Worship and acting out the Gospel stories. They see prayers as important because they are the link to God. Pupils are also respectful of other cultures and faiths.

## PROVISION

2

The Religious Education curriculum meets the Bishops' Conference requirements and the Shrewsbury Diocesan guidelines. The teaching and learning observed across the school is at least good, with some outstanding features. Teachers are becoming more confident in linking assessment to lesson planning as evidenced through lesson observations. This has been a focus in recent professional development training for all staff. Teachers are developing a range of different teaching styles, which ensure that pupils are active in their learning and motivated to complete their work. There is evidence of differentiation to meet the needs of individuals, as well as groups of pupils.

Pupils enjoy their Religious Education lessons. They are eager to participate in the activities prepared for them and enjoy the Diocesan scheme of work for Religious Education called 'The Way, the Truth and the Life'.

Teaching assistants work alongside teachers to ensure that teaching is fully inclusive, encouraging all pupils to do the best they can in order to achieve their potential. Pupils know that they can go to adults in the school if they are worried or upset and that they will be listened to and helped.

Learning environments are exciting and attractive. Throughout the school, there are Religious Education displays and prayer corners which reflect the topic taught or the liturgical time of year. Marking of pupils' work ensures that pupils know how well they are doing. Questions asked, either in books or verbally, help to facilitate deeper thinking and to make links to other key beliefs. Pupils' books in most classes show that teachers are providing the next steps in learning for each child.

Pupils participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities which are varied, enjoyable and are well-supported. These provide pupils with opportunities to apply their moral and social teachings and to identify their individual skills and talents.

The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding. A range of formal and informal opportunities are used for daily prayer. Parents and parishioners are invited to attend Masses and other services which take place in school. They are always made welcome. The Parish Priest works with the school to ensure that celebrations are rich and meaningful experiences for all, such as the Stations of the Cross activities in school following the different people who helped Jesus on his way to Golgotha.

Pupils lead Collective Worship sessions in class and are encouraged to choose readings which are linked to the liturgical year and/or topics being studied. The pupils in the Reception class were observed setting the scene for their Act of Collective Worship choosing appropriate artifacts. Older pupils are becoming more adept in writing evaluations of their Acts of Collective Worship in order to

improve further. The attractive welcoming environment, along with the quality of displays and artifacts around the school, the warm friendly relationships, all contribute to the school ethos rooted in Christ's message of love for one another.

| OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS   | 2 |
|---|---|
| <p>Shrewsbury Cathedral Catholic Primary School is successful in providing a good Catholic education for all pupils. There is excellent capacity for continued improvement and clear evidence of improvement since the last inspection.</p> <p>Outcomes for pupils, the provision for Catholic education and the leadership and management of the Catholic life of the school are all good, with some outstanding elements. This is a successful and improving school. The success so far, is a credit to the Deputy Headteacher, a key figure, supported by the Executive Head, the hardworking staff and supportive Governing Body and parents. All are deeply committed to promoting the Gospel values in their school.</p> <p>Pupils are an absolute delight, very caring, extremely courteous and are great ambassadors for their school.</p> <p><b><u>What the school could do to improve further:-</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen teacher subject knowledge so that teachers can plan topics in Religious Education more confidently enabling children to make even more progress.</li><li>• Continue to develop creativity within the Religious Education Curriculum.</li></ul> |   |

**Parents' Questionnaires**  
**39 Parents returned questionnaires**

|   |  | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|---|--|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 1 | My child enjoys school   | 32             | 7     | 0        | 0                 | 0          |
| 2 | I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches                                 | 30             | 9     | 0        | 0                 | 0          |
| 3 | I am made to feel welcome in school  | 37             | 2     | 0        | 0                 | 0          |
| 4 | The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns | 28             | 9     | 0        | 0                 | 2          |
| 5 | The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education               | 28             | 11    | 0        | 0                 | 0          |
| 6 | The school enables my children to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education         | 29             | 9     | 0        | 0                 | 1          |
| 7 | The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education          | 24             | 14    | 0        | 0                 | 1          |

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)**

|    |   | Yes | Sometimes | No |
|----|---|-----|-----------|----|
| 1  | I like being at this school.  | 23  | 0         | 0  |
| 2  | I learn new things in Religious Education lessons.                            | 6   | 17        | 0  |
| 3  | I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.                   | 22  | 1         | 0  |
| 4  | I have to work hard.  | 23  | 0         | 0  |
| 5  | My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.            | 15  | 8         | 0  |
| 6  | My teacher listens to me.   | 15  | 8         | 0  |
| 7  | When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.                     | 19  | 4         | 0  |
| 8  | I get praise when I do my best.   | 17  | 6         | 0  |
| 9  | Other children are kind and behave well                                       | 6   | 17        | 0  |
| 10 | I am happy on the playground.   | 13  | 10        | 0  |
| 11 | I am allowed to help in class and around school.                              | 16  | 7         | 0  |
| 12 | I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus. | 21  | 1         | 1  |

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)**

|    |  | Yes | Sometimes | No |
|----|--|-----|-----------|----|
| 1  | Do you like being at this school?                          | 6   | 9         | 0  |
| 2  | Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons? | 10  | 5         | 0  |
| 3  | Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?          | 8   | 7         | 0  |
| 4  | Do you get help when you are stuck?                        | 15  | 0         | 0  |
| 5  | Do you have to work hard?                                  | 10  | 5         | 0  |
| 6  | Do teachers show you how to make your work better?         | 15  | 0         | 0  |
| 7  | Do other children behave well?                             | 5   | 10        | 0  |
| 8  | Are teachers fair to you?                                  | 11  | 4         | 0  |
| 9  | Do teachers listen to your ideas?                          | 13  | 2         | 0  |
| 10 | Are you given responsibility?                              | 12  | 3         | 0  |
| 11 | Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?                | 11  | 4         | 0  |