



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
Address: Woodchurch Road  
Prenton  
Birkenhead  
Wirral  
CH43 5UT

Tel No: 0151 652 6781

URN: 105092

Headteacher: Mr P Davenport

Chair of Governors: Mrs A Roberts

Date of Inspection: 15 March 2016

Inspectors: Mr P Sharp  
Mrs R Hedger  
Mrs E Robb

## Mission Statement

St. Joseph's Catholic School exists in partnership with family and parishes to provide an education that strives to fulfil each child's potential academically, spiritually, emotionally, morally, socially, and culturally, with Christ at its centre.

We express this by:

***‘Love one another as I have loved you.’***

- **Building skills for life with enjoyment and high expectations.**
- **Creating a happy, secure and caring place to learn.**
- **Fostering respect between ourselves and the world we live in.**
- **Teaching the Catholic faith through example and prayer.**

***Where all are welcome.***

Our school is a place of learning within a loving and Christian community. We try to achieve this through the emphasis of "belonging" to our parish families. All Staff, Pupils, Parents and Governors contribute to school life and share in its growth and well-being.

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll	40	57	59	57	55	51	56	57	432
Catholics on roll	38	33	54	51	40	43	52	45	356
Other Christian denomination	0	2	1	0	3	0	1	3	10
Other faith background	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	7
No stated religious affiliation	1	21	3	6	10	8	3	7	59
Number of learners from ethnic groups									
Total on SEN Register	0	1	3	3	3	5	8	8	31
Total with Statements of SEN	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
FSM	0	8	1	3	6	4	0	2	24

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	5
Index of multiple deprivation	N/A			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Joseph's, Birkenhead	235
Holy Name, Oxtown	50
Other	50

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
St John Plessington Catholic College	37
St Anselm's Catholic College (Boys)	5
Upton Hall Catholic (Girls)	1
Other. Non Catholic	4

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week	1.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	19.0

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	14
Part-time teachers	8
Total full-time equivalent	18.7
Support assistants	14
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	60%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	18
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	9
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

NAME OF SCHOOL St. Joseph's Catholic Primary	
Published admission number	472
Number of classes	16
Average class size KS1	29
Average class size KS2	27

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2014/2015	Current financial year 2015/2016	Next financial year 2016/2017
RE	£811	£1692	£1300
English	£1300	£1700	£1700
Mathematics	£1100	£1200	£1500
Science	£750	£900	£1200

<b>Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
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<b>OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>St. Joseph's Catholic Primary is a good school where children feel safe, happy and enjoy their Religious Education. Children are proud of their school community and are respectful to each other, to adults and to visitors. They are aware that there are people in the local and international community who need help and are eager to support these groups through prayer and fund raising.</p> <p>Standards in Religious Education are comparable to other subjects and are in line with national expectations. The standard of work in children's books, assessment outcomes and discussions with pupils show that they are making good progress when benchmarked against their point of entry.</p> <p>All lessons observed by inspectors were judged to be good. Children listened attentively and were respectful when others spoke. They were keen to participate in role play and could empathise with characters from God's special book The Bible. Children know that prayer is important "because you are speaking to God". Children commented that prayer "is a private time, God listens as soon as you speak to Him". Children are reflective and aim to produce their best work at all times.</p> <p>In the Collective Worship observed, the children listened with respect and reverence. The readings, songs and music contributed to meaningful Acts of Worship. The children are comfortable praying within the school and within their class communities. Children are aware of, and understand the importance of, key celebrations throughout the liturgical year. From discussion with children it was clear that they enjoy and respond to the responsibility of planning and leading Collective Worship and prayer. They are aware of the importance of prayer and that there are different ways to pray, such as singing, quiet prayer, meditation, praying together in class, as well as their own private prayers. They understand that prayer is important in our relationship with God and how Jesus taught us to pray. The school has recognised that further development of the use of the Collective Worship boxes will enable children to make more thoughtful and informed selection and use of resources and artefacts. The school has successfully introduced The Angelus into the school day in some classes and is in the process of ensuring resources are available to extend this across the whole school as a daily Act of Worship.</p>	

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>The school's leaders and governors are fully committed to the Church's mission in education. The Religious Education co-ordinator is highly motivated, focused, approachable and supportive. She is fully committed to continuing to develop and improve the Religious Education curriculum and is using Diocesan guidelines for monitoring activities such as book moderation, lesson observations, assessment and tracking of children's progress. Monitoring outcomes are used to inform planning and target the professional development needs of the teaching staff. The Religious Education action plan tackles key areas for development and builds on existing strengths. As a result, outcomes in Religious Education are improving.</p> <p>Governors visit the school on a regular basis, with one governor having specific responsibility for Religious Education. The governors are highly supportive of the Headteacher and school community. Through Headteacher reports, committee meetings and newsletters governors are informed of developments within the Religious Education curriculum. Four hundred and thirty seven questionnaires were sent out to parents as part of this inspection, forty six were returned. The number returned indicates support for the school. Children's questionnaire responses confirm that they are proud of their school and enjoy their lessons.</p>	

PROVISION	2
<p>All teaching observed was good. Lessons are well planned, differentiated and engage the children's interest. Children enjoy their Religious Education lessons and enjoy the opportunity for reflection and the opportunity to compose their own prayers. Staff training is being used to develop teachers' own knowledge and spirituality, which is assisting them, as they inform and influence the children in developing their own prayer life and spirituality.</p> <p>The Parish Priest supports the school through the celebration of Mass and liturgical services throughout the year. The parish and school are actively developing ways in which they can support each other. School, with the assistance of the parish, organises meetings for parents for Sacramental preparation and liturgy. The provision of Religious Education meets the requirements of the Bishop's Conference.</p>	

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	2
<p>St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School provides a good Catholic Education for all children. Everyone involved in the school community is valued and this is reflected in the Religious Education provided and informs the improvements that are being made.</p> <p>Staff, governors, parents and the parish community respect each other and show a commitment to assisting and joining the children in their Faith journey.</p> <p><b><u>WHAT SHOULD THE SCHOOL DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop the evaluation of the monitoring of Religious Education to enable searching analysis and self-challenge, thereby enabling the school to move from good to outstanding</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for the children to develop spiritually through planning, leading and evaluating Collective Acts of Worship, in a variety of gatherings from their earliest years.</li> </ul>	

**Parents' Questionnaires**  
**46 Parents returned questionnaires**

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	30	15	1		
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	27	18	1		
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	27	17	2		
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	17	20	4	1	4
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	22	20	2		2
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	28	15	1		2
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	24	15	6		1

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	30	22	3
2	I learn new things in Here I am lessons.	43	11	1
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	38	14	3
4	I have to work hard.	41	11	3
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	36	16	3
6	My teacher listens to me.	41	11	3
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	49	4	2
8	I get praise when I do my best.	41	12	2
9	Other children are kind and behave well	17	35	3
10	I am happy on the playground.	26	26	3
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	38	16	1
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	45	7	3

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	26	24	3
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	27	24	3
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	22	27	6
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	40	15	0
5	Do you have to work hard?	38	15	2
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	41	13	1
7	Do other children behave well?	6	44	5
8	Are teachers fair to you?	34	21	0
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	32	23	0
10	Are you given responsibility?	32	19	4
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	29	21	5