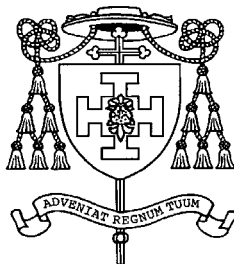


DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY

DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School:	Holy Cross Catholic Primary School
Address:	Gautby Road Birkenhead CH41 7DH
Tel No:	0151 652 8454
URN:	105087
Headteacher:	Miss J Bradley
Chair of Governors:	Rev P Moor
Date of Inspection:	10 February 2009
Inspectors:	Miss J Chwastek Mrs A Kelly

BASIC SCHOOL DATA

SCHOOL DATA	
Name of School	Holy Cross Catholic Primary
School email address	schooloffice@holycross.wirral.sch.uk
Name of Headteacher	Miss Jane Bradley
Name of Chair of Governors	Rev. Fr. Phil Moor
Name of Parish Priest	Rev. Fr. Phil Moor
Name of Religious Education Co-ordinator	RE Team led by Mrs. Julie Farrelly
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School is located in the parish of Our Lady's with Holy Cross and St. Paul in North Birkenhead.	
There are currently 207 pupils on roll ranging from 3 to 11 years.	
Moved into new school building with refurbished hall and nursery in April 2007. Some outstanding building matters still to be dealt with.	

STAFFING & ORGANISATION	
Number of full-time teachers	11
Number of part-time teachers	1
Number of Catholic teachers	10
Number of teachers from other Christian faiths	2
Number of teachers from other faith backgrounds	0
How many teachers teach Religious Education?	10
Number of teachers with CCRS	9
Number of teachers with other Catholic qualifications (e.g. Theology, leadership)	0

PUPILS / STUDENTS	
Number of pupils on roll	207
Number of classes	8
Organisation of classes	F1, F2 Y1 to Y6
Average class size	26
% of Catholic pupils	74%
% of pupils from other Christian faiths	24%
% of pupils from other faith backgrounds	0
Number of pupils on SEN register	71
Number of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs	0

TEACHING TIME FOR R.E. PER WEEK IN -	
Foundation	2 hrs
Key Stage 1	2.5 hrs
Key Stage 2	2.5 hrs

FINANCIAL DATA – actual expenditure over 2 years	£
English	5512.68
Mathematics	6964.94
Science	2758.12
Religious Education	5544.04

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
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OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Cross Catholic Primary School has many good features. • It is well respected in the community and parents and children alike appreciate the care and support they are given. • The school strives to live out its mission and there is a feeling of belonging to God's family. • The issues identified in the previous inspection have been successfully addressed. • There is a strong partnership between the Governors, Headteacher, RE Team, Parish Priest, staff and parents. • Teaching, learning, achievement and standards are satisfactory overall. • The care and guidance offered to all members of the school community is good and significantly enhances the Catholic life of the school • The children show pride in their school. • Strategic planning contributes effectively to promoting the mission of the school • The school effectively promotes the inclusion of all children and families. <p><u>What the school could do to improve further</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of teaching and learning in order to raise standards and achievement in Religious Education • Roles and responsibilities within the RE Team need to be clarified and understood by all members of the team. Monitoring and evaluation needs to be specific within these roles and responsibilities as this will greatly assist further improvement in the quality of teaching and learning. • Within the Diocese, the school is part of the wider church family. This sense of belonging should be enhanced by developing the school's outreach into the parish, building on the strong parish links into school. • Review its Mission Statement. 	

THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Catholic life of the school is expressed in its daily workings. • There is no doubt that the children and the community appreciate the school as a place of love and care. • The Mission Statement or school motto, 'Love God And Love One Another' is known and valued by the whole community. This is in need of review to ensure all members of the school family are fully involved in and committed to the vision of Holy Cross as a Catholic school. • The Governors have a firm understanding of the school's vision and direction they offer appropriate support and challenge. • The Headteacher, supported by the whole staff team, is committed to developing the Catholic life of the school. • The Parish Priest is fully involved in the school and works hard to support the whole community. • The RE Team make a significant contribution to the school as a Catholic community. • The school is fully inclusive and the support offered to families is appreciated. • The care and guidance offered to all members of the school community significantly enhances the Catholic life of the school. 	

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective worship is well planned and is integral to the Catholic life of the school. • All staff are involved in leading these celebrations and this shows a real commitment to the Catholic ethos of the school. • The assembly observed was well presented by a group of children and the other children listened attentively. Opportunities for all the children to participate in prayer and reflection would have enhanced this further. • This contributes to the spiritual and moral development of the children. • The prayer focus areas are relevant and enhance the spiritual dimension of each class. • The weekly Mass celebrated at the end of each Friday afternoon is a high point, a growing family celebration. • Music plays a very important part in collective worship. The children enjoy this and participate enthusiastically. 	

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT AND OVERALL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUPILS	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school contributes to the well-being of the children although, as yet, there is no policy in place for spiritual and moral development • The behaviour of the children was satisfactory overall. In the joint Key Stage 1 and 2 act of collective worship behaviour was very good indeed. • There are very good structures in place to support children who have additional needs. • The school contributes well to the social development of the children through a good range of activities and visits, many of which are subsidised. • The school acknowledges that there is more to be done to enhance the cultural aspects of education and this is a planned development. 	

PARTNERSHIP: PUPILS, PARENTS, PARISH(ES) AND WIDER COMMUNITY	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children enjoy the responsibilities they are given and the newly re-established School Council is an example of this. • A feeling of value and respect permeates the school on all levels. • Links with the community are good. Developing more opportunities to give service to the wider community would enhance the school further. • The children enjoy making a contribution to the community and are generous with their fundraising, for example participating in the Banardos Big Toddle and supporting CAFOD. • Parents are welcome partners in the education process and are well aware of the mission of the school. The weekly Friday Mass is a tangible sign of the parish commitment to the school community. • Parish links are excellent and the support of Fr Phil has been instrumental in making school the 'hub' of this area of the parish. Work now needs to be focused on developing school outreach into the parish, raising awareness within the whole community that the school is part of the wider church family. • Links with other schools are also good as shown by the recent 'cluster' INSET Day. Once again, opportunities to participate in joint Catholic school events within the parish would cement the school as part of the parish family. • The school has a strong sense of community cohesion. 	

ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement and standards in Religious Education are satisfactory given the low starting points of many pupils. • Where there is good teaching and learning, progress is good. This good practice needs to be shared in order for achievement and standards to improve further. • The children show a positive attitude towards religious education. • Pupils with additional needs make progress due to the good support they receive. 	

QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers have good subject knowledge and the support of the RE team is appreciated in by staff. The quality of teaching and learning varies, with the vast majority being at least satisfactory or good. Teaching assistants and other staff support children effectively in their learning. In many classes work is appropriately differentiated. In lessons where the children are given interesting and exciting challenges they are motivated in their learning. There are some good examples of targeted marking which gives feedback to children and informs them of the next steps in their learning. Assessment procedures are in place which enables work to be matched to pupils' interests and abilities. The curriculum meets the Diocesan requirement of 10% Religious Education. However, the timetabling of these lessons should be looked at so there is a balance of quality time given to RE. 	

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall the leadership and management in developing the Catholic life and ethos of the school are good. The mission statement, 'Love God and Love One Another' is integral to the life of Holy Cross as a Catholic school The Headteacher, leadership team and all staff are fully committed to the Catholic mission of the school. The Parish Priest is pivotal in promoting Holy Cross as a Catholic school. He is fully involved in the school and works hard to support the whole community. The professional development of all staff is given high priority and there are opportunities for staff to grow and develop spiritually. The Governing Body is pro-active in shaping the vision and direction of the Catholic life of the school. They offer appropriate challenge and support. Parents appreciate the Catholic nature of the school and are supportive of its aims and goals. 	

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership and management of Religious Education is good. The recently formulated RE Team supports the development of Religious Education throughout the school. Training opportunities, times for prayer and reflection are provided by INSET days, staff meetings and 'Before you Begin' sessions. Pupils' performance is monitored through assessment, tracking and moderation. Lesson observations are currently carried out by the Headteacher. Monitoring procedures led by members of the RE team now need to be fully embedded as the roles and responsibilities of the team are clarified. The new school building provides an outstanding environment in which to learn and develop and this is supported by a high level of resources. 	

PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

Number of questionnaires distributed: 207
 Number of questionnaires returned: 24

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	13	11	0	0	0
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	15	9	0	0	0
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	12	11	0	0	0
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	11	10	2	0	0
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	14	9	0	0	0
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	13	9	0	0	1
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	11	10	2	0	0

Pupil Questionnaire – Year 6

		Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	11	11	5	1
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	22	5	1	0
3	Are your Religious lessons interesting and fun?	11	11	6	0
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	18	4	5	1
5	Do you have to work hard?	25	1	2	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	18	7	3	0
7	Do other children behave well?	7	8	11	2
8	Are teachers fair to you?	27	0	0	1
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	5	9	11	3
10	Are you trusted to do things on your own?	9	5	10	4
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	17	6	5	0

Pupil Questionnaire – Year 2

		Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	16	1	0	1
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	17	0	0	1
3	Are your Religious lessons interesting and fun?	15	1	1	1
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	18	0	0	0
5	Do you have to work hard?	18	0	0	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	18	0	0	0
7	Do other children behave well?	9	6	2	1
8	Are teachers fair to you?	18	0	0	0
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	15	0	2	1
10	Are you trusted to do things on your own?	14	2	2	0
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	16	2	0	0

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
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OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL	2
The effectiveness and efficiency of the provision of Catholic education in meeting the needs of pupils.	2
Steps taken to improve the provision further.	2
The capacity of the school to make further improvements.	2

THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	2
The Mission Statement reflects the Gospel and the Catholic purpose of the school.	2
Pupils have an understanding of the school's mission and appreciate its ethos.	2

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	2
The school provides frequent and high quality opportunities for prayer, collective worship and liturgical celebrations.	2
Staff and pupils are encouraged to be actively involved in prayer, worship and liturgy.	2
Collective worship contributes to the spiritual and moral development of all pupils.	2

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT AND OVERALL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUPILS	3
There are whole school policies for spiritual and moral development.	No
The school contributes to spiritual and moral development through the whole curriculum and life of the school.	2
The behaviour of pupils	3
The school contributes to the social and cultural development of all pupils.	3

PARTNERSHIP: PUPILS, PARENTS, PARISH(ES) AND WIDER COMMUNITY	2
Pupils consider themselves to be valued and respected and recognise the responsibilities that this involves.	2
Pupils have opportunities to take on responsibilities within the school and to participate in service within the wider community.	3
Pupils make a contribution to the community in and beyond the school.	3
Parents are informed about the school's mission as a Catholic school and are encouraged to participate and contribute.	2
The school fosters effective links with the local parish(es). Priests and parishioners are invited and welcomed to some school events.	2
The school has good links with other schools.	2
The school contributes to the life of the wider community and community cohesion.	2

ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	3
All pupils make progress taking into account variations between pupils and groups of pupils.	3

QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING	3
The effectiveness of teaching and learning in meeting the needs of all pupils.	3
The appropriate use and rigour of assessment.	3
Pupils enjoy their work.	2
The extent of parents'/carers' involvement in their children's learning.	2
The curriculum meets Diocesan requirements.	2

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	2
The school has taken effective steps to promote improvement since the last inspection.	2
Strategic planning reflects and promotes the school's mission.	2
There are opportunities for professional and spiritual development, which assist all staff to understand and contribute to the Catholic mission of the school.	2
The school undertakes rigorous self-evaluation of all aspects of its Catholic life.	3
The school is effective in achieving full inclusion of all its pupils regardless of faith background.	2
The Governing Body helps shape the vision and direction of the Catholic life of the school.	2
The Governing Body has a good understanding of the strengths and developmental needs of the school as a Catholic school; it supports and challenges the leadership team.	2

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	2
The R.E. Co-ordinator leads and supports staff.	2
Performance is monitored and improved through quality assurance and self-evaluation.	2
The adequacy of resources and accommodation.	1
Resources are used to achieve high standards.	2