



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Werburgh's Catholic Primary School  
Address: Park Grove  
Birkenhead  
Wirral  
CH41 2TD

Tel No: 0151 647 8404

URN: 105091

Headteacher: Mrs M Stevenson

Chair of Governors: Mrs L Ireland

Date of Inspection: 2 March 2016

Inspectors: Mrs C Morgan  
Mr P Sharp

# **ST WERBURGH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **Mission Statement**

**The light of Christ shining through our  
learning and life**

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll	31	30	30	29	28	25	22	23	218
Catholics on roll	14	15	16	18	12	15	8	13	111
Other Christian denomination	4	3	2	2	6	2	2	2	23
Other faith background	3	7	4	4	6	4	7	4	39
No stated religious affiliation	10	5	8	5	4	4	5	4	45
Number of learners from ethnic groups	9	6	5	4	7	7	9	8	55
Total on SEN Register	6	3	8	9	11	5	5	5	52
Total with Statements of SEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FSM	N/A	13	12	13	5	9	5	7	64

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	64.4			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Werburgh's Primary	

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
St John Plessington	
Prenon High School for Girls	
Ridgeway High School	
University Academy of Birkenhead	

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week	1.25	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	18.75

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	8
Part-time teachers	3
Total full-time equivalent	10.2
Support assistants	17
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	3.6
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	6.75
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	3
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

NAME OF SCHOOL St Werburgh's Catholic Primary	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	8
Average class size KS1	30
Average class size KS2	25

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2014/2015	Current financial year 2015/2016	Next financial year 2016/2017
RE	2,600	2,975	3,000
English	4,600	3,900	4,500
Mathematics	2,500	2,750	3,200
Science	1,750	2,000	2,200

<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>1</b>
<p>All pupils, including those with additional needs, make very good progress in Religious Education. Some make exceptional progress. At the end of Key Stage 2, many pupils attain standards well above average. Pupils tackle the creative and challenging tasks provided for them with enthusiasm and complete work to a good standard. They enjoy their learning and work hard to improve.</p> <p>Elected pupils are involved in committees, including those that work co-operatively to shape the strong links between the school and the parish, and to plan fund raising activities throughout the year to support the different charities chosen by each house team. Pupils value the links the school has with the parish as well as with local and global communities and speak proudly of their achievements relating to these.</p> <p>Pupils' behaviour is exemplary; they treat visitors, staff and each other with respect. They understand the need to say 'sorry' and to forgive one another. They often offer help to resolve arguments and to comfort those who are upset. Pupils have great trust in the staff around them and this is reflected in the friendly and open way in which they accept other adults in the school. There are excellent relationships within the school and pupils are able to identify to whom they would go if they were to need help or support. They are full of praise for their teachers and support staff; they say that: 'they are fair, they listen and they help'.</p> <p>At St. Werburgh's, pupils have a very clear understanding of the school's mission, which was reviewed at the start of the school year. The 'Pupil Promise' is prominently displayed and pupils' response to this is evident in their active involvement in the daily life of the school.</p> <p>Pupils' spiritual and moral development is outstanding. Their response to times of prayer and reflection is excellent. Opportunities for forming and contributing to Class Masses and Liturgies are part of the faith life of the school, and parents are invited to attend these events. Some pupils from Years 3-6 also attend a weekly Mass held in school. Pupils prepare the prayer focus for each Act of Collective Worship and help by carrying out tasks relating to this.</p> <p>Within this fully inclusive Catholic school there is a rich diversity of faith traditions, with all pupils displaying tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others, whilst remaining proud of their own faith tradition and confidently expressing their views and understanding.</p>	

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>1</b>
<p>The Headteacher provides outstanding leadership for the school. She has a secure grasp of the needs of the school and its community and is fully committed to ensuring the mission of the Church is carried out. She undertook the role of Religious Education subject leader following the promotion of the previous post holder.</p> <p>It is evident in the work of the school and in the work of governors that the Catholic life of the school and the spiritual and moral development of its pupils and the community are a priority.</p> <p>The staff team is fully committed to the school's vision and all contribute to, and understand how, monitoring the quality of teaching and learning, and of Collective Worship, alongside rigorous self-evaluation, helps to inform the action plan for development and improvement of all areas in the Catholic life of the school. The staff and pupils' shared understanding of the school's mission means that it is central to all they do. A 'Governors' Promise', where leaders and managers identify what they need to do for the school, was made following the review of the Mission Statement.</p>	

The Chair of Governors knows the school well and the Governing Body has a clear understanding of their role in maintaining and developing the Catholic ethos of the school. Governors receive regular reports from the Headteacher, attend appropriate training and are actively involved in the life of the school. They strive continuously to seek ways in which they can support improvement and further develop the distinctive Catholic nature of the school. This is evident in their commitment to fund identified strategies, such as the use of a Specialist teacher of Religious Education and additional staffing. Areas for further development are identified through planned monitoring and self-evaluation, which is regularly reviewed and amended.

Leaders and managers are very clear about the need for well targeted planning and strategic action to ensure the school continues to improve. They understand the need for rigour and that pupils' high attainment in each year group is crucial to achieving high standards.

The Parish Priest, who is the Religious Education Link governor, visits school regularly to work with pupils and to lead and develop liturgy and prayer. He works hard to support the Catholic life of the school and to encourage strong links between parish and school. He welcomes the impact of the good relationships between the school and the parish. The parish sees the school as a 'treasure' and as a place where children are touched by the message of the Gospel.

## PROVISION

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In the lessons observed, teaching was at least good and some was outstanding. Teachers' planning successfully builds upon pupils' prior learning and understanding, enabling pupils to take the next steps in their learning. Adults use challenging questions to inspire pupils and pupils respond enthusiastically. The dialogue between pupils and adults is of a high quality.

Scrutiny of children's books shows that marking is consistent with the Religious Education Marking Policy, although teachers' responses to pupils' work are not always followed up. Pupils should be given time to respond to the marking so that they progress their thinking, especially making links to Scripture and how this helps inform the way in which we, and others, live our lives.

High quality resources, often adapted to the differing learning needs of the pupils, are used very effectively. The use of technology is firmly embedded and pupils are adept at using different programs such as 'Puppet Pals' on iPads to respond to the tasks they had been set.

A creative approach to the curriculum ensures that pupils are motivated and make good progress as learners. Pupils listen attentively and settle to well-planned, differentiated activities quickly, maintaining concentration and making progress in their learning.

Teachers' subject knowledge is good and some is outstanding. When gaps in knowledge have been identified, through self-evaluation and monitoring, these are addressed quickly and teachers receive relevant training and support.

Pupils are given every opportunity to develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of their learning.

Collective Worship is central to everything the school undertakes. A variety of opportunities for prayer and liturgy are well-planned and pupils respond enthusiastically. Liturgies that have taken place in school are often reflected in the parish celebrations during the liturgical year. Pupils from different faith traditions are welcomed and form an integral part of the life of the school. Respect and tolerance are real strengths of the school.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	1
<p>St. Werburgh's Catholic Primary School is an outstanding school, which provides high quality Religious Education. Pupils are highly motivated learners and as a result, make very good progress throughout the school.</p> <p>The Catholic life of the school provides a nurturing, safe and secure environment in which children are very effectively supported and challenged on their faith journey.</p> <p>The dedicated and highly-motivated Headteacher is pivotal in ensuring the Church's mission in education is central to all that the school undertakes. She is highly effective in sharing her vision with all stakeholders and, as a result, they respond with enthusiasm to new challenges. A strong team of senior leaders and staff provides support and all live out the Gospel values in their approach to the care of their pupils and in striving to improve outcomes for all.</p> <p>Knowledgeable governors understand their strategic role and offer appropriate support and challenge to the Headteacher in maintaining and developing the Catholic life of the school.</p> <p>Provision for pupils is very good and is often outstanding. Pupils are happy and well-motivated and they respond positively to all that the school does. They show care and support of each other and respect and tolerance of others' beliefs and values.</p> <p>The pastoral care provided by the school is outstanding and pupils value the support and guidance offered. The work done by the school to promote community cohesion is evident in many aspects of school life. The links with the parish community are excellent and the school's success in this area owes a great deal to the support and commitment of the Parish Priest.</p> <p>Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the work of the school, regardless of their faith background. They appreciate the strong ethos of the school and the Religious Education and Collective Worship it provides.</p> <p>St. Werburgh's has addressed both areas for improvement identified in the last inspection and continues to identify ways in which the school can continue to deliver outstanding Religious Education for its pupils.</p> <p><b>What the school could do to improve further</b></p> <p>St. Werburgh's Catholic Primary School needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that marking of pupils' work challenges pupils' thinking and that pupils respond appropriately</li> <li>• Continue to develop pupils' involvement in planning and leading Acts of Collective Worship.</li> </ul>	

**Parents' Questionnaires**  
**47 Parents returned questionnaires**

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	35	10	1	0	1
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	34	13	0	0	0
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	34	13	0	0	0
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	32	15	0	0	0
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	29	15	1	0	2
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	29	12	2	0	2
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	26	17	2	0	0

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	21	6	0
2	I learn new things in Here I am lessons.	26	1	0
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	23	4	0
4	I have to work hard.	27	0	0
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	21	6	0
6	My teacher listens to me.	27	0	0
7	<i>When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.</i>	27	0	0
8	I get praise when I do my best.	27	6	0
9	Other children are kind and behave well	19	8	0
10	<i>I am happy on the playground.</i>	20	7	0
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	24	3	0
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	27	0	0

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	9	12	0
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	16	5	0
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	5	14	2
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	13	8	0
5	Do you have to work hard?	16	5	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	18	3	0
7	Do other children behave well?	2	18	1
8	Are teachers fair to you?	18	3	0
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	17	4	0
10	Are you given responsibility?	17	2	2
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	13	6	2