



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School:	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Gorseway Foliage Road Brinnington Stockport SK5 8AB
Tel No:	0161 430 4601
URN:	106116
Headteacher:	Mr M O'Brien
Chair of Governors:	Mrs B Fletcher
Date of Inspection:	6 November 2012
Inspectors:	Mrs E Robb Mrs A Kelly



ST. BERNADETTE'S MISSION STATEMENT

In our school we seek to promote the academic, spiritual and personal development of the individual in a calm and happy Christian environment.

AIMS AND VALUES

We aim to foster the growth of Faith by providing a caring environment which values the contribution of each individual, promotes love and respect for God and each other and encourages a strong sense of community.

Our aims are:-

- 1. To encourage and develop the spiritual and moral growth of the individual and to make our Catholic/Christian faith a meaningful experience.**
- 2. To promote a stimulating and relevant curriculum, which enables each individual to achieve their full potential and aspire to high standards.**
- 3. To develop a committed, active relationship between all those who are involved with our school by fostering home, parish and community links.**
- 4. To encourage co-operation, active relationship between all those who are involved with this school, every opportunity to succeed.**
- 5. To create a happy, safe working environment, where each person is recognised as unique and where there is mutual respect and trust amongst all in the school.**

This Mission Statement was reviewed in June 2011. This involved all stakeholders in our school.

FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll	34	28	30	28	30	28	23	20	220
Catholics on roll	18	12	14	15	14	21	12	10	116
Other Christian denomination	4	1	3	1	6	2	4	3	24
Other faith background	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	0	7
No stated religious affiliation	12	13	11	12	10	4	7	4	73
Number of learners from ethnic groups	5	6	5	5	2	3	5	1	32
Total on SEN Register	1	3	3	6	13	11	6	8	51
Total with Statements of SEN	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
FSM	4	10	9	8	5	3	4	2	45

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	One of most 3% deprived wards			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Bernadette's	220

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
Harrytown	15
St Thomas More	1
Werneth	1

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours)	2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	19

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	10
Part-time teachers	0
Total full-time equivalent	10
Support assistants	9
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	70
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	8
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	7
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

NAME OF SCHOOL	
Published admission number	25
Number of classes	8
Average class size KS1	30
Average class size KS2	25

FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2011/12	Current financial year 2012/13	Next financial year 2013/14
RE	£1500	£700	£500
English	£3000	£1600	£500
Mathematics	£500	£500	£1000
Science	£0	£0	£2000

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	1
<p>How effective the school is in providing Christian Education St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School provides an outstanding Catholic education for all pupils. From Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 6 pupils' progress and attainment are outstanding. Pupils are valued as demonstrated through the outstanding pastoral care evident across the school. The Mission Statement, firmly rooted in the Gospel values, is clearly visible in the every day life of the school, and as a result of this relationships are strong and supportive. This makes St Bernadette's the happy and successful school in which all are proud to be involved. Leadership is outstanding and provides impetus and structure to impart the philosophy of high expectations for pupils and all involved in the school community. The school's capacity for further improvement is outstanding because of the strong commitment of the Headteacher, Staff and Governors in the pursuit of excellence.</p> <p>What the school could do to improve further In order to maintain the high standards of achievement , the school has already identified the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embed the new Religious Education Scheme "The Way, the Truth and the Life." • continue to develop the good procedures already in place for assessment and moderation. • continue to celebrate Masses in school and in the Parish House. 	

PUPILS	1
<p>How good outcomes are for pupils, taking account of variations between different groups The quality of teaching and learning for all pupils is outstanding. All lessons observed during this inspection were outstanding. The stimulating, well ordered learning environments provide motivation and security for all pupils to achieve well. In addition considered, careful evaluations and effective use of data ensure the needs of all pupils are met. Pupils are keen, well focused and enjoy their Religious Education lessons. They express their views confidently and can talk enthusiastically about their own religion and respectfully about the traditions of other faiths. They show respect for each other and listen with interest when discussions are taking place .During lessons observed the pupils worked effectively individually, with partners, and in groups. Pupils expressed their views confidently. For example in an observed lesson, focused on The Ten Commandments, after much discussion and exchange of views about " telling lies" one pupil confidently stated "<i>don't tell lies just to get yourself out of trouble-just tell the truth in the first place</i>" The pupils benefit from a range of highly effective learning strategies. Their curiosity to find more information about topics covered is commendable. The Headteacher and Governors have allocated high quality support and resources for all age groups, with a particular emphasis on those pupils whose needs are greatest. Quality resources are at hand for pupils to use, and all pupil groups have the best possible opportunities to access the learning experiences provided. As a result, pupils make significant progress. Several pupils commented in their questionnaires on how they enjoyed using laptops "<i>to find new information about Jesus' life</i>" They also commented upon their enjoyment in reading parables-"<i>they make me feel closer to Jesus</i>" During discussions with the School Council the pupils were keen to inform the inspectors of the important role they have played in improving the school environment and how they feel valued because their suggestions were considered and acted upon. . The children have an excellent understanding of the Mission Statement which is displayed in pupil friendly language in each classroom. One pupil commented "<i>the Mission Statement brings our school together, it's what we follow, it makes our school the way it is</i>" Another commented "<i>...our school is like a big family</i>"</p>	

The pupils have many opportunities to take on responsibilities. For example, they are involved in fundraising activities for a variety of worthy causes at home and abroad e.g. CAFOD, Francis House. There is a very effective Prayer Buddy system in place where Year 6 pupils pray and read to younger pupils. Pupils particularly commented upon their enjoyment in being a Prayer Buddy as it provides opportunity to interact with younger children. Also the Year 6 Red Jumpers provide an important role in helping younger pupils to sort out any problems they may experience. There are numerous after school activities available for the children, gardening club, Keep Fit, Y6 Enterprise club to name just a few.

The pupils are aware of the excellent pastoral care available to them. They know that they can go to teachers or teaching assistants in fact, any adult or Year 6 Red Jumpers if they have a concern or problem. They have access to a Worry Box and any issues identified are swiftly dealt with. There are a very effective sanctions and rewards in place. Towards the end of the Collective Worship observed by the inspectors, certificates and stickers were awarded to pupils for a whole range of positive behaviours from good work to happy smiles. The pupils were proud to receive this recognition.

All the pupils participate in Acts of Worship with reverence and respect. There are opportunities for pupils to pray, reflect and meditate. All classrooms have prayer areas and pupils are given responsibility in leading prayerful moments throughout the week in a variety of settings. They enjoy, are enthusiastic about and are keen participants in prayer, Acts of Worship and liturgical celebrations.

PROVISION	1
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How effective the provision is for Christian Education

Since the last inspection the Headteacher and Religious Education Subject Leader have attended Diocesan organised courses and meetings, with particular reference to the newly adopted Religious Education Scheme The Way, the Truth and the Life. Training was disseminated to all Staff and Governors through a series of twilight sessions. Careful consideration has been given to the selection of assessment and planning tools and training for senior leaders in how to make good lessons outstanding has also been undertaken. As a result, "The Way, the Truth and the Life is being successfully implemented, the assessment and planning procedures are very effective in ensuring high expectations are achieved, and the quality of teaching and learning is outstanding.

Teachers are confident and have a secure knowledge base, they plan their lessons effectively and as a result teaching is of a consistently high standard. Detailed and thorough assessments are used effectively to help pupils in their next steps to learning. Marking throughout the school supports this as evidenced in the work scrutiny. There are very effective tracking and assessment strategies to further support and improve teaching and learning. The pupils are highly motivated to achieve their best and demonstrated to the inspectors their ability to use appropriate language and relate the topics taught to their own lives. One pupil told the inspectors "*Our teachers know exactly what we can do and they keep pushing us until we get there.*"

The learning environments are stimulating and thought provoking. Displays relate to topics and /or the liturgical year. All Staff play a significant part in ensuring that the Gospel teachings and values are accessible to all children. They are committed to guide and nurture the pupils irrespective of barriers which may be present. Staff use resources very effectively. The use of technology enhances the opportunities for learning and creativity.

Pupils are encouraged to prepare their own assemblies and liturgical services making full use of the technology available to them. They are given responsibility for leading prayerful moments throughout the week in a variety of settings, and do so very effectively. The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding and is central to the life of the school.

The school provides excellent opportunities for pupils to explore their own spiritual and moral development. This is done through the curriculum, day to day running of the school, the excellent range of activities and experiences available to the pupils. There are strong links with the parish and whole school assemblies are open to parents and members of the parish. These are always well supported.

Sister Gertrude, the Parish Sister is a valued member of the school and parish community and is often in and around school, supporting pupils, staff and parents. Sacramental preparation is delivered through school, with Sister Gertrude's help and support.

The school fully meets all the requirements of the Diocese and the Bishops' Conference.

How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Christian Life of the school

Leadership and management are outstanding.

The Headteacher provides outstanding leadership and direction, vision and inspiration. His drive for excellence permeates throughout the whole school. He knows the children in his care and is energetic in ensuring that every pupil has access to the best possible Catholic education that St Bernadette's can provide. Together with the Governing Body and the Senior Leadership Team there is great commitment to the Catholic mission of the school. Senior Leaders provide direction, support, challenge and optimism.

The Headteacher, Senior Leaders and Governors have a secure understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development, based on a very effective strategy for self-evaluation. They ensure priorities for development are incorporated into the school improvement plan and are also part of the Performance Management process.

The Religious Education Subject Leader fulfils her role admirably providing skill, knowledge and support.

She is thorough in her observations and is supportive to colleagues in the planning, organisation, assessment and moderation procedures of the curriculum. This ensures that the Religious Education provided by the school is of the highest quality.

She is also fully aware of the implications for Religious Education throughout the whole school community and is committed to providing the best opportunities for all pupils.

There is a calm and welcoming atmosphere in the school. Questionnaires returned by parents indicate overwhelming support for the Headteacher and Staff and the wider school community. One parent commented that this is "*a family orientated school*". The Governors are very knowledgeable and dedicated to the school and make a significant contribution. They challenge and support the school leadership in all aspects in order to ensure the best possible provision and outcomes for all pupils. Governors are made welcome in the school, attend assemblies whenever they can and have observed Religious Education lessons. Partnerships at all levels are outstanding.

St Bernadette's is a happy, successful school where all pupils thrive, and is unrelenting in its pursuit for excellence.

Parents' Questionnaires

220 questionnaires were sent out - 13 returned

	please tick	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	104	27	1		1
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	102	31			
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	98	35			
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	98	34			1
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	84	44	1		4
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	95	45			3
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	82	44	3		4

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	27		
2	I learn new things in Here I am lessons.	26	1	
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	25	2	
4	I have to work hard.	25	2	
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	24	3	
6	My teacher listens to me.	26	1	
7	<i>When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.</i>	23	4	
8	I get praise when I do my best.	26	1	
9	Other children are kind and behave well	24	3	
10	<i>I am happy on the playground.</i>	27		
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	25	2	
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	27		

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)

		Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	20			
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	17	3		
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	19	1		
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	17	3		
5	Do you have to work hard?	19	1		
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	20			
7	Do other children behave well?	2	17		
8	Are teachers fair to you?	20			
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	20			
10	Are you given responsibility?	18	2		
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	19	1		

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Key to judgements: Grade 1 = outstanding, grade 2 = good, grade 3 = satisfactory and grade 4 = inadequate	Judgement
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OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL	
How effective the school is in providing Christian Education	1
How good outcomes are for pupils, taking particular account of variations between different groups	1
How effective the provision is in promoting Christian education	1
How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Christian life of the school	1
The school's capacity for sustained improvement	1

PUPILS	
How good outcomes are for pupils, taking account of variations between different groups	1
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education – taking into account the following...	1
• <i>The quality of pupils' learning and their progress</i>	1
• <i>The quality of learning for pupils with particular learning needs and/or disabilities</i>	1
• <i>Pupils standards of attainment in Religious Education</i>	1
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Christian life of the school	1
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's collective worship	1

PROVISION	
How effective the provision is for Christian Education	1
The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education	1
The effectiveness of assessment and academic guidance in Religious Education	1
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum meets pupils needs following Bishops Conference policy and Diocesan requirements	1
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school	1

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	
How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Christian life of the school	1
How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Christian life of the school and plan for improvement to outcomes for pupils with particular reference to spiritual & moral development	1
How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan for improvement to outcomes for all pupils	1
The extent to which the governing body provides effective challenge and support for the Christian dimension of the school so that areas for development are tackled decisively and statutory and canonical responsibilities are met	1
How well leaders and managers develop partnerships with parents / carers and other providers, organisations and services to promote Christian learning and pupil well-being	1
How effectively leaders and managers promote community cohesion	1