



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

...committed to encouraging 'fullness of life'

SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School:	The Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School
Address:	Cotterill Halton Brook Runcorn WA7 2NL
Tel No:	01928 563148
URN:	111321
Headteacher:	Mrs C Smith
Chair of Governors:	Mrs B Burgess
Date of Inspection:	22 May 2012
Inspectors:	Mrs S Lyonette Mrs A Cassidy

Mission Statement



A journey of understanding, inspiration and hope.

Together we build community by being Christ for all and seeing Christ in all.

Therefore, we commit ourselves to providing a safe, happy and caring environment into which children and their families will find they are always welcomed. As a family valuing and respecting each other and with kind acceptance of our feelings, we work together to enable each to realise their unique gifts, talents, knowledge, skills and understanding.

FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		21	11	19	15	14	11	19	110
Catholics on roll		11	3	12	8	8	8	9	59
Other Christian denomination		3	1	1	1	2	3	7	18
Other faith background		0	1	1	1	1	0	2	6
No stated religious affiliation		7	6	5	5	3	0	1	27
Number of learners from ethnic groups		1	1	2	1	0	1	1	7
Total on SEN Register		3	6	6	7	4	3	7	36
Total with Statements of SEN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FSM		11	5	8	8	9	4	8	53

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	0.46			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL		With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils	PUPILS TRANSFER	
The Holy Spirit	59	Name of School	No of Pupils
		St Chad's High School	13

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

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	5
Part-time teachers	3
Total full-time equivalent	23
Support assistants	6
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	48
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	56
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	3
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

Published admission number	20
Number of classes	5
Average class size KS1	26
Average class size KS2	20

FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2010/11	Current financial year 2011/12	Next financial year 2012/13
RE	£700	£3000	£1000
English	£1000	£4000	£1000
Mathematics	£500	£1000	£2000
Science	£500	£1000	£1000

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
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How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education

Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School provides a good Catholic education. An education which the school community believes is "A journey of understanding, inspiration and hope" for all who work and learn in the school. The staff and governors are fully committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment where pupils learn the importance of gospel values in their daily lives, and because of this, pupils feel that Holy Spirit is a friendly place to learn and play. Members of the school council told us that teachers listen to them and support them in lessons, and "other children help as well if they have problems".

Pupils enjoy their Religious Education lessons and, relative to their starting points, some pupils make good progress in their knowledge and understanding of the teachings of Jesus and what this means for them in everyday life. The varied opportunities that pupils are offered to be reflective and prayerful are strengths and therefore they are learning lifelong skills, which are evident in the way they approach their daily activities at Holy Spirit. The atmosphere in the school reflects clearly the commitment and dedication of the headteacher, senior leaders, staff and governors to providing an environment where all pupils are respected and learn to respect each other; therefore pupils' behaviour is outstanding. The positive response of the pupils to this commitment is also evident during Collective Worship, Eucharistic Service and reflection times.

The school went through a period of uncertainty until the present headteacher was appointed. However the Catholic ethos, which permeates the school day through the leadership of the headteacher, senior leaders, staff and governors, as well as the support received from parents, has meant that the pupils have continued to receive a good education.

In order to improve further, the school should:

- Review assessment and moderation procedures when the new Religious Education Scheme, "The Way, The Truth and The Life" is introduced, so that senior leaders can be certain that there is consistency and accurate levelling across the whole school.
- Involve governors and staff in the strategic planning and the monitoring and evaluation of Religious Education, to ensure the continued successful development of the Religious Education curriculum.
- Continue to develop the Collective Worship, which is a strength in the school, by involving the children more in the planning; actively consider opportunities for more children to lead assemblies on a more regular basis; and invite parents to participate more often in Collective Worship.

PUPILS	2
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How good outcomes are for pupils, taking account of variations between different groups.

There are many good opportunities provided for pupils' learning in Holy Spirit.

The majority of the lessons observed were good and some had outstanding features. Pupils were offered opportunities to work as individuals, with partners and in groups; this enabled them to make the most of the learning opportunities provided, as well as developing independence, respect and tolerance.

Pupils expressed their appreciation for the care and support offered to them by all the staff working in school, and were happy to tell us about the way the staff helped them with their work. Their Religious Education learning is enhanced through dance, drama, music, art and poetry. Pupils in Reception and Year 1 were able to talk about what it meant to be a good friend and joined in formal and informal prayers together. Year 6 pupils shared what God's love meant to them through very individual expressions, for example "God's love is like the ocean because it fills the whole world" and "God's love is like the sun because it shines all the time".

Pupils of all abilities are voted on to the School Council and they are proud of what they had put in place to improve facilities at playtime. They told us about the numerous charities the school supported, including CAFOD, Good Shepherd, Heart Foundation as well as supporting the education of Afi, a girl who lives in Togo. Pupils exchange letters with her each year. During the whole school Collective Worship the behaviour and responses from pupils indicated that this is very much part of the Catholic life at Holy Spirit. All pupils remained focused and joined in enthusiastically with the songs of praise. The headteacher skilfully kept the interest of all pupils by including volunteers in a simple effective mime.

Pupils engage positively with the learning activities planned for them by their teachers and they enjoy their learning in a happy and secure environment. Pupils are able to express their own views and can talk about the stories Jesus told and his teaching. An example of this was seen during Bishop Mark's visit, when the pupils talked about the role the apostles took in evangelising the gospel message. The quality of learning and progress of some pupils in Religious Education, including those with particular learning difficulties is good because of the quality of relationships within the school and the support offered to them. A particular strength of Holy Spirit is the many varied opportunities pupils have to voluntarily engage in times of prayer and reflection. During these times pupils are also learning how to relax and become more aware of God's love and the world around them, as well as learning that, as individuals, they can make choices about how to respond when they have difficulties or worries.

PROVISION	2
<p><u>How effective the provision is for Catholic Education.</u></p> <p>All staff are committed to nurturing the pupils' spiritual and moral development and helping them to develop an understanding of Jesus' teaching. Teachers' use of technology is a positive aid to learning in the Religious Education lessons, as well as the outstanding teaching techniques observed in some lessons. Because of these features pupils enjoy their learning and are motivated to do their best. Teachers assess the children's knowledge and understanding of Religion when they start school so they can plan activities to meet their abilities.</p> <p>Assessment has been developed since the last inspection, however there are some aspects, including more detailed evaluation of teachers' plans and moderation of pupils' work, that need to be addressed to ensure that expectations are consistent in all age groups. The introduction of the new Religious Education Scheme will be an opportunity for staff to develop further these strategies. When these procedures are more embedded and consistently applied, the effectiveness of what teachers plan will enable pupils to improve their knowledge and understanding in Religious Education.</p> <p>Pupils enjoy the Easter and Christmas Journeys, which involves Year 5 and Year 2 visiting a church community in Frodsham to explore these two great feasts. Pupils are involved in the preparation for the school's Carols by Candlelight Service and the Easter Reflection and these are enjoyed by a significant number of parents, governors and parishioners.</p> <p>There are a number of opportunities for parents and governors to attend Masses and Collective Worship during the year, but this aspect of school life could be enhanced further if the pupils had more opportunities to share their rich experiences of reflection and praise with parents and parishioners. Pupils would also benefit from more opportunities to plan and lead whole school Collective Worship and class prayer times.</p> <p>The quality of Collective Worship is good and is given a high profile in the school. There are varied opportunities for the children to pray together as a class group, whole school or during playtimes, when older children can join the Eucharistic service or reflection times in the prayer room. Children of all ages can also attend "Welcome the Word", which is a club held after school in the church. When needed, pupils benefit from learning and reflecting in the nurture room with an experienced Higher Level Teaching Assistant. This room has been carefully designed to create a happy, safe place enabling pupils to be calm and explore appropriate activities which develop social and emotional skills and their abilities to make the right choices.</p> <p>The provision for Catholic Education at Holy Spirit and the pupils' response to this provision is good with some outstanding features.</p>	

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	2
<u>How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic Life of the school</u>	
<p>The leaders and managers carry out their roles within the spirit of the school Mission, and are committed to providing a safe, happy and caring environment into which pupils and their families are always welcome. Relationships in the school are built on respect and trust. These values permeate through the day to day life in school because of the calm dedication of the Headteacher, and the support and hard work of the staff and governors at Holy Spirit. The provision for pupils' spiritual and moral development is effective because the Headteacher, who is also the Religious Education leader and all staff are excellent role models for the pupils.</p> <p>Senior leaders are planning further developments in the monitoring and evaluation of Religious Education and more regular books scrutiny. Audits of staff strengths and areas for development would ensure that planning and assessments are accurate and consistently applied. This would also provide an accurate guide for a more strategic plan which would inform future developments in Religious Education.</p> <p>Governors are welcome in school and are highly supportive of the Headteacher and staff. They are well informed about school life and make a significant contribution to the Catholic life of the school. The implementation of a more strategic plan for Religious Education development, staff training needs and attainment and progress of children, would further improve both the support and challenge offered to the senior leaders.</p> <p>The questionnaires returned by parents indicate overwhelming support for the staff and the education they provide for the children. The pupils' questionnaires indicated clearly that they feel valued and safe, and know that there is always someone to go to if they are worried.</p> <p>The Headteacher and senior leaders have created many varied and good quality opportunities to develop excellent partnerships with groups and organisations in the community. The school works closely with staff at St Chad's, The Grange and The Heath High School. Close links with St Chad's Catholic High School include French lessons and a very supportive transition programme for Year 6 pupils. Sister Teresa who works for the Catholic Children's Society is involved in this transition work and has for many years regularly supported pupils and families when needed. A key feature of the practical support offered to pupils when faced with times of significant change and loss in their lives is the partnership that has been developed with the Chrysalis Team and two members of Holy Spirit staff have attended their training for The Seasons for Growth Programme. The school also has effective links with Halton Brook Children's Centre.</p> <p>The senior leaders and governors are also committed to the on-going development of the partnership between school and parish, however as the recently appointed Parish Priest also has responsibility for St Edwards this is a new situation for staff and governors, and one which they understand will take time to develop. This partnership has already begun with the preparation for the sacraments of Forgiveness and Holy Communion. The pupils, staff and governors have the benefit of attending Mass in the church, which is situated next to the school.</p> <p>The senior leaders, staff and governors are clearly committed to the promotion of community cohesion and make time to take part in, and contribute to, many projects and experiences that deepen the pupils' appreciation of the importance of community and acceptance of differences within that community.</p>	

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 Catholic Education	2
How good outcomes are for pupils, taking particular account of variations between different groups	2
How effective the provision is in promoting Catholic education	2
How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school	2
The school's capacity for sustained improvement	2

PUPILS	
How good outcomes are for pupils, taking into account of variations between different groups	2
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	3
• <i>The quality of pupils' learning and their progress</i>	3
• <i>The quality of learning for pupils with particular learning needs and/or disabilities</i>	2
• <i>Pupils standards of attainment in Religious Education</i>	3
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school	2
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's collective worship	2

PROVISION	
How effective the provision is for Catholic Education	2
The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education	3
The effectiveness of assessment and academic guidance in Religious Education	3
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	2

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	
How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school	2
How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school and plan for improvement to outcomes for pupils.	2
How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan for improvement to outcomes for all pupils	2
The extent to which the governing body provides effective challenge and support for the Catholic dimension of the school so that areas for development are tackled decisively and statutory and canonical responsibilities are met	2
How well leaders and managers develop partnerships with parents / carers and other providers, organisations and services to promote Catholic learning and pupil well-being	2
How effectively leaders and managers promote community cohesion	2

PARENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

Number of questionnaires returned 22

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	17	5			
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	12	10			
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	16	6			
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	12	10			
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	9	11	1		1
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	10	10			2
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	8	12			

Year 2 Pupils Questionnaire. Completed by 17 pupils

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	11	6	
2	I learn new things in Here I Am lessons.	12	5	
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	14	3	
4	I have to work hard.	17		
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	10	7	
6	My teacher listens to me.	13	4	
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to	15	2	
8	I get praise when I do my best.	15	2	
9	Other children are kind and behave well	11	6	
10	I am happy on the playground.	9	8	
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	13	3	1
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	12	4	

Year 6 Pupils Questionnaire. Completed by 18 pupils

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