



DIOCESE OF  
**SHREWSBURY**

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Address: Belgrave Avenue  
Congleton  
CW12 1HT

Tel No: 01260 274690

URN: 111335

Headteacher: Mrs S Humphries

Chair of Governors: Mr M Brundrett

Date of Inspection: 14 November 2014

Inspectors: Mr P Sharp  
Mrs E Robb

# Mission Statement



**Saint Mary's Catholic  
Primary School  
is a Christ centred learning  
community where all are  
safe, valued and loved.**

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		29	25	27	30	31	29	25	196
Catholics on roll		13	13	16	14	20	20	16	112
Other Christian denomination		7	4	7	9	7	5	5	44
Other faith background		0	1				1		2
No stated religious affiliation		9	7	4	7	4	3	4	38
Number of learners from ethnic groups		6	3	5	2	3	2	2	23
Total on SEN Register				1	4	3	1	2	11
Total with Statements of SEN								1	1
FSM			3		2	1	2	0	8

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent		Fixed term	1
Index of multiple deprivation	0.14			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Saint Mary's Congleton	196

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	July 2014
Name of School	No of Pupils
All Hallows Catholic College	15
Total	75% of cohort

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week		2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	17.5

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	9
Part-time teachers	0
Total full-time equivalent	-
Support assistants	6
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	44
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	7
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	1
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	2

Published admission number	30
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	26
Average class size KS2	29

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year	Current financial year	Next financial year
RE	2805	3500	3500
English	4000	3500	4000
Mathematics	2750	2000	2000
Science	450	450	1000

<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>
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The children of Saint Mary's Catholic Primary are proud of their school and participate constructively in the Catholic life of the school. They are respectful to each other, as well as to adults and visitors in the school. They are aware that there are people within the local and international community who need help and are keen to support these groups through their prayers and fund raising activities.

Standards in Religious Education by the end of Year 6 are above average for the majority of children. All lessons observed by the inspectors were judged to be good with some being outstanding. Children are confident to put forward their views and in one lesson children were using The Bible to look for examples where prophets and Jesus gave examples of how we should live.

The behaviour of the children is excellent; they are respectful and supportive of everyone in the school community. Pupils commented that the adults within the school looked after them, listened to them and would talk through any problems they had. They spoke confidently about the way staff helped them with their work and how they enjoyed their Religious Education lessons.

The School Council and Mini Vinnies take a leading role in the organisation of fund raising events.

In Collective Worship the children were able to lead the reflections and prayer responses. Collective Worship was well structured with children given time to reflect on the readings and questions. The behaviour and responses from the children showed that this is very much part of the Catholic life of the school.

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>2</b>
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Saint Mary's is a happy caring and supportive community where all children are encouraged to develop to their full potential. The staff, senior management team and school governors demonstrate a commitment to the Church's mission in education, with priority given to spiritual and moral development.

The Headteacher and Religious Education Co-ordinator, along with the governors, are clearly focused on what is required to improve the Religious Curriculum within the school. This knowledge has been acquired by a range of monitoring activities including, lesson observations, book scrutinies, assessment, moderation of work and professional development with the local Catholic primary schools and All Hallows Catholic College. This developing evidence and pupil performance data has allowed the leadership team and governors to identify strengths and areas for improvement related to Religious Education across the school. The school has made good progress in developing monitoring and data analysis but recognises this as an area for further work.

Governors are welcome visitors to the 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.

<b>PROVISION</b>	<b>1</b>
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All teaching observed was good with some lessons being outstanding. Lessons are well planned and engage the interest of the children. Teacher's use of technology is a positive aid to learning in Religious Education lessons and in Collective Worship. One child commented that "Gospel assemblies were fun and interesting". In all lessons observed children were keen to learn, settled to their work quickly and completed the tasks set. During lessons children showed respect and support to one another. There was evidence of differentiation, although this is an area for development with regards to questioning skills.

The school management team and teaching staff think carefully about how they present the Religious Education curriculum. They ensure this is done in exciting and well planned ways which enable all children to benefit from the many opportunities provided to them, in developing their spiritual, moral and cultural knowledge.

The children appreciate and gain much from the many extra-curricular activities organized by the school such as Mini Vinnies, choir, Latin club, School Council and numerous sports clubs. They are also involved in many charitable and fund raising events which support local, national and global charities.

The Parish Priest supports the school through the celebration of Mass and liturgical services throughout the school year. The parish assists the school in the preparation of children for the Sacraments. The school ensures that the parish is kept informed of activities and events within the school and all are invited to play an active part in the life of the school. Parents are kept informed of all aspects of school life through newsletters and the school website and are encouraged to attend school masses and celebrations. The majority of questionnaires returned showed that parents are supportive of the school and are happy with the values and attitudes that the school promotes.

The links with All Hallows Catholic College enriches the Religious Education provision within the school, through the organisation of retreats for children, and professional development training for teaching staff.

The quality of Collective Worship, as evidenced by the inspectors, is outstanding and reflects the development work that has taken place in the school under the guidance of the Headteacher, Religious Education Co-ordinator and School Chaplain at All Hallows Catholic College. The planning of the liturgical and prayer life of the school ensures that the celebrations are meaningful and give all involved the opportunity to experience spirituality at their own level. The inspectors saw children effectively leading and organizing Collective Acts of Worship within classrooms. All members of the school community have a clear understanding of the importance of prayer in the daily life of the school. A Year 6 child commented that “ We have our own time to pray and think about things”

<b>OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS</b>	<b>2</b>
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Saint Mary’s Catholic Primary School provides a good Catholic Education with some outstanding features. The pupils, staff, and governors, in their relationships and daily celebrations, reflect the school’s Mission Statement “*A Christ centered learning community where all are safe, valued and loved*”.

Pupils enjoy their Religious Education lessons and by the end of Year 6 attainment is above average for the majority of pupils. The ethos of the school reflects the hard work commitment and effective leadership of the Headteacher, Religious Education Co-ordinator staff and governors. Pupils show a commitment to the school’s Mission Statement; they treat each other with respect and enthusiastically raise funds for those in need in the local, national and international community.

The present leadership team has a good capacity to continue the improvements the school has made since the last inspection

**What the school could do to improve further**

- Continue to develop and refine assessment, monitoring and moderation throughout the school.
- To further develop links with nearby Catholic primary schools in the area of assessment and moderation.
- To develop further the questioning skills of teachers and support staff, in order to enable higher order thinking skills to be developed by all children.

## **PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRES**

**196 Sent - 46 returned**

Please note questions 5 and 7 not indicated by one parent

	please tick	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	33	13			
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	35	11			
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	27	14	3	2	
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	19	18	6	2	1
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	20	23	1		1
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	28	17			1
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	18	22	3		2

### **QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YEAR 2 PUPILS**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	24	3	
2	I learn new things in R E lessons.	24	2	1
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	26		1
4	I have to work hard.	27		
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	27		
6	My teacher listens to me.	25	2	
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	25		2
8	I get praise when I do my best.	25	2	
9	Other children are kind and behave well	22	5	
10	I am happy on the playground.	20	5	2
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	22	4	1
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	26		1

### **QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YEAR 6 PUPILS -**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	15	10	
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	16	9	
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	14	10	1
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	22	3	
5	Do you have to work hard?	23	2	
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	23	2	
7	Do other children behave well?	6	18	1
8	Are teachers fair to you?	21	4	
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	19	6	
10	Are you given responsibility?	20	5	
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	23	2	