



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Clare's Catholic Primary School  
Address: Hawthorn Road  
Lache  
Chester  
CH4 8HX

Tel No: 01244 981110

URN: 111311

Headteacher: Mrs M Ryder

Chair of Governors: Mr J McCann

Date of Inspection: 15 June 2016

Inspectors: Mrs E Inman  
Mrs C Morgan  
Mr J Donald

# THE SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT



## Mission:

**Following in the footsteps of Jesus; excellence in a nurturing and exciting environment.**

## Vision:

**Working together to achieve our full potential.**

## Values:

- **Faith**
- **Respect**
- **Honesty**
- **Perseverance**

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		16	23	16	27	18	22	11	133
Catholics on roll		8	11	5	14	9	8	7	62
Other Christian denomination		4	5	5	8	3	5	1	31
Other faith background									
No stated religious affiliation		4	7	6	5	6	7	3	38
Number of learners from ethnic groups		3	4	3	6	4	4	2	26
Total on SEN Register			5	4	6	2	4	4	25
Total with Statements of SEN				1					1
FSM		4	2	5	3	3	0	4	23

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

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Clare's	100%
St Francis	
*A small percentage of pupils attend from Wales- St Anthony's, Saltney	

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
Chester Catholic High School	15
St David's, Church of Wales, Saltney	2

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week		2 hrs 30	2hrs 30	2hrs 30	2hrs 30	2 hrs 40	2 hrs 40	2 hrs 40	

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	6
Part-time teachers	2
Total full-time equivalent	7
Support assistants	9
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	63%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	8
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	1
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	2

NAME OF SCHOOL	
<b>St. Clare's Catholic Primary</b>	
Published admission number	21
Number of classes	5
Average class size KS1	27
Average class size KS2	26

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2014/2015	Current financial year 2015/2016	Next financial year 2016/2017
RE	2,894.00	2,748.00	2,670.00
English	7,946.00	8,301.00	
Mathematics	3,135.00	1,596.00	
Science			

<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>
<p>The pupils of St Clare’s Catholic Primary love their school and appreciate the many opportunities that they are offered within school and the parish to be active members of this Catholic community. All pupils are encouraged to take responsibility and to be fully involved in the life of the school. There is a Mini Vinnies group, with representatives selected from, and by each class, in addition to Road Safety Officers, Play Leaders, Sports Ambassadors and E-Safety Officers. The pupils were very involved in the review of the school’s Mission Statement. Their involvement in parish life is greatly appreciated by the wider church community.</p> <p>Pupils have a lively interest in their Religious Education lessons and attained broadly average standards at the end of each Key Stage in 2015. Assessment, moderation and tracking of Religious Education are being developed rapidly. The school is now building up a strong bank of Religious Education assessment information, which is being used effectively to track the progress of individual pupils, in order to ensure the needs of all pupils are met.</p> <p>Collective Worship is an integral part of the daily life of St Clare’s Catholic Primary School and the pupils were keen to talk about this with the inspectors. Pupils enjoy planning and preparing liturgies within their classes. Although the pupils spoken to by inspectors said that they do not feel sufficiently confident to plan, prepare and lead prayer with the whole school, they certainly demonstrated sufficient capacity to do so from their participation in the Collective Act of Worship observed and from the comments made by members of Mini Vinnies. Pupils enjoy times of prayer in class, in assembly and in church. A parishioner noted how respectful the pupils are in church and how reverent they are in prayer. During the month of May, the voluntary Rosary group, led by staff, governors and parishioners, was well attended by pupils.</p>	

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>The Head Teacher, who is also the school’s Religious Education leader, has worked incredibly hard since taking up post in September 2014 to bring about rapid and substantial improvements and to embed the Catholic dimension within the entire life of the school. She is well supported by a committed Governing Body, who share her clear vision of how to move the school forwards after a period of significant staffing turbulence. She has introduced a rigorous tracking system to ensure that all pupils make good progress in Religious Education, whilst ensuring that new members of staff receive appropriate support during their induction into teaching in a Catholic school. Her active work to promote and enhance links between the school and the parish is significant and greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Religious Education is a standing item on the termly Governing Body agenda. The Head Teacher and the Chair of Governors, who is currently the linked Religious Education governor, meet weekly. The Governing Body have recently agreed a protocol for school visits. The Chair of Governors has a very clear vision for succession planning within the Governors and is committed to the effective induction and development of new governors. The Governors have been a stable support to the school during recent changes and challenges.</p> <p>The school is currently without a substantive Deputy Head Teacher; there is an Acting Assistant Head Teacher and senior teacher, both new to the school within the last year. They are being effectively supported in developing their knowledge and understanding of Catholic education and are making an increasing contribution to the leadership and management of the Catholic dimension of a</p>	

school and so contributing to its rapid improvement. The school is blessed with an enthusiastic, supportive Parish Priest, who joined the parish in February this year. He spoke highly of the welcome that he has received and of the school's involvement in parish life.

Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. There were 96 parental questionnaires returned; governors distributed these at a recent parents' evening, ensuring a magnificent response rate.

<b>PROVISION</b>	<b>2</b>
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The school's strong involvement in parish life is exemplary and is much appreciated by parishioners, who were keen that a representative met with the inspectors to hear about the differences there have been in the last two years. Parishioners commented that the school's involvement in the life of the parish is now more focused and regular. As a result, parishioners are more engaged in the life of the school and they know that their contribution is welcomed.

St Clare's is a smaller than average school with some mixed year groups, which change year on year. This makes the delivery of the content of the Religious Education programme, 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' challenging. However, the school endeavours to ensure that coverage is equitable and appropriate for all pupils.

Teaching and learning in Religious Education is good. Lessons are well prepared and pupils are actively engaged in their learning. They are enthusiastic and ask lots of questions. In the best lesson seen, pupils were keenly participating, there was good use of technology to enhance and accelerate learning, there was good pace and effective questioning, which ensured that all pupils were enabled to learn. Teachers were clear about what they wanted the pupils to learn, they were well-prepared and deployed support staff effectively. Where teaching was not yet good, this resulted from teachers' poor subject knowledge and limited understanding of the content being taught, which inhibited learning and hindered the progress of pupils.

All lessons observed, opened with the teacher sharing a very clear learning objective which was understood by the pupils. The Marking Policy was reviewed in November 2014 so that pupils know what they have achieved and what they must do to improve. This was consistently applied in the pupils' Religious Education books, although there were instances of inaccuracies not being addressed; this is linked to where there is weaker teacher subject knowledge. However, this is being dealt with through the school's ongoing professional development training.

Religious Education is currently timetabled as two long afternoon lessons each week in all year groups. Most classes do offer the expected 10% of lesson time being dedicated to curriculum Religious Education. Where this is not the case, teachers are using Collective Worship as part of this dedicated curriculum time. The Senior Leadership Team have plans to review this in the new academic year, in order to ensure the teaching of Religious Education is distributed and balanced throughout the week.

The pupils have many opportunities to pray together and use 'The Wednesday Word' resource to promote the links between the readings heard in Sunday Mass and daily worship. Pupils are encouraged to plan class liturgies. The Angelus is prayed daily in all classes and the opportunity to pray the Rosary was offered throughout the month of May. There are opportunities for informal prayer too and classes have a Prayer Book which includes intentions identified by pupils. All classes have focal points for prayer and appropriate displays linked appropriately to 'The Way, the Truth and The Life' topic.

Displays around the school are vibrant and share powerful messages linked to Catholic belief and practice.

<b>OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>St Clare's is a good Catholic Primary School, which has good capacity to make further improvements. The rate of progress since the appointment of the new Head Teacher in September 2014 has been impressive in all areas. She has been instrumental in taking the school forward rapidly and has been relentless in her pursuit of excellence. This is an exciting time to be part of the community of St Clare's. The school community benefits from a lively, committed new staff team, who are keen to learn and to improve outcomes for their pupils. The school's links with the parish of St Clare's are exemplary and much appreciated by the parishioners. Parents agree and questionnaire responses show overwhelming support for the work of the school.</p> <p><b>What the school could do to improve further</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the capacity and effectiveness of the Senior Leadership Team to support the Head Teacher and governors in the further development of curriculum Religious Education and assessment.</li> <li>• Review the timetabling of the Religious Education curriculum in order to ensure that the teaching of Religious Education is distributed and balanced throughout the week and meets the required 10% curriculum time in all classes.</li> </ul>	

**Parents' Questionnaires**  
**96 Parents returned questionnaires**

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	64	31	1	0	0
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	68	28	0	0	0
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	76	20	0	0	0
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	64	31	0	0	1
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	49	46	0	0	1
6	The school enables my children to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	57	39	0	0	0
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	49	44	1	0	2

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	24	2	0
2	I learn new things in Religious Education lessons.	18	8	0
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	22	2	0
4	I have to work hard.	23	3	0
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	21	5	0
6	My teacher listens to me.	15	11	0
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	25	1	0
8	I get praise when I do my best.	21	5	0
9	Other children are kind and behave well	17	9	0
10	I am happy on the playground.	21	3	0
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	24	2	0
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	25	1	0

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	24	0	0
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	23	1	0
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	24	0	0
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	24	0	0
5	Do you have to work hard?	20	4	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	24	0	0
7	Do other children behave well?	24	0	0
8	Are teachers fair to you?	24	0	0
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	24	0	0
10	Are you given responsibility?	24	0	0
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	21	3	0