



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE S48 MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School:	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Woodford Lane Winsford CW7 2JS
Tel No:	01606 288044
URN:	111386
Headteacher:	Mr John Donald
Chair of Governors:	Mr Tony Hathaway
Date of Inspection:	24 November 2016
Inspector:	Mr Kevin Toms

St Joseph's is an exemplary Catholic Primary continuing to provide outstanding provision for Religious Education. Since the last inspection all areas for development have become firmly embedded in the life of the school. Not content with just maintaining the standards set at the last inspection, the charismatic leadership of the Headteacher has ensured that there is an innovative and empowering approach to the teaching of Religious Education through the school. Various initiatives such as The Forest Schools, The Parable Painting Project and The Philosophy Project are extremely effective in supporting and driving forward the Catholic Mission of the school. They contribute to the lively presentation of the Catholic life of the school and are helping greatly to strengthen the core scheme of The Way, The Truth and The Life.

All staff are appreciative of the support and encouragement of the Headteacher and the very effective leadership of the Religious Education Coordinator. All staff are encouraged to lead Collective Acts of Worship and this remains outstanding in its range and depth of spiritual opportunities. This has now been enhanced by the development of a dedicated quiet and reflective area. The very strong team of senior and middle managers ensures that the Religious Education Coordinator and Headteacher can support other Diocesan schools.

There is a clear focus on raising standards and supporting children at all levels of the learning spectrum. Pupils are encouraged to play a leading role in Collective Acts of Worship, they are extremely confident and competent and thrive on the responsibilities given to them. The older children thoroughly enjoy their senior student roles and the children enjoy their Religious Education lessons immensely. They now play a leading role in developing their involvement in the charities the school supports. The children take a real pride in their work and their work books are exemplary. The children work enthusiastically and calmly in their lesson. They are a credit to the school. Briefly, the school remains outstanding because:

The work in the wider parish community continues to grow and strengthen and a revised approach to sacramental preparation is very effectively supported by parish catechists.

Governors are very supportive and knowledgeable about the provision for Religious Education. They play a leading role in all aspects of monitoring and evaluating this provision and have developed their own skills work scrutinies and learning walks. They take their own training seriously and provide very effective support and challenge.

Resources for Religious Education are excellent and the school works hard to ensure IT is used very effectively to support the learning and monitoring process. Standards of Display are outstanding throughout.

Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. Governors and parents have expressed clearly their support for the Headteacher and his staff for the high quality of Religious Education provided at St. Josephs.

The school should continue to strive to find new and innovative ways to present the Catholic Mission of the school and thus improving the already outstanding provision for Religious Education.

Areas of Outstanding Practice

- The strong leadership team remains focussed on high quality support and training for all staff
- Provision for Religious Education remains innovative, always seeking new ways to improve and present the school's mission and raise the standard of attainment for all children.
- All staff and children are very effectively involved in the preparation and leading of Collective Acts of Worship.