



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School: St Anne's Catholic Primary

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Headteacher: Mrs H Brown

Chair of Governors: Mr A Baxter

Date of Inspection: 20 March 2015

Inspectors: Mrs R Hedger

St Anne's Catholic Primary School continues to be an outstanding and successful Catholic primary school. The welcoming environment, the care given to displaying all pupils' work and the high quality of pupils' written work demonstrates day to day that the children feel valued and all their efforts are acknowledged.

In September 2012, parents, teachers, governors and pupils were all involved in a review of the Mission Statement. It was decided to have a single statement, rather than an adult and a child version. The statement is summarised in the school motto 'Christ at the heart of all we do'. This is clearly displayed on all correspondence, the website, around the school and in every classroom.

Since the last inspection, the school has established a Prayer Garden, which opened in Summer 2013. This was funded by the school following many fundraising events and has given an added dimension for Collective Worship and Religious Education lessons. In addition, the Mini Vinnie's and Prayer Ambassadors often use the prayer garden at lunch times to lead prayer for those pupils or staff who wish to attend. In May and October parents and parishioners are invited to join the Mini Vinnie's and children in the Prayer Garden to pray the Rosary and during Lent for the Stations of the Cross.

The inspector attended the Lenten Stations of the Cross at the beginning of the school day and the weekly prayer at lunchtime. These were led by the Mini Vinnie's and Prayer Ambassadors respectively and were well attended.

The school has successfully developed the Religious Education scheme of work 'The Way, The Truth and The Life', and has adopted the assessment scheme that accompanies the planning. The class teacher keeps an up to date record for each child that records their learning in each area of the Religious Education curriculum. The staff and senior leadership team together moderate the assessments to ensure rigour. As part of recent moderation, staff identified the need for training in the assessment of Religious Education. This has now taken place and levels of attainment for this year are expected to be in line with other core subjects. The school now has very comprehensive monitoring and evaluation procedures in place and should continue to use them to deliver what is an outstanding quality of Religious Education.

During the 'Learning Walk', the inspector visited every class. In each class, there was evidence of high standards of teaching and learning. Evidence of outstanding provision could be found in the children's books; in the quality of displays of children's work around the classrooms; in the conversations between the children and their teachers; and in the teachers' planning notes. Pupil viewpoints and opinions are important to the school, and a recent pupil interview exercise revealed that the children felt they learnt best in Religious Education lessons which were kinaesthetic and creative. The staff have adjusted their planning to take this into account and pupils have agreed that more lessons are now taught in this manner.

Pupil behaviour is exemplary.

Areas of Outstanding Practice

Outcomes for pupils

The quality of Religious Education teaching is outstanding and has enabled children to lead their own groups with the confidence to prepare and deliver Collective Worship. The Mini Vinnie group, Collective Worship Ambassadors and the Prayer Ambassadors are just a few activities that indicate the children's willingness to give up their own time to participate in the Catholic Life of the school.

Children throughout KS2 regularly give up their lunch times to plan their class Collective Worship for the afternoon. The Collective Worship Ambassadors from Year 6 visit classes to support children in preparing the Collective Worship session in the classroom and sometimes they lead so that the children can learn from their example. Pupils enjoy their learning as shown by their interest, enthusiasm and behaviour.

Leaders Governors and Managers

The leadership of the school is outstanding. The focussed and dedicated Governing Body together with the Senior Leadership Team ensures the school is an integral part of the community and of the parish. The Catholic ethos of the school is paramount. Senior leaders recognise the importance of staff development and actively encourage and support staff to grow in their own faith. A retreat has been planned for all staff and some staff are currently attending the 'Foundations in Faith' course. All new members of staff are given a school staff handbook and a school Religious Education handbook, which provides clear guidance on the expectations when working in the school. The school supports the Religious Leader, who is a member of the Diocesan working party.

Provision

The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding. All children participate in Collective Worship with reverence and respect. There are opportunities for children to pray, reflect and meditate. All classrooms have a focal point, which reflects the liturgical year and children are given responsibility for preparing and leading prayerful sessions throughout the week, in a variety of settings. Children are enthusiastic participants in prayerful Acts of Worship and liturgical celebrations.