



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

---

## **REPORT ON THE S48 MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS**

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

School:	Our Lady & St Edward's Catholic Primary
Address:	School Price Street Birkenhead Wirral CH41 8DU
Tel No:	0151 652 3366
URN:	105086
Headteacher:	Mrs E McGunigall
Chair of Governors:	Mrs E Rogan
Date of Inspection:	13 December 2016
Inspector:	Mrs E Robb

Our Lady and St Edward's Catholic Primary school continues to provide an outstanding Catholic education.

The mission statement promises a school in which all learn, grow and achieve; a welcoming and joyful place where everyone feels happy, safe, protected and are valued as individuals whose talents are shared and celebrated. This is summarised in the school motto: "Hand in hand we journey with Jesus by our side".

Consequently, Our Lady and Saint Edward's is a welcoming, vibrant and happy school which places Christ at the centre of all they set out to achieve. The school reaches out beyond the school gates and shows a special warmth and care to all connected to the school and parish, embedding the school into the fabric of their community.

The inspirational and visionary Headteacher leads, and is part of, a strong enthusiastic leadership team which includes the Deputy Headteacher, the Assistant Headteacher, who is also the Religious Education Leader, and the Pre-School Co-ordinator. All are fully committed to providing the best possible education for every pupil who attends Our Lady and St Edward's Catholic school.

The Religious Education Leader and the Pre-School Co-ordinator are the school's Religious Education Team.

Staffing levels are excellent and the highly effective teaching assistants work with fully committed teachers to maximise learning opportunities for all children. The collaborative and supportive ethos and openness amongst staff focuses on school improvement. This promotes accountability, respect and a sense of belonging to a caring and professional organisation.

The Religious Education Leader is very knowledgeable and provides support, advice and guidance for all Staff. Her commitment and focus contribute to the high quality learning opportunities provided resulting in the excellent outcomes for pupils. She is ably supported by the Pre-School Co-ordinator, who ensures that the children's first encounter with school is in a caring environment where their emotional, social, personal and spiritual needs are catered for.

In spite of the major alterations being carried out at the school currently, there was an atmosphere of calm throughout the Learning Walk.

The learning environments provide children with opportunities to embrace new experiences and broaden their understanding, resulting in improved confidence, self-esteem and self worth. All children are well supported and the more able children are challenged in their learning through skilful questioning. Staff are keen to develop aspects of challenge further. Established routines ensure children settle into their activities with enthusiasm and a willingness to meet new experiences with confidence. Excellent behaviour contributes positively to effective learning in class. The children are motivated to learn about the teachings of Jesus through The Way, The Truth and The Life programme, and this is evident in the work they produce and the ways in which they discuss their learning. Provision is further enhanced through the effective use of the excellent resources available.

The children enjoy and participate in acts of Collective Worship. There is a range of assemblies, celebrations, Masses and liturgies throughout the school year and the children are encouraged to be proactive in preparing, leading and celebrating the various aspects of Collective Worship, thus enabling the children opportunities to reflect and to connect with Christ in a meaningful and purposeful way, which they may not experience outside the school community. In the act of Collective Worship observed, the children were respectful and reverent in both their prayers and their enthusiastic singing. The provision of Prayer Spaces, when alterations are complete, will encourage and support children in developing further their own spirituality and reflection.

The school meets fully the Diocesan requirements and guidelines for all aspects of Religious Education and Collective Worship.

The majority of children enter school below national expectations in almost all areas and far below in some. However, as a result of their learning experiences the children leave Year 6 in line with, or above, national expectations in Religious Education.

There is no room for complacency in this school and all staff continually seek ways to enhance and enrich the learning opportunities for children inside and outside the classrooms.

The children are happy, friendly and their behaviour is excellent. They engage and participate well within a range of different groups regardless of ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. The children realise the importance of treating others as they would like to be treated and are able to demonstrate this.

The Governors are fully aware of the strengths of the school, and the areas for development. They are totally committed to the mission of the school and offer support and challenge. They contribute to the full life of the school and attend many events which enable them to witness the culture, ethos and standards exhibited throughout the school. For example, the Chair of Governors has provided training related to Collective Worship, and the Parish Priest, who is also a Governor, is in school regularly visiting classes and meeting the Religious Education Leader to discuss various aspects of Religious Education.

Continued professional development for all staff and governors is a key feature in this successful school and makes a significant contribution to the Catholic life of the school and to pupil progress.

The rigorous monitoring and assessment procedures provide consistency across classes, and impact positively on pupil progress and attainment. The investment in the Inclusion Team ensures the personal development of every child to enable them to enjoy their education and to believe that they can achieve their potential.

There are opportunities to explore and celebrate other faiths, for example the children experienced an assembly prepared and delivered by a Jewish Rabbi; also an assembly to celebrate Diwali.

The school offers children the opportunity to contribute to the common good in school and in the wider community. The children have raised funds for Mission Together, Comic Relief, CAFOD and Cancer Research, to mention just a few.

The School Council gives the children the opportunity to have a say in what is happening in their school and to share their ideas. One member of the School Council told the Inspector that their school was "one of a kind"; another pupil stated that the School Council helps to make the school "better, safer and happier". They are fully appreciative of the extra activities available to them.

The parents are supportive of the school and appreciate the many ways in which the school reaches out to them. They are kept well informed about their children's progress in all aspects of school life. They are invited into school regularly, for example, there are Come and Share Mornings when parents are invited to participate in their children's learning, which often includes an aspect of the Religious Education programme their children are following.

The areas for improvement identified in the last inspection have been addressed.

In conclusion, the outstanding Catholic education provided by Our Lady and St Edward's Catholic Primary School is enshrined in the Gospel values, encourages joy and hope and fulfils the promises made in the Mission Statement.

## **Areas of Outstanding Practice**

### Outcomes for pupils

The children contribute to and benefit greatly from a Catholic Education which is firmly rooted in the Gospel values.

### Leaders and Managers

Leaders and managers have a secure understanding of the school's many strengths and areas for development. They are fully committed to promoting the Catholic mission of the Church.

### Provision

All children have access to excellent learning opportunities which are well planned and well resourced. These engage and support learning in and outside the classroom.