



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

School: St Bede's Catholic Primary School

Address: Keeper's Lane
Weaverham
CW8 3BY

URN: 111341

Headteacher: Mrs A Casey

Chair of Governors: Mr J Rafferty

Inspector: Mrs C Morgan

Date of Previous Inspection:
16 October 2008
Overall Grade 1 (Outstanding)

Date of Current Inspection :
8 July 2014
Overall Grade 1 (Outstanding)

St. Bede's Catholic Primary School continues to provide an outstanding Catholic Education. The Headteacher provides outstanding leadership, both in her role as Headteacher of the school and as Religious Education subject leader. She is supported and challenged by a very effective Governing Body and Parish Priest, who ensure that the school effectively lives out its Mission Statement, of developing learning in a Christian, caring environment and of promoting the Catholic faith.

Since the last inspection, the school has addressed the areas for development with great energy and this has resulted in the rigorous monitoring and assessment strategies. Currently staff are trialling the use of response times in different year groups. Pupils are given the time to respond to teachers' marking and to deepen their understanding. Staff development has been strategic. Staff demonstrate dedication to the pupils and creative approaches to teaching and learning. Parishioners are supportive. They come into school and provide an effective and highly-regarded link to the parish.

The pupils are extremely well-behaved and are enthusiastic about their learning. They are able to use religious vocabulary, not only about their own faith but also about other faiths beliefs and practices. The school has well established links with a school in Italy and this provides a focus for global learning, as well as the opportunity for developing pupils' confidence and experience.

On the Learning Walk around each classroom, examples of outstanding practice were observed. Teachers deliver exciting Religious Education lessons through creative contexts, which provide a purpose for learning. The use of ICT is firmly embedded, as is the expectation of high standards. Pupils work quietly and co-operatively, completing work to a high standard. Their willingness to undertake role-play shows their developing confidence, as well as their empathy for characters in different situations.

The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding. Pupils sing beautifully and show great reverence and respect, listening intently and joining in with responses and prayers. Pupils are given responsibility for preparing and leading prayers and liturgies. The Parish Priest is a regular visitor and contributes much to the life of the school. All classrooms have a display relating to the current topic in 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' and also have a prayer focus which is interactive, encouraging pupils to develop formal and informal prayer.

It is clear that the Catholic life of St. Bede's underpins all that is done in, and by, the school.

Areas of Outstanding Practice

Outcomes for pupils

Pupils are actively engaged in their learning, responding enthusiastically to a range of teaching styles. They take on responsibility for roles such as members of the School Council and fundraising activities. They lead and respond to Collective Worship and informal prayer, contributing a great deal to the prayer life of the school.

Leaders Governors and Managers

Leaders and Managers have a very clear vision for the school and also look outwards to strengthening the parish and inter-school communities. The Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, governors and staff work extremely well together; there is a team ethic where individuals take responsibility for specific tasks. The way in which the Religious Education subject leader carries out her role has been used as a model and support for other subject leaders. This has ensured consistency across the team and throughout the school.

Provision

The creative approach to teaching and learning is a strength of the school; it enthuses pupils and provides meaningful contexts for them to explore and understand their faith and to be nourished spiritually, both in their Religious Education lessons and in Collective Worship.