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

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

School:	Cheadle Catholic Junior School
Address:	Conway Road Cheadle Hulme Cheshire SK8 6DB
Tel No:	0161 485 3754
URN:	106112
Headteacher:	Mr K Platt
Chair of Governors:	Mrs P Read
Date of Inspection:	12 July 2017
Inspector:	Mrs J Johnson

## **Areas of Outstanding Practice**

### **Outcomes for Pupils**

Pupils at Cheadle Catholic Junior School are extremely eloquent and confident in articulating the Gospel values that clearly permeate every aspect of the school's work. Pupils are rightly proud of the school, and they truly live out the school's Mission of 'following in the footsteps of Jesus'. They take full advantage of the many and varied opportunities on offer to develop their Catholic faith, and can describe in detail how their faith shapes their lives.

Pupil voice is a real strength of the school, and pupils regularly evaluate the school's work. They are skilled at giving feedback to each other and to the adults in school, and are able to work collaboratively in a variety of settings. They show great independence in their learning, and are used to their opinion being taken into account. Pupils are respectful of each other, and have a great understanding of empathy. One Year 4 pupil talked about how they should not do anything that would 'take away the dignity' of another person.

The behaviour of pupils is exemplary, and this means that staff are ambitious in their teaching, and that lessons move at a fast pace. Pupils really enjoy their Religious Education lessons and show great engagement in their learning. Pupils appreciate the creativity that staff bring to their lessons, and the high quality displays all around the school, as well as the pupils' books, are evidence of this. Pupils say that their Religious Education lessons are 'engaging' and all are fully involved in their lessons through clear differentiation, and pupils rise to the challenge of the very high expectations of staff. Attainment in Religious Education across the school is high.

Marking and feedback to pupils are outstanding, so that pupils have a clear understanding of what they have done well, and how they can improve. Pupils can explain the marking system that is used consistently across the school, and they always respond to the comments made by staff, thus taking their learning forward. Pupils use the 'I can' statements to make accurate assessments of their own learning. They have a mature religious literacy, and are keen to share this with others. Pupils thoroughly enjoy their involvement in the Catholic life of the school and the wealth of opportunities for developing their spiritual life. The school's Faith Council and Special Projects and Message Group clearly help to shape the life of the school. For instance, the Faith Council recently led the Easter Labyrinth for the whole school community, and the SPAM Group regularly plan the topics to be discussed and activities to be completed in Circle Time and PSHE. The Mini Vinnies have been instrumental in raising awareness of the needs of others throughout the world, whilst the School Council has helped to review the Behaviour Policy. The support of Prayer Friends is much appreciated by the pupils.

Since the last Inspection, Mission and Vision Days have been introduced in order to provide opportunities for the pupils to reflect on their Catholic faith. A wide range of evidence provided by the school, along with enthusiastic reports from the pupils, shows that these days are highly successful.

The staff model high quality Collective Worship to the pupils and so by the time pupils reach Y6, they are extremely skilled in planning and leading high quality Collective Worship themselves, choosing the theme, the related focal point, scripture, hymn and 'Going Forth' activity themselves. Pupils show great reverence and respect during Collective Worship, and are keen and enthusiastic participants.

### **Leaders, Governors and Managers**

The Headteacher, most ably assisted by the Deputy Headteacher, Religious Education Co-ordinator and Governors, has been unwavering in his quest for the very best Catholic education for the pupils in the school. All staff are firmly committed to the school's Catholic Mission and ethos, and to ensuring that innovative initiatives for moving the school forward, are consistently followed. The Chair of Governors and Religious Education Link Governor are frequent visitors to the school

in order to evaluate the school's provision and to find out things for themselves first hand. The Senior Leadership Team is supported by 3 pro-active Parish Priests, who know the school well. Fr John supports the school in many ways, including delivering training to staff.

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher provide inspirational leadership, and they have been extremely successful in building distributive leadership in order to make the most of the skills and talents of other members of staff. The Religious Education Co-ordinator, who has been in post for only two years, has been instrumental in moving the school forward, through developing staff, and through implementing a rigorous programme of monitoring and evaluation of the teaching and standards in Religious Education. Self-evaluation is accurate, and fully embedded. The Religious Education Plan is strategic and ambitious.

Parents are kept very well informed about developments in Religious Education, and are given very good support by the school to assist them in further developing the faith of their children. Their views are sought on a regular basis, and they relish the opportunities they are given to come into school to share in its faith life, including using the school's beautiful 'Faith Room'.

### **Provision**

Teaching throughout the school is consistently of a very high quality, and as a result, pupils are fully engaged in their learning, and achieve high standards. Teachers have very secure subject knowledge, and Teaching Assistants provide very good support for learning. A wide range of whole school systems is very well embedded, and this means that no time is wasted and pupils make rapid progress. Pupils have real ownership of their learning, as their previous knowledge is always used as a starting point in new topics, and then they ask questions they would like to be answered. During the topic, pupils are given time to reflect on their new learning, and record it in a green pen. Assessment procedures are rigorous and robust, and are now a real strength of the school. The learning environment throughout the school, both in classes and communal areas, is particularly stimulating, and it is very clear that Religious Education is given a high priority.

Learning Walls are used to very good effect in all classes, and pupils regularly contribute to the displays. Pupils enjoy and are able to articulate L2L (Learn to Learn), a whole school approach based on 6 characters, which develops learning behaviours. These characters have been linked to the Gospels, thus promoting the school's ethos further. Pupils collaborate and co-operate extremely well with each other, and a range of teaching styles engage them very well. The school has very strong links with other schools, most notably with Cheadle Catholic Infant School. The school has a forward looking programme of transition, including Prayer Friends, which is much valued by the whole school community.

Collective Worship is of central importance and is a key part of every school celebration, ensuring that Jesus is placed at the heart of everything the school does. Furthermore, the spiritual life of the pupils and staff is enhanced through links the school has made with other local faith communities. Cheadle Catholic Junior School shows exemplary practice in all areas and is an outstanding Catholic school.

In order to develop further, the school should consider

- Working with other local Catholic schools to moderate work in Religious Education
- How they could share their wide range of exemplary and innovative practices beyond the school