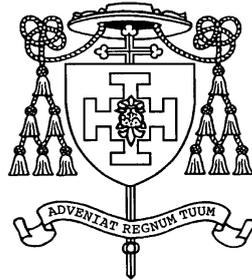


DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY

DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School:	St Clement's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Oxford Road Runcorn WA7 4NX
Tel No:	01928 572129
URN:	111320
Headteacher:	Mrs M Morgan
Chair of Governors	Mrs A Williams
Date of Inspection:	20 October 2009
Inspectors:	Mr T McBeath Mr M Kirkman

BASIC SCHOOL DATA

SCHOOL DATA	
Name of School	St Clement's Catholic Primary
School email address	Head.stclements@halton.gov.uk
Name of Headteacher	Mrs Margaret Morgan
Name of Chair of Governors	Mrs Andrea Williams
Name of Parish Priest	Father Peter Wright
Name of Religious Education Co-ordinator	Mrs Michelle Panayi
Brief statement about school – location, type, population, parish (es) etc.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Clement's Catholic Primary School is a Voluntary Aided School catering for pupils aged 4+ to 11 years old. It is one of two primary schools serving the parish of St. Edward. To ensure the viability of both schools the parish is divided into two designated zones. Eighty five per cent of the pupils are Catholics with fifteen per cent being from other Christian faiths. 	

STAFFING & ORGANISATION	
Number of full-time teachers	8
Number of part-time teachers	1
Number of Catholic teachers	5
Number of teachers from other Christian faiths	3
Number of teachers from other faith backgrounds	0
How many teachers teach Religious Education?	9
Number of teachers with CCRS	3
Number of teachers with other Catholic qualifications (E.g. Theology, leadership)	NA

PUPILS / STUDENTS	
Number of pupils on roll	197
Number of classes	7
Organisation of classes	Single Age
Average class size	28
% Of Catholic pupils	85
% Of pupils from other Christian faiths	15
% Of pupils from other faith backgrounds	0
Number of pupils on SEN register	24
Number of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs	0

TEACHING TIME FOR R.E. PER WEEK IN -	
Foundation	2 hours
Key Stage 1	2½ hours
Key Stage 2	2½ hours

FINANCIAL DATA – actual expenditure over 2 years	£
English	4000
Mathematics	1000
Science	500
Religious Education	5600

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
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OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL	1
<p>St Clement's Catholic Primary School is outstanding in all areas of its school life. Its religious ethos underpins not only the high quality curriculum provision, but also its deep spiritual life, and pastoral care system through which all members of the school community are truly valued and cared for.</p> <p>There is an outstanding team of teaching, and non teaching staff ; all receive excellent leadership and support from the outstanding Headteacher, the Deputy Headteacher and the Religious Education Coordinator – together, these form an extremely effective Senior Management Team .</p> <p>The Governors are very knowledgeable and well informed; they manage to both challenge and support the school leadership and in doing so ensure the highest quality of provision for both pupils and parents.</p> <p><u>What the school could do to improve further</u></p> <p>No areas for development were identified. The School, itself, has developed a very effective and thorough self evaluation programme which details areas for future development. This provides the school with an excellent document that will ensure further school improvement and development.</p>	

THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	1
<p>St. Clement's continues to maintain and develop an excellent Catholic ethos that permeates all aspects of school life. The School's Mission Statement is clearly displayed in all areas of the school, not only as a plaque on the wall, but more particularly and more importantly, in the way in which the whole school community 'lives out' this Statement. There is a very clear understanding of what the Mission Statement means in the daily activities within the school and there is a very clear demonstration of care, value and respect in the way in which all members of the school community react with each other.</p> <p>Pupils are very knowledgeable and interested about the needs of others, not only in their local community but also in relation to global issues. They, along with their parents have responded in many different ways to these issues in their prayers and in the very generous contributions made to the many charitable requests.</p> <p>St Clement's is a school community that is living the challenging Gospel values contained within its Mission Statement.</p>	

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	1
<p>Collective worship is one of the main factors that contribute to the outstanding nature of the school. It is of a very high standard, being well planned, creative, relevant and more especially prayerful. Themes reflect the liturgical year, curriculum topics and also the spiritual and pastoral needs of the school community. Many techniques are used, such as drama, music, hymns, scripture readings and prayer, to develop themes and make them relevant to the pupils. These techniques make these themes come alive and bring relevance to the pupils in new and interesting ways. These are very inclusive moments with all members of the school community being given and opportunity to be fully involved.</p> <p>Parents and parishioners are invited to attend and participate in collective acts of worship and other school events. These events are very well attended – and some are very oversubscribed.</p> <p>Prayer is an extremely important aspect in the life of the school and is deeply rooted in the everyday life of pupils and staff. Prayer is a regular feature throughout the school day and focuses the activities of the day on God. Time is provided for private prayer and reflection and the school is currently developing an outdoor area specifically for this important aspect of the school's spiritual life.</p>	

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT AND OVERALL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUPILS	1
<p>The School and Governors have developed an excellent set of policies that include the spiritual and moral development of the pupils. Many of these documents have been gathered and presented together, giving a very clear indication of the School's approach to Religious Education and the spiritual and moral development of the pupils. Underpinning all these documents is the School's Mission Statement which affects all aspects of school life. All these documents are regularly reviewed by both staff and governors. Of greater importance, however, is the way in which these documents are 'lived out' in the daily activities of the school. The way in which the school attempts reflect the Gospel values contained within these polices, is truly impressive. This has resulted in a true feeling of self worth and value by all members of the school community which enables all to share in a feeling of pride in all areas of the School's achievements, which are many, most noticeably in the way they all care for, and respect, each other.</p> <p>The social and cultural development of the pupils is outstanding and this is reflected in the positive assertive policy that has been adopted by members of the staff and the polite and respectful behaviour of the pupils. The pupils have excellent provision for their study of 'Other Faiths', which enables them to understand the beliefs and viewpoints of people with a different faith background. As well as providing its useful on-site resources the School provides opportunities to visit a synagogue and is in the process of organising the visit of speakers, such as a Rabbi, in order to enhance this provision further.</p>	

PARTNERSHIP: PUPILS, PARENTS, PARISH(ES) AND WIDER COMMUNITY	1
<p>There is a true sense of partnership in St Clement's School. This is a school where all feel valued and cared for.</p> <p>There are many opportunities provided by the school for pupils to share their vision of St. Clement's. The members of the School Council are articulate and do feel they have an influence in identifying the future needs of the school. They could identify many developments that had been carried out in response to their suggestions. The pupils are also given many opportunities to take on many different areas of responsibility and they demonstrate a maturity in recognising what these responsibilities entail. The pupils are very appreciative for the value and respect they were given by all members of the school community. This community aspect of school life is exceptional.</p> <p>The pupils are involved in their local community in many different ways. At the centre of their community is the parish of St Edward's. They are invited and attend many liturgical parish celebrations, the centre of which is the Sunday Mass. The parish is actively involved in school life; there are very close ties between the school and parish. The School is often invited to participate in parish liturgies and the parish is often invited to participate in school worship and prayer. These are very well attended events. The Parish priest is extremely supportive and visits the school frequently. He invites and encourages the pupils, and their families, to become fully involved in the parish community and the parish liturgies. The Parish Priest and the Parish Liturgy Group, along with the School, are involved in developing the sacramental programme for those making their First Act of Reconciliation and Holy Communion and are very supportive of the pupils in their 'Sacramental Year of Celebration'.</p> <p>The pupils have developed a deep interest in the wider community. Some of the information they receive is from their curriculum studies, prayer time and collective worship, but other information is obtained through the many fund raising activities that the pupils become involved in. Charity collections such as the annual "Love in Box" campaign, CAFOD, "Children in Need", SVP and the Children's Society, provide the children with a wide perspective of the needs and issues of the world in which they live.</p>	

Parents demonstrate magnificent support for the school and exhibited an enormous pride when discussing school achievements. They are fully informed of the religious themes, topics and activities that the pupils will study through a termly newsletter and other information is conveyed through regular school newsletters. (Parish letters are also provided by the school for the parents.) The school is also developing a web-site that will contain useful school information that the parents can access from their homes. The parents have many opportunities to discuss their child's progress and the school holds two specific open evenings for more formal meetings. The parents show a real interest and involved themselves in all aspects of school life.

The school has excellent links with its neighbouring schools, particularly with St Edwards Catholic Primary School, with whom it shares the parish church, and St Chad's Catholic and Church of England Secondary School.

ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1
<p>The school has an excellent baseline assessment programme, which uses observation, discussion with the parents and the knowledge the school has about parents and individual pupils. The school is able to demonstrate, that the majority of children have little or no religious knowledge or understanding on entry.</p> <p>The School is developing an exceptional assessment procedure, with assessment activities being produced for the different strands and levels, with teachers' judgements being moderated within staff meetings. Individual pupils may be tracked throughout their school career enabling the school to constantly review and evaluate progress very effectively. The School provides a great deal of support in making sure that the judgements reached accurately reflect the attainment and progress of each pupil.</p> <p>The School, therefore, is able to establish that the pupils make impressive progress even from the early years and this progress is maintained throughout the other age ranges. This progress is founded upon the very high expectations and high quality of teaching, which is then reflected in the high quality of work that the pupils produce.</p>	

QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING	1
<p>The standard of teaching is outstanding. Lessons are very well planned and evaluated and the teachers demonstrate good subject knowledge. Lessons are pacy, creative and interesting with the pupils having a clear understanding of what is expected of them. Pupils were fully involved in discussions and showed great interest throughout lessons. Expectations were high and the pupils responded by producing high quality work. Presentation of their work was exceptional.</p> <p>Work was extremely well planned and evaluated and many different teaching techniques were used that supported the age and abilities of children. The work was differentiated and this ensured that children of all abilities made excellent progress.</p> <p>Pupils throughout the school demonstrated excellent knowledge of the topic being studied and displayed a great interest in the work that was set. This resulted not only in the high standard of work but in the excellent behaviour of the pupils.</p> <p>Resources were very well used and the use of ICT was particularly effective.</p> <p>The classroom assistants provide tremendous support for the teachers in assisting pupils in the classroom and involving themselves fully in all aspects of school life.</p>	

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	1
<p>The School has an outstanding Headteacher who has a clear vision of Catholic education. She gives inspirational guidance to the outstanding leadership team and they work very well together. This ensures that the high standards in Religious Education and the development of a strong Catholic ethos are maintained and further developed. This is achieved by the very effective use of a rigorous self assessment procedure. As a result the school has produced a school detailed strategic plan which provide for separate action plans being produced for the development of Religious Education. The School's outstanding characteristics are the result of such a detailed analysis of the School's situation and its resulting plans.</p>	

The spiritual development for the whole school community is an extremely important aspect of St Clement's. Opportunities are given for all the staff to develop spiritually as well as professionally. The Staff frequently pray together and take part in the 'Before You Begin' sessions that introduce new topics. In-service training is provided through during staff meetings and an annual INSET day which are devoted to an aspect of Religious Education or spiritual development. Once every two years this INSET day is developed with the other local Catholic schools. The Headteacher, Deputy and Co-ordinator attend all the training provided by the Diocese.

Provision ensures that all pupils have the opportunity to be fully involved in all activities and there is a robust pastoral ethos that covers not only the pupils but also all members of the school community.

The Governing Body's involvement with the school is outstanding. It has a very clear understanding of the strengths and developmental needs of the school. It is fully involved and receive information from the Headteacher, the RE Coordinator and their own designated Governor for Religious Education, who, not only has discussions with the Senior Management team and teachers, but also observes classroom lessons. This has resulted in an extremely well informed Governing Body that is both challenging and supportive.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1
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The leadership given by the Religious Education Coordinator is outstanding. She is enthusiastic, very committed, creative, and well informed, and leads through example. She is an exceptional leader who shows great care and support for the staff with whom she works. She works very closely with the Headteacher and Deputy, which forms an extremely effective Senior Management Team.

The Senior Management Team monitors and evaluates standards and progress and prepares reports for the Governors, making sure that they are kept well informed of all school developments.

Resources and accommodation are exceptionally well used. A recent example of making the best use of all facilities being the creation of an outdoor quiet/prayer area.

PARENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

Number of questionnaires distributed: 150

Number of questionnaires returned: 54

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	33	21			
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	30	24			
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	32	22			
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	24	28			2
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	39	15			
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	37	16			
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	30	21	2		

PUPILS' QUESTIONNAIRE Y2

		Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	24			
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	22	1	1	
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting and fun?	23		1	
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	24			
5	Do you have to work hard?	24			
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	24			
7	Do other children behave well?	24			
8	Are teachers fair to you?	24			
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	24			
10	Are you trusted to do things on your own?	24			
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	24			

PUPILS' QUESTIONNAIRE Y6

		Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	21	8	1	
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	24	3	3	
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting and fun?	12	13	5	
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	22	5	3	
5	Do you have to work hard?	26	3	1	
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	19	10	1	
7	Do other children behave well?		18	10	2
8	Are teachers fair to you?	30			
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	24	3	3	
10	Are you trusted to do things on your own?	21	6	3	
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	22	4	2	2

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL	1
The effectiveness and efficiency of the provision of Catholic education in meeting the needs of pupils.	1
Steps taken to improve the provision further.	1
The capacity of the school to make further improvements.	1
THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	1
The Mission Statement reflects the Gospel and the Catholic purpose of the school.	1
Pupils have an understanding of the school's mission and appreciate its ethos.	1
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	1
The school provides frequent and high quality opportunities for prayer, collective worship and liturgical celebrations.	1
Staff and pupils are encouraged to be actively involved in prayer, worship and liturgy.	1
Collective worship contributes to the spiritual and moral development of all pupils.	1
SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT AND OVERALL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUPILS	1
There are whole school policies for spiritual and moral development.	1
The school contributes to spiritual and moral development through the whole curriculum and life of the school.	1
The behaviour of pupils	1
The school contributes to the social and cultural development of all pupils.	1
PARTNERSHIP: PUPILS, PARENTS, PARISH(ES) AND WIDER COMMUNITY	1
Pupils consider themselves to be valued and respected and recognise the responsibilities that this involves.	1
Pupils have opportunities to take on responsibilities within the school and to participate in service within the wider community.	1
Pupils make a contribution to the community in and beyond the school.	1
Parents are informed about the school's mission as a Catholic school and are encouraged to participate and contribute.	1
The school fosters effective links with the local parish(es). Priests and parishioners are invited and welcomed to some school events.	1
The school has good links with other schools.	1
The school contributes to the life of the wider community.	1
ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1
All pupils make progress taking into account variations between pupils and groups of pupils.	1
QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING	1
The effectiveness of teaching and learning in meeting the needs of all pupils.	1
The appropriate use and rigour of assessment.	1
Pupils enjoy their work.	1
The extent of parents'/carers' involvement in their children's learning.	1
The curriculum meets Diocesan requirements.	1

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	1
The school has taken effective steps to promote improvement since the last inspection.	1
Strategic planning reflects and promotes the school's mission.	1
There are opportunities for professional and spiritual development, which assist all staff to understand and contribute to the Catholic mission of the school.	1
The school undertakes rigorous self-evaluation of all aspects of its Catholic life.	1
The school is effective in achieving full inclusion of all its pupils regardless of faith background.	1
The Governing Body helps shape the vision and direction of the Catholic life of the school.	1
The Governing Body has a good understanding of the strengths and developmental needs of the school as a Catholic school; it supports and challenges the leadership team.	1

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1
The R.E. Co-ordinator leads and supports staff.	1
Performance is monitored and improved through quality assurance and self-evaluation.	1
The adequacy of resources and accommodation.	1
Resources are used to achieve high standards.	1