



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE S48 MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School:	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Foliage Road Brinnington Stockport SK5 8AR
Tel No:	0161 430 4601
URN:	106116
Headteacher:	Mr M O'Brien
Chair of Governors:	Ms S Howe
Date of Inspection:	1 December 2017
Inspector:	Mrs J Johnson

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School continues to be an outstanding Catholic school.

Pupils at St Bernadette's are confident in articulating the Gospel values that clearly underpin every area of the school's work. They are proud to be part of St Bernadette's school community, and they understand and live out the school's Mission Statement fully.

The care and concern that pupils have for one another is clearly evident, and the older pupils show great maturity in their dealings with younger pupils. This is a strength of the school. Older pupils take their responsibilities as Bible Buddies very seriously, and these sessions are thoroughly enjoyed by both Y6 and F2 pupils alike. Older pupils can clearly describe the school's newly adopted Restorative Approach, can explain their role in it, and can describe what a positive impact this is having in the school.

The behaviour of pupils is exemplary, and they are fully engaged in their learning. Pupils really enjoy their Religious Education lessons and show clear engagement in their learning. Pupils appreciate the creativity that staff bring to their lessons, particularly through the use of drama and role play. They say that RE lessons are exciting, and can explain how staff help them to improve their work in RE. They have a rich religious literacy, and are keen to share this with others. Attainment in Religious Education across the school is high.

Pupils thoroughly enjoy their involvement in the Catholic life of the school and the wealth of opportunities for developing their spiritual life. The School Council enjoys the responsibilities and opportunities they have in improving the school, and in their work in the local community. The new Peace Room is much appreciated by pupils, and they can describe how being in the Room and engaging with the activities on offer, affects their mood or behaviour.

The Prayer Leaders from across the school play a great part in enriching the Collective Worship in the school, and by the time pupils reach Y6, they are skilled in planning and leading high quality Collective Worship themselves, choosing the theme, the related focal point, scripture and 'Going Forth' activity themselves. Pupils show real reverence and respect during Collective Worship, and are keen and enthusiastic participants.

The Headteacher, most ably assisted by the Deputy Headteacher, who is also the Religious Education Co-ordinator, has been determined to ensure the very best Catholic education for the pupils in the school. RE clearly permeates every aspect of the school's work, and is always given equal status to the other core subjects. All staff are fully committed to the school's Catholic Mission and ethos. The Chair of Governors and newly appointed Parish Priest are frequent visitors to the school and are knowledgeable about the school's strengths. They play an active role in evaluating the school's provision and are keen to find out things for themselves first hand.

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher provide inspirational leadership, and they have a clear vision for the school. The Deputy Headteacher leads by example, and is skilful at developing staff, particularly those who are new to the school. She has implemented a rigorous programme of monitoring and evaluation of the teaching and standards in Religious Education. Self-evaluation is accurate, and fully embedded. All issues from the previous Inspection have been fully addressed.

Parents are kept well informed about developments in Religious Education, and are appreciative of the support given to their children, particularly those with pastoral or medical needs.

Teaching throughout the school is consistently of a high quality, and as a result, pupils are fully engaged in their learning, and achieve high standards. Teachers have a secure subject knowledge, and have accessed and acted upon a wide range of CPD opportunities for RE.

The learning environment throughout the school, both in classes and communal areas, is stimulating, and clearly reflects the school's Catholic ethos. It is a calm and ordered environment, and is a real haven for those pupils who need it. The environment makes a clear statement that every pupil is valued. Pupils certainly affirmed that the school is 'a happy place to be!'

Staff work extremely hard to meet the varied needs of the pupils, and provide a wide range of pastoral and emotional support to ensure that the pupils have the best chance of success. As one pupil said, 'It's like a second family'.

Collective Worship is of central importance and is a key part of every school celebration. A wide range of prayers are known by heart by the pupils, ensuring that Jesus is placed at the heart of everything the school does.

Links with other schools and other outside agencies, eg Manchester United, are strong, and as a result, the curriculum is enhanced considerably and the needs of pupils are met.

In order to develop further:

- Governors with responsibility for the Headteacher's Performance Management should consider including a Catholic ethos/RE target for the Headteacher
- Staff should consider how they can deepen the pupils' understanding of the Liturgical Year