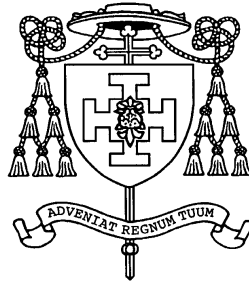


DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY

DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

...committed to encouraging 'fullness of life'



SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School:	St Raphael's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Huddersfield Road Millbrook Stalybridge SK15 3JL
Tel No:	0161 338 4095
URN:	106242
Headteacher:	Mr B Marley
Chair of Governors:	Mr P Casey
Date of Inspection:	4 March 2008
Inspectors:	Mrs M Coleman Mr T McBeath

SCHOOL DATA	
Name of School	St Raphael's Catholic Primary
School email address	head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk
Name of Headteacher	Brendan Marley
Name of Chair of Governors	Peter Casey
Name of Parish Priest	Fr P Hughes
Name of Religious Education Co-ordinator	Felicity Holland
St Raphael's is a small primary school on the outskirts of Stalybridge, Cheshire. It occupies an enviable position looking over the hills and serves the Parish of St Raphael's Catholic Church. The school is over 30 years old and prides itself on its happy, caring environment and its focus on high standards.	

STAFFING & ORGANISATION	
Number of full-time teachers	9
Number of part-time teachers	0
Number of Catholic teachers	8
Number of teachers from other Christian faiths	1
Number of teachers from other faith backgrounds	0
How many teachers teach Religious Education?	9
Number of teachers with CCRS	6
Number of teachers with other Catholic qualifications (e.g. Theology, leadership)	0

PUPILS / STUDENTS	
Number of pupils on roll	157
Number of classes	8
Organisation of classes	
Average class size	20
% of Catholic pupils	55
% of pupils from other Christian faiths	45
% of pupils from other faith backgrounds	0
Number of pupils on SEN register	13
Number of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs	0

TEACHING TIME FOR R.E. PER WEEK IN -	
Foundation	2hrs
Key Stage 1	2hrs
Key Stage 2	2.5 hrs

FINANCIAL DATA – actual expenditure over 2 years		£
English		2000
Mathematics		250
Science		250
Religious Education		800

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	2
<p>St Raphael's is a good school. The schools mission statement "May we care, share and learn together in Gods love" is prominently displayed throughout the school and underpins every aspect of school life. The distinctive Catholic nature of St Raphael's is evident as soon as you enter the school and pupils openly show concern for the well being of each other within their own school community and beyond. Their concern for the weak, vulnerable and those on the margins of society is evident through their extensive fundraising and developing contacts with children in India. The statutory requirement for ten percent teaching time for Religious Education is in place and daily acts of Collective Worship provide good opportunities for prayer and liturgical celebrations. Pupils throughout the school make good progress and the behaviour of pupils is outstanding. The quality of teaching is good overall with some outstanding features. Assessment procedures are in place but as yet not sufficiently developed to provide a robust system for tracking standards in pupils' progress to inform and guide future planning. The Headteacher provides strong leadership and works closely with the governing body. Good improvement has been made since the last inspection and the leadership team have good capacity to make further improvements.</p> <p><u>What the school could do to improve further</u> Improve assessment procedures and develop a system for tracking pupil progress throughout the school.</p>	

THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	2
<p>The simple yet powerful mission statement is well understood by the whole school community. Good relationships between staff and pupils based on mutual trust and respect for each other unite this community in their endeavours to live their Mission Statement in every aspect of school life.</p>	

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	2
<p>St Raphael's provides frequent good quality opportunities for prayer, collective worship and liturgical celebrations. Staff and pupils are encouraged to be actively involved in prayer and this was evident during the whole school assembly led by the Headteacher. Pupils speak confidently about their feelings and that "prayers make you feel special." An outstanding feature in all Acts of Collective Worship is the very high standard and obvious enjoyment shown by all pupils in their singing. Staff provide good role models and pupils are confident to make spontaneous contributions to the prayer life of the school. The day begins and ends with pray and every classroom has a prayer table which provides a good focal point for prayer and reflection.</p>	

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT AND OVERALL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUPILS	2
<p>Pupils display a good understanding of the world around them and this is developed through the whole school curriculum. All pupils are given a wide range of experiences with time for reflection. Their considerate responses are often shown through drama, music, art and prayer. Pupils are developing positive attitudes about themselves and others and are confident in expressing their beliefs. The behaviour of all pupils is exemplary; they are polite thoughtful and welcoming. Teachers and pupils relate well to each other displaying trusting relationships based on mutual respect. Appropriate policies to support pupils' spiritual and moral development are in place and regularly reviewed.</p>	

PARTNERSHIP: PUPILS, PARENTS, PARISH(ES) AND WIDER COMMUNITY	2
<p>Pupils at St Raphael's pride themselves in promoting good relationships within the school community, parish and wider community. Members of the schools council commented on the trusting relationships they had with their teachers who helped them and made learning fun. Regular and informative school news letters, religious education news letters and the schools website keep parents well informed of all aspects of school life and detailed information about current Here I Am themes. Parents are welcomed into school and encouraged to be involved in their child's learning. Parent's views are sought and acted upon. Links with the parish are good and the Parish Priest is an integral part of school life. The close proximity of the church provides excellent opportunities for pupils' personal development and understanding of their faith. St Raphael's is part of a Catholic Learning Network and an active member of the Catholic Sports Association in Tameside.</p>	

ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	2
<p>Achievement and standards in religious education are good. Overall pupils attain well and make good progress. They make good gains in their knowledge, skills and understanding with pupils in year three making significant progress during their Sacramental Programme. Pupils are given opportunities to develop their own skills and knowledge through an exciting range of activities. There is evidence of differentiation and individual work in some year groups; however this is not consistent in all classes. Pupils take a pride in their work and their religious education books are very special to them and the standard of presentation is very high.</p>	

QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING	2
<p>The quality of teaching and learning at St Raphael's is good with some outstanding features. Most pupils are well motivated and show a good attitude towards their work. A range of teaching styles is used to engage and successfully motivate pupils in their learning. Pupils work confidently in groups or individually and the needs of pupils with learning difficulties are well met. Teachers fully understand the importance of teaching religious education and work hard to provide stimulating and relevant experiences for their pupils. Quality reflection time is provided during which pupils feel at ease and enjoy the opportunity to reflect on their learning. The use of interactive white boards is used well to enrich and extend pupils learning. Resources are carefully selected and used effectively to support pupils in their learning and enable them to achieved challenging targets. Assessment is in place but as yet insufficiently embedded to inform and impact on future planning and pupil attainment.</p>	

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	2
<p>The Headteacher gives strong focused leadership and conscientiously strives to develop the Catholic life and ethos of St Raphael's. He is well supported by the Deputy Headteacher, Religious Education Co-ordinator and Governing Body. The governing body robustly carries out its role in monitoring and evaluating the Catholicity of the school. The senior management team have a clear and strategic understanding of the Catholic dimension of the school and the necessary steps required to ensure future development. Staff training is given a high priority and seen as fundamental to the continuing development of all who work at St Raphael's. Staff are excellent role models for their pupils. Good relationships between pupils and staff promote the development of unique skills and qualities enabling all within the school community to develop spiritually and personally in an atmosphere of trust and respect.</p>	

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	2
<p>The RE coordinator is an experienced member of staff who has been instrumental in developing the religious life of the school. She is very knowledgeable about school, staff and the parish and has been responsible for reviewing and implementing the Religious Education Handbook and policy documents. These provide a good framework for development of the schools provision for religious education. The School Development Plan includes religious education development and a timetable for reviews. Planning is completed by all members of staff and these are annotated, evaluated and monitored by the coordinator. Lesson observations are conducted by the Headteacher. An annual scrutiny of pupils work is undertaken but this needs to be more frequent to ensure a more robust monitoring of progress in this subject. The RE coordinator works hard to ensure that pupil's are provided with a wide range of experiences. There is a good balance between centrally held resources and those that are classroom based. A plan for further development of resources is in place. Staff development is delivered through in-service training during staff meetings and an annual Saturday Denary meeting. This is attended by all staff and promotes the spiritual development of pupils and staff.</p>	

PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

Number of questionnaires distributed : 150

Number of questionnaires returned : 60

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	34	25	1		
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	32	26	2		
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	29	29	1	1	
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	17	35	4	1	3
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	27	25	5	3	
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	23	33	1	3	
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	20	28	9		3

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

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	2
The school has taken effective steps to promote improvement since the last inspection.	2
Strategic planning reflects and promotes the school's mission.	2
There are opportunities for professional and spiritual development which assist all staff to understand and contribute to the Catholic mission of the school.	2
The school undertakes rigorous self-evaluation of all aspects of its Catholic life.	2
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.	2
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.	2

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	2
The R.E. Co-ordinator leads and supports staff.	2
Performance is monitored and improved through quality assurance and self-evaluation.	2
The adequacy of resources and accommodation.	2
Resources are used to achieve high standards.	2