



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School:	St Augustine's Catholic Primary
School Address:	Henshall Avenue Latchford WA4 1PY
Tel No:	01925 633317
URN:	111309
Headteacher:	Mrs A Towey
Chair of Governors:	Mrs M Morgan
Date of Inspection:	1 July 2013
Inspectors:	Mrs C Morgan Miss J Kenny

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
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OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS	2
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Outcomes for pupils at St. Augustine's are good.

Pupils appreciate, value and celebrate the school's Mission Statement; it is at the heart of their Collective Worship and is evident in their relationships with each other, and in their response to the Catholic life of the school.

Through each half term's focus on one of the 'footsteps' in the Mission Statement, pupils develop an understanding of the values and of how we are called to "walk in the footsteps of Jesus" in all we do. Pupils take on different roles and responsibilities within the school, including the School Council and Play Leaders, where they help to improve aspects of school life for the benefit of all. Mini Vinnies is also an active group, contributing not only to the Catholic life within the school but also raising awareness of global issues.

Pupils participate in events outside the school, coming together with other schools and parishes to celebrate their faith. They take part in retreat days and are active in the life of their parish, receiving positive comments on their behaviour and the way in which they celebrate the Church's liturgies.

In their Religious Education lessons pupils achieve well, responding enthusiastically to a creative approach to the curriculum. At the end of Key Stage 2, most groups of pupils make at least good progress and some make outstanding progress. Their attainment in knowledge and understanding of religion (AT1) and in an ability to reflect on meaning (AT2) is shown, by monitoring, to be generally average to above average. Pupils behave very well in lessons and are engaged in the activities, producing work of a good standard.

During the inspection, pupils were observed by inspectors, participating in Collective Worship that had been planned and led by their peers. Pupils regularly undertake this role and have a clear understanding of the need for reverence and respect; an awareness of the liturgical seasons and the use of scripture and religious artefacts; as well as, experience and understanding of different forms of prayer.

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	1
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The way in which leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school and for Religious Education; and the way they plan and implement improvement for pupils is outstanding.

The Headteacher is clearly focused and motivated to providing the highest standards of education and care for all pupils. The governors, the Parish Priest and the Religious Education subject leader, show a deep commitment to the Church's mission in education. They work as a whole school community to ensure that this mission has the highest priority. Spiritual and moral development of pupils and staff, alongside the development of Collective Worship, has been a focus for all. Monitoring is rigorous. Leaders, governors and managers show in-depth evaluation of their roles and responsibilities, leading to a clear action plan which is regularly evaluated. Their comprehensive scrutiny of all aspects of school life, and the way in which they have shared their vision and values, is outstanding.

Lessons, planning and pupils' work are part of a planned programme of monitoring. The Religious Education link governor works closely with the lead teacher, and Headteacher, and has a clear understanding of the work of the school. The results of monitoring are analysed and shared with staff and governors who provide support and challenge.

Whilst assessment in Religious Education is well established, staff continue to improve the ways in which they assess and moderate the Diocesan scheme of work. A re-evaluation of this area has meant that staff have a deeper understanding of what is being assessed, and this is linked clearly to the Attainment Targets. Leaders, governors and managers are very clear about targets for improvement in Religious Education and the subject leader provides excellent support for staff. As a result, outcomes for pupils are improving at a good rate.

PROVISION	2
<p>The provision for Catholic Education, the quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education, is judged to be good.</p> <p>In the Religious Education lessons observed during the inspection, effective planning and teaching ensured that pupils were fully engaged in the learning process. Pupils were involved and enthusiastic about the activities and resources, including the use of ICT. The majority of teaching enabled pupils to make good progress. Teachers exhibited good subject knowledge and, as a result, pupils are developing their use of religious language and their understanding of their faith. Behaviour in lessons was very good and support staff helped to deliver effective strategies for engaging all pupils. The clear link between the Mission Statement and the school's behaviour management policy ensures pupils have a good understanding of what is expected of themselves and others. Lessons are well planned and differentiated. A creative approach to the delivery of the Religious Education scheme has been key to the renewed enthusiasm of pupils and staff. Oral feedback and marking is consistently good so that pupils understand how well they have done and know what they have to do to improve and progress.</p> <p>There are opportunities for spiritual and moral guidance within lessons and in other school activities. Pupils appreciate their teachers and the staff; they understand that teachers will challenge them to achieve their best but also that they will help and support them. A clear action plan to improve all aspects of Religious Education has been a driving factor in facilitating progress. Pupils regularly participate in events that foster links with, and support for, the local and wider community during the liturgical year.</p> <p>The Religious Education at St. Augustine's is in line with Diocesan policy and guidance. Very good use is made of Diocesan training to support delivery of the curriculum and of Collective Worship.</p> <p>Acts of Collective Worship have a high profile within the school. Resources are excellent and are used well. Opportunities for prayer and reflection are frequent and well-planned within classrooms and in other areas of the school. Staff and pupils have responded with enthusiasm to the opportunities offered to develop this aspect of the school's life. St. Augustine's works alongside another school, and the parish in Sacramental preparation and celebration. Parents appreciate the Catholic ethos of the school and the care and support staff give to the pupils. Parents and parishioners enjoy the many liturgical celebrations and events held during the course of the year. As a result, the provision for Collective Worship is outstanding.</p>	

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	2
<p>The overall effectiveness of Catholic education at St. Augustine's is good. Outcomes for pupils and the provision for Catholic education are good, whilst leadership and management in the development of the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. The governors, the Parish Priest, the Headteacher and the Religious Education subject leader, with the staff, show a deep commitment to the mission of the Church in this school. The Mission Statement is clearly lived out in the daily life of the school.</p> <p>What the school could do to improve further</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision for Catholic education could be further improved by ensuring that feedback across all year groups is refined and made consistent. A focus on the most highly effective forms of feedback, including that of marking, should ensure rapid progress in this area. <p>Continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning in Religious Education, so that it challenges and inspires pupils, and ensures they make exceptional progress as learners.</p>	

PARENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

17 returns

	please tick	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	12	5			
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	14	3			
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	14	3			
4	The school seeks the views of parents/ carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	12	5			
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	12	5			
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	15	2			
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	12	5			

Comments:

"All the pupils & staff respect and care for each other."

"I often use the simple but effective Mission Statement at home- 'Are you walking in Jesus' footsteps?'"

"I feel my children's spiritual well-being is being nurtured in a positive way."

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YEAR 2 PUPILS

22 returns

		yes 	sometimes 	no 
1	I like being at this school.	21		
2	I learn new things in R E lessons.	20	1	
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	21		
4	I have to work hard.	20	1	
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	21		
6	My teacher listens to me.	21		
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	21		
8	I get praise when I do my best.	20	1	
9	Other children are kind and behave well	21		
10	I am happy on the playground.	18	3	
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	20	1	
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	21		

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YEAR 6 PUPILS

15 returns

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	6	8	1
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	10	5	0
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	5	7	3
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	12	3	0
5	Do you have to work hard?	9	6	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	11	4	0
7	Do other children behave well?	1	14	0
8	Are teachers fair to you?	9	6	0
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	13	2	0
10	Are you given responsibility?	9	6	0
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	8	6	1