



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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## REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

School: St Edward's Catholic Primary School

Address: Wivern Place  
Runcorn  
WA7 1RZ

Tel No: 01928 572317

URN: 111319

Headteacher: Mrs K O'Hare

Chair of Governors: Mrs A Farrell

Date of Inspection: 4 December 2014

Inspector: Mrs C Morgan

St. Edward's Catholic Primary School continues to provide an outstanding Catholic Education.

The Headteacher provides outstanding leadership in her role as Headteacher of the school and as Religious Education subject leader. The very effective Governing Body and Parish Priest provide support and challenge, ensuring that the school lives out its Mission Statement of a school family journeying together in God's love, serving each other and learning in fun and creative ways.

Following the last inspection, the school addressed the two areas for development. This resulted in refining assessment of Religious Education, producing a portfolio of standardised work and monitoring the progress of different groups. Data is used to help identify areas for development.

Teaching has focused on developing creative approaches to teaching and learning. The pupils are extremely well-behaved and are enthusiastic about their learning. They are able to use religious vocabulary and show understanding of their own and of others' beliefs and practices.

Pupils often lead assemblies and other activities to ensure that opportunities to enhance good relationships within and beyond the school community are developed further. Governors and parishioners provide an effective and highly-regarded link to the parish through their work in school and in the community. Parents are invited to join the school, in worship, wherever possible and greatly appreciate these opportunities.

On the Learning Walk around the school, examples of outstanding practice were observed. Religious Education lessons are delivered through creative contexts, which provide an exciting way for pupils to extend their knowledge and apply their learning. The use of computing is firmly embedded, as is the expectation of high standards. Pupils have produced short videos and poster links on topics, which are then viewed through the use of QR codes, downloaded onto an iPad. Pupils were seen to work quietly and co-operatively. The standard of work in children's books, the respectful relationships children have with each other and with staff indicate the commitment to the promotion of the high standards expected of all.

The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding. Pupils' are confident in planning and delivering prayers and liturgies in school and in the parish. Work with the two other Catholic primary schools in the parish has led to shared liturgies and celebrations. More collaboration is a target in the Religious Education Action Plan. Collective Worship is carefully planned and recorded. Pupils show reverence and respect, listening intently and joining in with responses and prayers. The Parish Priest is a regular visitor. All classrooms have a display relating to the current topic in 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' and also have a prayer focus which is interactive, encouraging pupils to develop formal and informal prayer.

It is clear that the Catholic life of St. Edward's underpins all that is done in, and by, the school.

### **Areas of Outstanding Practice**

#### **Outcomes for pupils**

Pupils are actively engaged in their learning, responding enthusiastically to a range of teaching styles. The 'Mini Vinnies' group and the School Council are very active. They take on responsibility for school, parish, national and international fundraising activities. Older pupils act as Playleaders for younger pupils. They lead and respond to Collective Worship and informal prayer, contributing a great deal to the prayer life of the school. The school has a weekly 'Stilling Time' where each class plans and leads its own Collective Worship in the classroom. Pupils take increasing responsibility for this as they move through the school.

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

Leaders and Managers have a very clear vision for the school. They are committed to strengthening the parish and inter-school communities and to the provision of outstanding Religious Education. The Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, governors and staff work extremely well together and strive to uphold and develop the Catholic ethos of the school. The monitoring and assessment of Religious Education and of the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.

**Provision**

The creative approach to teaching and learning is a strength of the school; it enthuses pupils' and provides meaningful contexts for them to explore and understand their faith and to be nourished spiritually, both in their Religious Education lessons and in Collective Worship.