



DIOCESE OF  
**SHREWSBURY**

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School:	St Monica's Catholic Primary School
Address:	St Monica's Close Stockton Heath Appleton Warrington WA4 3AG
Tel No:	01925 267609
URN:	111322
Headteacher:	Miss A Williams
Chair of Governors:	Mrs K Hetherington
Date of Inspection:	7 November 2012
Inspectors:	Mr K Toms Miss J Kenny

# MISSION STATEMENT

*As a Catholic School St Monica's Staff and Governors are committed to:*



- assist in the Church's mission of making Christ known to all people. That is to place Christ and the teaching of the Catholic Church at the centre of the lives of the children and the community we serve in order that they can have true freedom and fullness of life.
- assist parents, who are the primary educators of their children, in the education and religious formation of their children.

- be at the service of the Parish of St Monica's and foster communion within the parish
- contribute to the creation of an inclusive and cohesive society that is highly educated, skilled and cultured for the common good of that society

*In order to fulfil these commitments we aim to:*

- put Christ at the centre of everything we do by integrating the gospel values and teachings of the Catholic Church into every aspect of learning, teaching and the totality of school life.
- provide an excellent broad and balanced education to help children to grow to their full human potential and pay regard for the formation of the whole person
- be an integral part of the spiritual, pastoral and community life of the parish of St Monica's, the Diocese of Shrewsbury and the universal church. The celebration of this unity finds its complete expression in our weekly parish celebration of the Eucharist.



- assist children in forming a spirituality based on a maturing relationship with God and to form personal values, rooted in the teachings of Christ, which will enable them to understand their roles, responsibilities and aspirations as citizens in society and the world.

The Gospel Values are objective values rooted in the Beatitudes, the proclamation of Christ's Sermon on the Mount (Matt.5: 3-12). We recognise that adherence to the values of *faithfulness and integrity; dignity and compassion; humility and gentleness; truth and justice; purity and holiness; tolerance and peace; service and sacrifice*, as expressed in the Beatitudes, offers a guarantee of peace and of collaboration among all citizens in the shared commitment to serving the common good.

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll	na	30	29	28	27	20	17	26	177
Catholics on roll	na	25	21	26	22	17	15	22	148
Other Christian denomination	na	4	3	1	3	2	2	3	18
Other faith background	na	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
No stated religious affiliation	na	1	3	1	0	1	0	1	7
Number of learners from ethnic groups	na	6	2	-	5	3	1	3	20
Information above taken from data forms. Some inaccuracy may underreport total number of Catholic Children on roll.									
Total on SEN Register	na	-	1	4	3	6	3	6	23
Total with Statements of SEN	na	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	4
FSM	na	0	1	-	-	-	-	1	2

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	2
Index of multiple deprivation	10.7			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL		No of Pupils
Name of Parish		
St. Monica's	Appleton	125 est

PUPILS TRANSFER		No of Pupils
Name of School		
Cardinal Newman Catholic High School		6
Loreto Catholic Grammar School		5
St. Ambrose Catholic Grammar School		1
Altrincham Grammar School for Girls		1
Bridgewater High School		5

TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total teaching time per week (Hours)		2	2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	5
Part-time teachers	4
Total full-time equivalent	7
Support assistants	10
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	64%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	7
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	5
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	-

NAME OF SCHOOL	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	8 including pre school
Average class size KS1	28.5
Average class size KS2	22.5

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2010/2011
RE	£279*
English	TBC
Mathematics	TBC
Science	TBC

\* This figure does not include the cost of purchasing the WTL scheme which was paid for by the parish.

<b>Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
<b>OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL</b>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education</b></p> <p>St Monica's is a good school with a number of outstanding features. Staff are constantly seeking ways to strengthen the Catholic Education they provide. Pupils make good progress overall and their attainment in Religious Education is outstanding. During the inspection the behaviour of the pupils throughout the school was exemplary. They are enthusiastic learners who fully appreciate belonging to this faith community. Provision for Catholic education is good overall with some teaching and learning being outstanding. There is a clear commitment to continue to improve the outcomes for all children. Leaders and managers are deeply committed to their faith and have a clear vision for promoting Catholic Education. There is an outstanding capacity for sustained improvement.</p> <p><u>What the school could do to improve further</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help the children develop their own skills to lead prayer and worship as part of class and whole school Collective Acts of Worship</li> <li>• Build on previous good practice to further develop the prayer and reflective elements of worship</li> </ul>	
<b>PUPILS</b>	<b>2</b>
<p><b>How good outcomes are for pupils, taking account of variations between different groups</b></p> <p>The majority of children make good progress in both key stages in Religious Education with some pupils making exceptional progress. Pupils are well motivated and keen to learn. During the lessons observe, and during the two Acts of Collective Worship the children's behaviour was very good. They showed a high degree of respect for each other and applied themselves well to the tasks they were asked to do. The children in the Reception class thoroughly enjoyed the role play activity, exploring the theme of God's Wonderful World. They were able to understand that we are loved for all our differences. The older children in key stage one responded well to the difficult question of what heaven might be like. The children in year three were beginning to appreciate Mary's feelings in the annunciation story through a hot seating activity. The older children were making some profound observations in their topic exploring aspects of justice and injustice and how, as Christians, we are asked to play our part. The pupils enjoyed their Religious Education work and all of their workbooks were very well presented and cared for. Attainment by the pupils at the end of key stage two is outstanding.</p> <p>The children were fully aware of the importance for them of belonging to this faith community. They were keen to play their part in supporting all the activities and responsibilities they had in school, from the "buddy system" to the fund raising activities for the various charities they supported. They appreciated the links they had with other schools both in Manchester and in Spain and how these links helped them grow in their understanding of each other. The children spoke enthusiastically of their links to a local care home.</p> <p>During Collective Acts of Worship and prayers within class, the children were very reflective and keen to contribute their ideas during periods of discussion. They showed a high degree of respect for each other's differences and beliefs whilst appreciating the importance of belonging to the faith community at St. Monica's.</p>	

<b>PROVISION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>How effective the provision is for Catholic Education</b>	
<p>Overall the teaching and learning is good with a number of outstanding features. This enables the majority of the children to make good progress in Religious Education. All the staff are extremely dedicated and work hard to achieve the best for their pupils. Assessment procedures in Religious Education are outstanding and reflect the commitment of the staff to continue to raise standards in Religious Education in line with other areas of the curriculum. The excellent pupil progress tracking procedures allow the staff to focus on helping the children to move forward with their learning. The marking procedures support the children in their next steps to learning. Tasks are appropriately differentiated to meet the different needs of learners and support staff are very effective in supporting children with particular learning needs and disabilities.</p> <p>The new Religious Education scheme, <i>The Way The Truth and The Life</i>, has been successfully introduced and is being continually evaluated to ensure previous successful approaches are not lost. Collective Acts of Worship are good and are closely linked to the liturgical year. There are a range of styles to engage the children in their lessons and the school is looking at ways to develop further aspects of prayer and reflection. All staff help to lead Acts of Worship and are keen to develop their own skills. The children are actively involved in all the Collective Acts of Worship and the school is developing their skills in leading prayer and worship. The school is particularly skilled in helping children to understand and respect the beliefs of others and this adds to a real sense of belonging to the family of St. Monica's School.</p> <p>There is a very effective Sacramental Programme in the school and this is supported by the parish community. Many governors are active parishioners and are very supportive of this programme. The parish priest celebrates mass with the children in the parish church. All issues from the last inspection have been met and the school is outstanding in meeting Diocesan requirements.</p>	

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic Life of the school</b>	
<p>Leaders and managers are outstanding in developing the Catholic Life of the school. The strong and committed leadership of the headteacher, together with a very effective senior management team ensure that the Catholic mission of the school is central to all leaders think and do. The governing body is growing in confidence and governors are proving to be very effective, bringing their own strengths and skills to help challenge and support the work of the school. The Chair of Governors and the Religious Education link governor are regular visitors to the school. Together, they all ensure that the Gospel values permeate the whole school community.</p> <p>The leadership team have worked hard to develop a very rigorous system of monitoring and assessment. This allows them to target more precisely next steps in pupil progress and so continue to raise still further outcomes for all children. Religious Education and the Church's mission are at the heart of the school improvement plan and the leadership team is keen to keep spiritual formation as an integral part of the school development plan.</p> <p>Parents are very supportive of the school and fully appreciate the Catholic ethos and vision. One parent commented that "it was great that he (her son) is beginning to understand our faith more." A number of others were keen to comment on how the great family atmosphere allowed their children to develop more fully. The school has worked hard to provide a pre-school centre that reflects the Catholic ethos of the school and works in full partnership with the school. Pupils benefit significantly from the many links and partnerships they have to the local and wider community. Pupils spoke confidently of how they learnt so much from links to a school in Wythenshawe and to pen pals they had in Spain. They also spoke of the beneficial links they had to a local care home. Children from other faith backgrounds spoke well of how they were able to play a full part in the life of St. Monica's and were keenly aware of the mutual respect held for people from whatever their background.</p>	

## **PARENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE**

Number of questionnaires distributed:

Number of questionnaires returned 56

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	46	32	2		
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	50	27	2		
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	37	37	4		1
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	19	48	8		4
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	31	44			4
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	43	35	1		
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	21	50	5		3

## **PUPILS' QUESTIONNAIRE (YEAR 2)**

	Yes	Sometimes	No
I like being at this school.	26	2	
2 I learn new things in Here I am lessons.	21	6	1
3 I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend	25	1	2
4 I have to work hard	22	6	
5 My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	22	5	1
6 My teacher listens to me.	25	2	1
7 When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	21	4	3
8 I get praise when I do my best	25	1	2
9 Other children are kind and behave well	11	16	1
10 I am happy on the playground.	20	7	1
11 I am allowed to help in class and around school.	20	6	2
12 I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus	25	2	1

## **PUPILS' QUESTIONNAIRE (YEAR 6)**

	Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
1 Do you like being at this school?	12	9	4	1
2 Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	5	15	5	1
3 Are your Religious Education lessons interesting and fun?	7	13	5	1
4 Do you get help when you are stuck?	15	9	2	
5 Do you have to work hard?	9	6	9	2
6 Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	20	2	3	1
7 Do other children behave well?	1	12	9	4
8 Are teachers fair to you?	13	9	3	1
9 Do teachers listen to your ideas?	15	7	3	1
10 Are you trusted to do things on your own?	14	7	3	2
11 Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	13	8	1	4

## INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

<b>Key to judgements: Grade 1 = outstanding, grade 2 = good, grade 3 = satisfactory and grade 4 = inadequate</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
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<b><u>OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL</u></b>	
<b>How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education</b>	2
How good outcomes are for pupils, taking particular account of variations between different groups	2
How effective the provision is in promoting Catholic education	2
How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school	1
The school's capacity for sustained improvement	1

<b><u>PUPILS</u></b>	
<b>How good outcomes are for pupils, taking into account of variations between different groups</b>	2
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The quality of pupils' learning and their progress</i></li> </ul>	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The quality of learning for pupils with particular learning needs and/or disabilities</i></li> </ul>	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Pupils standards of attainment in Religious Education</i></li> </ul>	1
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school	1
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's collective worship	2

<b><u>PROVISION</u></b>	
<b>How effective the provision is for Catholic Education</b>	2
The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education	2
The effectiveness of assessment and academic guidance in Religious Education	1
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum meets pupils needs following Bishops Conference policy and Diocesan requirements	1
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school	2

<b><u>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</u></b>	
<b>How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school</b>	1
How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school and plan for improvement to outcomes for pupils.	1
How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan for improvement to outcomes for all pupils	1
The extent to which the governing body provides effective challenge and support for the Catholic dimension of the school so that areas for development are tackled decisively and statutory and canonical responsibilities are met	2
How well leaders and managers develop partnerships with parents / carers and other providers, organisations and services to promote Catholic learning and pupil well-being	1
How effectively leaders and managers promote community cohesion	1