

# 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 Benedict's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Hall Road Handforth Cheshire SK9 3AE
Tel No:	01625 520207
URN:	111323
Acting Headteacher:	Mr J Gretton
Chair of Governors:	Mrs D McCann
Date of Inspection:	23 February 2012
Inspectors:	Mr K Toms Mrs C Morgan

## *Mission Statement*

As unique individuals,  
we do our best at work and play  
for the love of God and others.

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupil Information	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		25	29	29	30	20	19	22	174
Catholics on roll		13	18	18	17	14	11	18	109
Other Christian denomination		2	5	4	4	3	6	3	27
Other faith background		1	3	1	2	0	0	0	7
No stated religious affiliation		9	3	6	7	3	2	1	31
Number of learners from ethnic groups		4	3	2	5	4	0	1	19
Total on SEN Register		2	2	6	12	8	5	7	40
Total with Statements of SEN						1			1
FSM		4	6	5	4	3	3	4	29

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	2
Index of multiple deprivation	17%			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St. Benedict's Handforth	69
St. Teresa's Wilmslow	30
St. Pius Alderley Edge	6
Christ Church, Heald Green	4

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	17/25
Name of School	No of Pupils
All Hallows	6
St. Ambrose College	7
Loreto Bowdon	2
St. James' Cheadle	2

TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total teaching time (Hours)		2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	17.5

Staff Information	
Full-time teachers	8
Part-time teachers	3
Total full-time equivalent	9
Support assistants	7
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	75%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	100%
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	2
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	1

Published admission number	26
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	29
Average class size KS2	22.75

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2010/11	Current financial year 2011/12	Next financial year 2012/13
RE		2,273	N/A
English		1,000	N/A
Mathematics		1,400	N/A
Science		1,000	N/A

<b>Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
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<b>OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL</b>	<b>2</b>
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**How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education**

St. Benedict's is a good Catholic Primary school with a significant number of outstanding features. The majority of pupils make at least good and, in a significant number of cases, outstanding progress. The behaviour and enthusiasm of the pupils is outstanding. The children thoroughly enjoy their lessons. There is a high standard of work in R.E. and the children responded well to the challenges made of them. Through the careful tracking and assessment procedures and the careful introduction of the new R.E. scheme, *The Way, The Truth and The Life*, they are on target to improve still further. Provision is good throughout the school and resources are excellent. Leadership and management are outstanding and leaders are very well placed to raise standards even further. The school has an outstanding capacity for sustained improvement.

**What the school could do to improve further**

- Continue to monitor and assess the impact of the new Religious Education Scheme, *The Way, The Truth and The Life*, to raise standards even further.
- Formalise the baseline assessment.
- Further develop Collective Worship to utilise the skills of other staff members and the considerable skills of the pupils themselves.
- Develop the role of an Religious Education link governor

<b>PUPILS</b>	<b>2</b>
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**How good outcomes are for pupils, taking account of variations between different groups.**

Outcomes for all pupils are good overall. Informal assessments made by the school indicate that pupils enter St. Benedict's with average abilities in Religious Education. The majority of pupils make good progress and achieve expected levels of attainment, with a significant number of pupils achieving above these levels by the end of key stage two. All the pupils were enthusiastic about their Religious Education lessons and particularly enjoyed the recently introduced '*The Way, The Truth and The Life*' scheme for Religious Education. Pupils felt that now they have more opportunities to participate in a range of activities such as role play, drama and art work.

Four RE lessons were observed across the school and all the children were extremely attentive, keen to participate in discussions and displayed a good understanding of their work. They made good use of age appropriate language linked to the topics being studied. For example the Reception pupils were able to discuss "kind " and "unkind" actions linked to the scripture story, and were able to relate this to every day events. In Year two pupils spoke with confidence about the different ways in which we can hurt each other and the importance of forgiveness. Pupils responded well to a period of reflection during this lesson. Similarly, the older children in key stage two showed a good understanding of their topics on Forgiveness (Year four) and on Miracles (Year six). They responded well to the challenging tasks they were set in both these topics and the work in the pupils' books reflected the high level of attainment they are capable of. Good use was made of scriptural links and the older pupils were confident working independently on these passages, displaying a good understanding of their meaning. Through appropriate tracking procedures and the teaching assistant support offered to pupils with learning needs, the majority of pupils were able to make good progress; and a considerable number, very good progress.

Pupils fully appreciate belonging to this Catholic community and bring their own skills into not only assemblies and liturgies, enhanced by their musical skills, but into all fund raising activities. Pupils have strong sense of fairness, supporting each other in everyday activities. The older children take care of the youngest through a very effective Buddy system.

<b>PROVISION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>How effective the provision is for Catholic Education</b>	
<p>All teaching observed was good with some outstanding elements and this reflects the school's own monitoring and evaluation procedures. The teachers built effectively on pupils' prior learning; they differentiated work well and provided challenge for the more able pupils. The new Religious Education scheme has been carefully introduced and experienced staff are playing an effective role in supporting three newly appointed staff. Assessment is playing a central role in this new scheme and is helping teachers to reflect on how they can effectively support and promote teaching and learning consistently through the school. There are good examples of marking with opportunities for pupils to respond.</p> <p>Collective Worship is good at St. Benedict's and there is a wide variety of opportunities to celebrate liturgies together. These are well supported by the Parish Priest, parish catechist and members of the Governing Body. They are well aware of the need to involve more staff, and to make greater use of the considerable skills of pupils, to maximise the effectiveness of this provision.</p> <p>St Benedict's continues to provide very good training for all staff in Religious Education and there are excellent resources throughout the school. IT is used to support children's learning and in providing stimulus to the topics studied. Teaching assistants work very effectively to support children with their learning and help to set the high standards expected of them. Both the staff and pupils are enjoying the new RE scheme and this is having a positive impact on raising standards still further.</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 have worked hard to continue to develop the Catholic life of the school and its wider community during a very challenging period. The Catholic Mission of the school was outstanding at the last inspection and remains so. Religious Education is central to the school's improvement plan and recent appointments to the school staff and the governing body are helping to maintain this drive for excellence.</p> <p>Very good training supports all staff and new governors are also well supported in their role. Governors, together with the acting headteacher are rigorous in their monitoring role and are deeply committed to ensuring the Church's Mission is central to the school's development.</p> <p>Partnerships are very effective at all levels with governors and staff working with all supporting bodies to ensure the Catholic ethos of the school is maintained and enhanced. Many governors are active in the school and parents play a very supportive role in the life of the school. Parents and governors work tirelessly within both the parish and the wider community, developing good relations with local schools, other churches and organisations within the Wilmslow area. Parish catechists give excellent support to the parish First Communion and Reconciliation programme in school. There are strong links with other Catholic schools and the school works in partnership with All Hallows Catholic High School.</p> <p>Parents and children comment on the family atmosphere of St. Benedict's and the high degree of care and concern shown to families and children experiencing difficulties. One of the children commented "Everybody looks out for each other." A parent said, "All the staff are extremely approachable and happy to take the time to discuss any concerns." They are particularly grateful to the acting headteacher for his excellent guidance and support.</p> <p>Leaders and managers are acutely aware of the importance of their roles and responsibilities and are excellently placed to ensure the Catholic life of the school continues to thrive.</p>	

**PARENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE**

57 Returned

		<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
1	My child enjoys school	37	17	2		1
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	35	21			1
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	36	21			
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	25	28	3		1
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	27	29			1
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	33	22			2
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	23	32	2		

**PUPILS' QUESTIONNAIRE (Y6)**

		<b>Yes</b>	<b>Mostly</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>No</b>
1	Do you like being at this school?	21	1		
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	21	1		
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting and fun?	22			
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	22			
5	Do you have to work hard?	22			
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	21	1		
7	Do other children behave well?	22			
8	Are teachers fair to you?	22			
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	22			
10	Are you trusted to do things on your own?	22			
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	22			

## 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>	<b>2</b>
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>	<b>2</b>
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	1
• <i>The quality of pupils' learning and their progress</i>	2
• <i>The quality of learning for pupils with particular learning needs and/or disabilities</i>	1
• <i>Pupils standards of attainment in Religious Education</i>	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>	<b>2</b>
The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education	2
The effectiveness of assessment and academic guidance in Religious Education	2
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>	<b>1</b>
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	1
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