



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Luke's Catholic Primary School  
Address: The Willows  
Off Fluin Lane  
Frodsham  
WA6 7QP

Tel No: 01244 981290

URN: 111379

Headteacher: Miss E Murtagh

Chair of Governors: Miss P Stitt

Date of Inspection: 5 November 2015

Inspectors: Mrs R Hedger  
Mrs A Kelly



St. Luke's Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

As God's family we learn love and laugh.

Together: love one another,  
forgive one another, work together,  
play together, worship together,  
be happy together

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		30	21	33	29	31	26	30	200
Catholics on roll		25	19	28	28	23	22	24	168
Other Christian denomination		1	1	2	0	6	1	3	17
Other faith background		1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
No stated religious affiliation		3	0	3	0	2	3	3	14
Number of learners from ethnic groups		4	4	4	4	4	1	0	15
Total on SEN Register		0	0	0	1	1	2	4	8
Total with Statements of SEN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FSM		1	2	5	0	2	1	0	11

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

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Luke's Catholic Church	167

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
St Nicholas High	11
The Catholic High Chester	2

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week		3.25	3.25	3.25	3.24	3.25	3.25	3.25	19.44

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	9
Part-time teachers	1
Total full-time equivalent	9
Support assistants	6
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	77%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	7
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	4
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

NAME OF SCHOOL	
St. Luke's Catholic Primary	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	8
Average class size KS1	28
Average class size KS2	29.25

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2014/2015	Current financial year 2015/2016	Next financial year 2016/2017
RE	426.11	520.80	600
English	91.20	997.28	600
Mathematics	800	400	600
Science	274.65	400	600

## S48 Report

**Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate**

**Judgement**

### **OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS**

**1**

The outcomes for pupils at St Luke's Catholic Primary School are outstanding. The pupils are proud of their faith, their school and their school community. It was obvious as the inspectors walked around the school and spoke to various groups of pupils, including the School Council, Mini Vinnie's and the Cafod Group that there is an atmosphere of trust and respect. The behaviour of the children is excellent.

The pupils spoke with confidence and understanding about their Mission Statement and the work they do within the school and the wider community. Within school, the Year 6 pupils share with staff the responsibility for supporting the younger children. An example of this is at lunch-time when children are seated in family groups and a member of Year 6 is allocated a dining table. It is their responsibility to ensure the welfare of all pupils and to report any incidents. This year the school introduced a House system for the whole school. Again, the pupils talked enthusiastically about this provision and their role within the school. In the wider community, the school has joined together with other local schools and churches to celebrate events including Christmas and Easter. Pupils are also actively involved in supporting the local food bank. The Cafod group run a Fairtrade stall in school on parents' evening and can explain in detail the work of Cafod and the importance of Fairtrade.

Standards in Religious Education are high and pupils' achievements are evidenced by their work in books and through other activities and events. High expectations are maintained through lesson observations and book scrutiny. Teachers are developing a more creative approach to the teaching of Religious Education, including an increased use of drama and information technology, which is popular with the pupils. Pupils are given opportunities for independent learning. An example of this was observed by the inspectors when following a class lesson on justice and injustice, a group of Year 6 pupils were asked to work independently to research and prepare a power point presentation on the subject of Justice. The pupils worked diligently and with confidence to complete their task.

Collective Worship is an integral part of daily life at St Luke's. Pupils are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of styles of prayer and are actively encouraged to take an active role in the planning and preparation. The pupils are introduced to formal prayer from an early age. Pupils take ownership for the updating of the Prayer Table within each class, ensuring the resources reflect the liturgical time of year. Each class has a display which reflects the current topic and celebrates the pupils' work

The Sacramental programme is a very important part of school life. The older pupils talk with pride about the support from both school and parish. A day of reflection at the centre at Noddfa is now offered as part of the programme and is very popular with the children.

### **LEADERS AND MANAGERS**

**1**

The leadership of the school is outstanding. The focused and dedicated Headteacher who is also the subject leader, together with the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team, ensures the school is an integral part of the community and of the parish. The Catholic ethos of the school is paramount.

The Governing Body shows its commitment to all aspects of school life by keeping itself fully

informed about what is happening in the school and by keeping up to date with changes in legislation and guidance information. The majority of the governors are also parishioners. The Chair of Governors is a frequent visitor to the school, is familiar with the workings and daily routines and is known by the pupils. The governors receive regular reports from the Headteacher and were actively involved in writing the Self Evaluation Form.

Last year the Senior Leadership Team conducted a full review of the assessment process in Religious Education. From this they highlighted areas for improvement and implemented a new system which included staff training. This has had a clear and beneficial impact on assessment in Religious Education ensuring regular assessment informs future planning.

Senior leaders recognise the importance of staff development and actively encourage and support staff to grow in their own faith. All new members of staff are given a school Religious Education handbook, which provides clear guidance on the expectations when working in the school. The school has identified the creative curriculum as an area for development over the coming years and has planned for the appropriate training and resources to ensure quality provision.

Questionnaires returned by parents show that the vast majority of children enjoy attending the school, with ninety nine percent of questionnaires indicating that parents are happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches. Parents commented that "one of the biggest strengths of St Luke's is the values the children learn through Religious Education. These are reflected in their behaviour and the way they interact together." Another parent reported that "there is such a warmth about the school."

## **PROVISION**

**1**

The quality of the provision at St Luke's Catholic Primary School is outstanding. In the lessons observed by the inspectors, there was clear evidence that lessons were linked to prior learning with a range of differentiated activities in every class. Systems are in place to make effective use of assessment, recording and monitoring of pupils' progress. Marking ensures that positive feedback is given and areas for improvement are offered to all pupils, including both verbal and written comments. Teachers are now developing a more creative approach to the teaching of Religious Education, incorporating the use of ICT, art and effective questioning.

The inspectors observed a range of teaching styles, good deployment of support staff and good use of questions, but in a few cases better use could be made of more open questioning. In discussion time, pupils were encouraged to share opinions, which they did confidently and with respect for the views of others which may differ from their own. The introduction of Philosophy for Children (P4C) has had a positive impact on the quality of thoughtful questioning and opportunity for reflection on key issues.

The curriculum is relevant to the needs of the school and designed to meet the needs of individuals. Evidence indicates that through enriched learning experiences pupils make at least good progress and show a good understanding of Christian life. Pupils learn about other faiths and cultures, including Judaism and Islam. Visitors from other faiths are welcomed into the school to talk about their faith and beliefs. Parents are informed about their child's achievement in Religious Education in the end of year report.

Collective Worship at St. Luke's is outstanding and is central to the work of the school. Children are encouraged and supported in developing their understanding and response to the world around them. Through Collective Worship there is a real sense of belonging to a community which has the love of Christ at its heart. Pupils are actively encouraged to involve themselves in the prayer life of the school. Opportunities for prayer both formal and informal are presented throughout the day and the Angelus has been successfully introduced into the school day.

## OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

1

St. Luke's is an outstanding Catholic school, which because of the school community's commitment to living out its Mission statement provides a Catholic education that enables children to achieve high standards in their religious education and nurtures their spiritual and moral development. The welcoming environment, the care given to displaying all pupils' work and the high quality of the pupils' written work demonstrates day to day that the pupils feel valued and all their efforts are acknowledged. Pupils enjoy their prayer time and celebrations, and they enthusiastically raise money for the wider community in need.

The Headteacher has developed a professional and dedicated team. Together they provide a calm and safe environment that enables St. Luke's to continue to grow and build on the already outstanding success.

Whilst recognising and celebrating the achievements of the staff and pupils it is recommended that to improve further the school should:

- consolidate the assessment process ensuring good practice informs future planning
- develop further the creative curriculum, ensuring all staff have access to the creative Religious Education training identified for this academic year

## Parents' Questionnaires

131 Parents returned questionnaires

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	78	53			
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	75	55		1	
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	75	55	1		
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	44	80	3		4
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	65	59	5		2
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	75	53			3
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	64	55	6	2	4

## Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	32		
2	I learn new things in Here I am lessons.	29	3	
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	30	2	
4	I have to work hard.	29	3	
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	29	3	
6	My teacher listens to me.	31	1	
7	<i>When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.</i>	28	4	
8	I get praise when I do my best.	30	2	
9	Other children are kind and behave well	23	9	
10	<i>I am happy on the playground.</i>	28	4	
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	32		
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	32		

## Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	17	10	1
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	16	11	1
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	4	17	7
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	23	5	
5	Do you have to work hard?	22	6	
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	19	7	2
7	Do other children behave well?	5	23	
8	Are teachers fair to you?	11	9	8
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	11	14	3
10	Are you given responsibility?	27		1
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	19	5	4