

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 Luke's Catholic Primary School
Address:	The Willows Frodsham WA6 7QP
Tel No:	01928 731721
URN:	111379
Headteacher:	Mrs M Coleman
Chair of Governors:	Mr C Droogan
Date of Inspection:	12 November 2009
Inspectors:	Mrs P Blake Mr K Toms

BASIC SCHOOL DATA

SCHOOL DATA	
Name of School	St Luke's CPS
School email address	admin@stlukes.cheshire.sch.uk
Name of Head teacher	Mrs M Coleman
Name of Chair of Governors	Mr C Droogan
Name of Parish Priest	Monsignor O Neill
Name of Religious Education Co-ordinator	Mrs M Williams / Mrs E Johnson
<p>St Luke's Catholic Primary School is situated in the town of Frodsham on the outskirts of Chester and serves the parish of Frodsham which covers a wide geographical area from Elton through to Helsby, Kingsley, Sutton Weaver and Norley. We are committed to our Mission Statement which underpins all that we do. Frodsham and the surrounding area contain both private and Local Authority housing and generally our parents are very supportive and positive about our school. They, like us, have high expectations about their children's learning.</p> <p>Significantly we attract a proportion of pupils from nearby Runcorn. Our NOR continues to rise despite national and local falling trends. In some years, for example 2006 and 2009, we were oversubscribed. Analysis of pupil performance data shows that whilst some children perform above the age related expectations, the majority of children demonstrate skills and knowledge which are in line with those expected nationally. Our school has continued to maintain and improve standards which have remained high over the past four years. We enjoy a very good relationship with the Parish Priest and parishioners and work hard to build local community and world wide links. Religious education in St Luke's is regarded as the most prestigious area of learning and valued and recognised as the foundation for all that we do.</p>	

STAFFING & ORGANISATION	
Number of full-time teachers	8
Number of part-time teachers	1
Number of Catholic teachers	7
Number of teachers from other Christian faiths	2
Number of teachers from other faith backgrounds	0
How many teachers teach Religious Education?	8
Number of teachers with CCRS	7
Number of teachers with other Catholic qualifications (e.g. Theology, leadership)	1

PUPILS / STUDENTS	
Number of pupils on roll	201
Number of classes	7
Organisation of classes	Year Gps
Average class size	29
% of Catholic pupils	84%
% of pupils from other Christian faiths	16%
% of pupils from other faith backgrounds	
Number of pupils on SEN register	17
Number of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs	2

TEACHING TIME FOR R.E. PER WEEK IN -	
Foundation	10%+
Key Stage 1	10%+
Key Stage 2	10%+

FINANCIAL DATA – actual expenditure over 2 years	
English	£750
Mathematics	700
Science	600
Religious Education	600

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
---	------------------

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL	1
--	----------

The overall effectiveness of St Luke's is outstanding. The school provides a high standard of Religious Education which successfully meets the needs and interests of its pupils.

Led by a dedicated, committed Headteacher, the school is successful in providing an environment which promotes Gospel values and in which pupils feel valued and respected. The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding, and as a result pupils make excellent progress.

The Governors provide appropriate support and challenge and they make an important contribution to the management of the school, ensuring that the Catholic ethos is upheld.

The Mission Statement is prominently displayed throughout the school and is well understood by the entire school community. A typical comment from children was: "Our mission statement shows what the school is all about. We have wonderful displays in every classroom".

St Luke's actively encourages the involvement of parents in school activities, in particular those related to Religious Education and the faith life of the school.

The Deputy Head Teacher has recently retired. Under his leadership Religious Education was of a high standard, and since the last Inspection improvement has been excellent.

What the school could do to improve further

All key issues raised in the last Inspection have now been addressed effectively. The school's evaluation of Religious Education is accurate and targets for future development have been identified. It is recommended that :

- The school should now implement its plans for the appointment of a permanent RE Leader.
- Further opportunities are taken to expand and increase the excellent and impressive classroom RE displays into the School Hall, in order that these high quality displays can be seen and appreciated by all – visitors, children and staff.

THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	1
--	----------

St Luke's is a calm and tranquil environment where all work purposefully. The Mission Statement is regularly reviewed and pupils have direct input into its development through multi-age focus groups and class focus groups.

The children are able to discuss the meaning of the Mission Statement with genuine enthusiasm and insight. They know what the Statement means in practical terms for their own lives in today's world.

Pupils are clear about what the school believes in, and its values of care, respect and joy.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	1
---------------------------	----------

Collective Worship is of a high standard. Activity in this respect is outstanding and a comprehensive policy is in place.

Assemblies, Masses and Liturgies are well-planned, and activities are evaluated.

The school fulfills its statutory obligations in this area. There are opportunities for formal and informal prayer on a daily basis. Masses are celebrated in school throughout the year; there are also special Collective Worship Assemblies and Liturgies that celebrate the Liturgical Year.

Pupils are encouraged to take an active role in worship: they write their own prayers and are sufficiently confident to lead collective worship within school.

During the Inspection an Assembly led by Year 5 children was observed: pupils were challenged in their thinking, and opportunities for reflection, prayer and drama were key elements of the celebration. Year 6 pupils also led a thoughtful and reflective prayer walk as part of their lesson.

Parents are encouraged to attend Assemblies, Masses and Liturgies and a large number were present on the day of the Inspection. Parents are encouraged to attend Assemblies, Masses and Liturgies and a large number were present on the day of the Inspection.

It is clear that Collective Worship is central to the work of this school, and very effectively promotes pupils' understanding of their role in our changing society.

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT AND OVERALL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUPILS	1
<p>A good, comprehensive policy is in place and pupils are actively involved in all aspects of school life. Assemblies and other activities reflect Gospel values and assist in providing pupils with an understanding of other faiths and cultures, as well as giving opportunities for the children to reflect on their own experiences, attitudes and values. It is quite obvious that St Luke's pupils are developing a spiritual and moral dimension in their lives.</p> <p>Inspectors noted that behaviour in lessons, and around the school, was excellent. Without exception, pupils were confident, articulate and well-mannered. They were aware of the needs of others within their school, and in the wider community outside.</p> <p>Relationships at all levels are strong; there is a sense of mutual respect and forgiveness in the school. Inspectors observed impressively high levels of co-operation and mutual support, with older pupils taking responsibility for themselves and the well-being of younger pupils.</p> <p>Children expressed their enjoyment with comments such as: "I love the topic Friends! The fun activities allow you to spend more time with your friend and get to know a little more. Here I Am is good as you can express your feelings more and say what you really feel".</p>	

PARTNERSHIP: PUPILS, PARENTS, PARISH(ES) AND WIDER COMMUNITY	1
<p>This school fosters outstanding partnerships</p> <p>Pupils: Relationships with pupils are real strengths of St Luke's. The children consider themselves to be valued and feel their views are respected. The result is that they respond well to opportunities offered to them to take on responsibilities within the school.</p> <p>There is an elected School Council which meets regularly. It organizes an annual questionnaire seeking the opinions of pupils on life in school. The pupils are confident that their voice will be heard and will influence decision-making within the school. A number of high-profile responsibilities are undertaken by the children, such as becoming a Year 6 Buddy, or taking charge of a Fair Trade stall, and these functions promote their self-confidence and independence.</p> <p>Parents: Relationships with parents are very good. They have high expectations of the school and are very supportive. Many parents take an active role in school. They refer to the "caring and happy community of St Luke's". The school keeps parents well-informed and encourages them to become involved with the school and with their child's education. Here I Am information is sent out to parents each term.</p> <p>Parents have described the school as "a happy place where they do everything to make our children happy"; one father praised the Head Teacher and staff for their valuable "discreet and sensitive support" during his own critical time of personal need.</p> <p>Parishes: The Parish Priest is a regular visitor to the school. He is very engaged with St Luke's and is well-known to the pupils. He celebrates Masses and Liturgies in school and pupils attend Mass in the Church on various Liturgical feasts.</p> <p>There is a high level of partnership with the Parish, and the school leads the Sacramental Programme, providing workshops for parents and leading Masses and celebrations in the Church. Staff are involved at Cluster Masses of the local Catholic schools.</p> <p>Communication between school and Parish is good and it is intended to start distributing Parish Newsletters to parents in the future.</p> <p>Community Cohesion/ Wider Community: St Luke's contributes to the wider community in a variety of ways. Pupils take an active part in fund-raising initiatives to support the Diocesan Children's Society, Cafod, Barnardo's, Macmillan Nurses, and many more. Locally the school is involved in a project "Churches Together" which brings together different religious communities in Frodsham. There are good links with local Catholic and community schools.</p> <p>Pupils are taught to understand the needs of the wider community, and of those less fortunate than themselves, through their links with Fair Trade and their support of Andalie, a child in the Dominican Republic.</p>	

ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1
<p>Overall achievements and standards at St Luke's are judged to be outstanding. Teachers have high expectations of the pupils and most children make excellent progress whatever their capabilities and starting points on entry, with a good number exceeding expectations.</p> <p>Pupils with disabilities and learning difficulties are fully included. Written work is well-presented and accurate. Pupils generally display a thorough knowledge and understanding of the subject; their knowledge of Scripture is outstanding.</p> <p>Inspectors found that pupils throughout the school, from Reception to Year 6, were confident and articulate when talking about their work and how it relates to their lives.</p> <p>Excellent teaching, and good use of high-quality resources, have a positive impact on achievement and standards in St Luke's.</p>	

QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING	1
<p>The quality of teaching and learning at this school is outstanding. Good monitoring, and meticulous planning supported by thorough assessment result in all pupils making good, and in many cases excellent, progress.</p> <p>Targets are set for each topic, and clearly recorded in pupils' work-books, and lesson objectives are used effectively. Work is carefully matched to pupil needs and interests; differentiation is of a very high standard and this has a strong and positive impact on the quality of learning.</p> <p>Teachers have good subject knowledge and are confident delivering RE. Teaching is lively, resulting in well-motivated pupils. The school has worked hard to create an environment and culture where learning is enjoyable, and pupils thrive.</p>	

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	1
<p>The Headteacher has a clear vision for the school and takes the lead in promoting its Catholic dimension.</p> <p>The Governors work closely with the Head Teacher and make a major contribution to leadership and management in the school. There are excellent procedures in place to enable Governors to monitor RE effectively, through the work of the Curriculum Committee and the Religious Education Link Governor.</p> <p>Working together, the Headteacher, Governing Body and the Acting Senior Management set the Catholic Mission of the school as their priority. The RE Action Plan is an integral part of the School Improvement Plan and is a pivotal element of the school's strategies for the future.</p> <p>St Luke's is committed to high-quality professional development for RE; many opportunities are provided for fostering the spiritual development of all staff. These include <i>Here I Am</i> "Before You Begin" sessions led by the Head Teacher, and attendance at appropriate in-service training.</p>	

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1
<p>There has been very good progress since the last Inspection.</p> <p>Currently, the two Acting RE Leaders are very effective. They work well with the Head Teacher to provide direction for RE throughout the school. RE is monitored and evaluated well.</p> <p>Both Acting Leaders are strong role models and are successfully building on the good practice and improvement led by the previous RE Leader. They are both committed to developing the Catholic life of the school.</p> <p>In order to maintain the status and quality of RE, the school plans to appoint a permanent RE Leader. It is the view of the Inspectors that this appointment should be implemented as soon as practicable.</p> <p>All documentation was found by the Inspectors to be up to date, and an effective system of observation and work scrutiny is in place.</p>	

PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

Number of questionnaires distributed: 150

Number of questionnaires returned: 77

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	51	26			
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	52	25			
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	48	28	1		
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	29	38	4	1	5
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	39	32	3		3
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	42	31	1		3
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	30	41	1	1	4

PUPILS' QUESTIONNAIRE (Y6)

		Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	28	4	2	
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	24	5	4	
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting and fun?	7	19	8	
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	17	7	9	
5	Do you have to work hard?	29	5		
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	23	6	5	
7	Do other children behave well?	14	16	4	
8	Are teachers fair to you?	30	2	2	
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	22	10	2	
10	Are you trusted to do things on your own?	24	8	2	
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	29	3	2	

PUPILS' QUESTIONNAIRE (Y2)

		Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	19	2	2	2
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	16	5	3	1
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting and fun?	19	2	4	
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	20	2	3	
5	Do you have to work hard?	15	6	4	
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	18	3	3	
7	Do other children behave well?	11	9	3	2
8	Are teachers fair to you?	22	2	1	
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	19	2	4	
10	Are you trusted to do things on your own?	15	5	2	3
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	23			2

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL	1
The effectiveness and efficiency of the provision of Catholic education in meeting the needs of pupils.	1
Steps taken to improve the provision further.	1
The capacity of the school to make further improvements.	1
THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	1
The Mission Statement reflects the Gospel and the Catholic purpose of the school.	1
Pupils have an understanding of the school's mission and appreciate its ethos.	1
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	1
The school provides frequent and high quality opportunities for prayer, collective worship and liturgical celebrations.	1
Staff and pupils are encouraged to be actively involved in prayer, worship and liturgy.	1
Collective worship contributes to the spiritual and moral development of all pupils.	1
SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT AND OVERALL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUPILS	1
There are whole school policies for spiritual and moral development.	1
The school contributes to spiritual and moral development through the whole curriculum and life of the school.	1
The behaviour of pupils	1
The school contributes to the social and cultural development of all pupils.	1
PARTNERSHIP: PUPILS, PARENTS, PARISH(ES) AND WIDER COMMUNITY	1
Pupils consider themselves to be valued and respected and recognise the responsibilities that this involves.	1
Pupils have opportunities to take on responsibilities within the school and to participate in service within the wider community.	1
Pupils make a contribution to the community in and beyond the school.	1
Parents are informed about the school's mission as a Catholic school and are encouraged to participate and contribute.	1
The school fosters effective links with the local parish(es). Priests and parishioners are invited and welcomed to some school events.	1
The school has good links with other schools.	1
The school contributes to the life of the wider community.	1
ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1
All pupils make progress taking into account variations between pupils and groups of pupils.	1
QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING	1
The effectiveness of teaching and learning in meeting the needs of all pupils.	1
The appropriate use and rigour of assessment.	1
Pupils enjoy their work.	2
The extent of parents'/carers' involvement in their children's learning.	1
The curriculum meets Diocesan requirements.	1

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE CATHOLIC LIFE AND ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL	1
The school has taken effective steps to promote improvement since the last inspection.	1
Strategic planning reflects and promotes the school's mission.	1
There are opportunities for professional and spiritual development, which assist all staff to understand and contribute to the Catholic mission of the school.	1
The school undertakes rigorous self-evaluation of all aspects of its Catholic life.	1
The school is effective in achieving full inclusion of all its pupils regardless of faith background.	1
The Governing Body helps shape the vision and direction of the Catholic life of the school.	1
The Governing Body has a good understanding of the strengths and developmental needs of the school as a Catholic school; it supports and challenges the leadership team.	1

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1
The R.E. Co-ordinator leads and supports staff.	2
Performance is monitored and improved through quality assurance and self-evaluation.	1
The adequacy of resources and accommodation.	1
Resources are used to achieve high standards.	1