



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE S48 MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School:	Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School
Address:	Capenhurst Lane Ellesmere Port CH65 7AQ
Tel No:	0151 338 2230
URN:	135246
Headteacher:	Mrs L Finlay
Chair of Governors:	Mrs M Pearson
Date of Inspection:	15 th November 2017
Inspector:	Mr K Toms

Our Lady's continues to be an outstanding school. The Governors, together with a recently appointed Headteacher and senior leadership team, are showing a visionary and vibrant leadership. They are totally focused on not only maintaining the outstanding provision for Religious Education at the school, but seeking new ways to promote and enhance learning and the Catholic life of the school. The school has successfully achieved all development areas from the last inspection.

The Governors are to be commended for the direction and determination they have shown in building on the past successes of the school. They have ensured that the appointments to the roles of Headteacher and senior leadership positions continue to build on and develop further the excellent ethos of the school community.

The Headteacher is an inspirational leader and is ably assisted by the Deputy Headteacher and Religious Education Coordinator. All are thoroughly passionate about their roles and in particular, the pastoral care they have, not only for the children, but for each member of staff. Inset training and support are used very effectively to develop the skills of all staff, both teaching and support staff. Great emphasis is placed on modelling lessons and supporting and sharing good practice. This is helping to raise the attainment of all children still further. As well as the training offered through the Diocese such as the Lat Blaylock and Foundations in Faith courses, the staff are extending the "Japanese Model of lesson study" to Religious Education. This open and collaborative learning is helping all staff plan and work together to extend the attainment of all children.

All the children take pride in their school and spoke with confidence of how much they appreciated their Catholic traditions. They spoke of their involvement in renewing the Mission Statement every year and how much this guides their daily life at the school. "*The Mission Statement leads us in all we do.*" They play a very active part in preparing and leading Collective Acts of Worship and spoke about how the older children helped the younger children in preparing and leading liturgies in their own classrooms. The children were keen to express how all children, whatever their faith background, are welcome at Our Lady's. There is an active Mini Vinnies group and they make an outstanding contribution to the Catholic Life of the School and are instrumental in supporting local and global charities.

Standards throughout the school are outstanding and there is an obvious pride in the way work is presented in workbooks and displays around the school. The children are encouraged to have a very positive attitude to learning and behaviour and the staff invest much time and effort in supporting this approach. As a result, this is helping to raise standards still further.

The liturgical life of the school is central to the ethos of the school and allows all to find ways to reflect and celebrate through the Church's year. The "stay and pray" invitation in Lent and Advent to all parents is a very positive way of encouraging the whole community to celebrate their faith life together. In summary, Our Lady's continues to be an outstanding school because of:

- The clear vision and inspirational leadership of the Headteacher, ably supported by the leadership team and Governing Body.
- A determination by all staff to seek new ways to enhance teaching and learning, not only building on past successes, but exploring new initiatives in their approach to Religious Education.
- An outstanding approach to pastoral support and training, rooted in a very real sense of the Church's mission.

The school's enthusiasm and drive to seek out new ways to raise standards, whilst offering pastoral guidance and training, will ensure the school continues to be an outstanding Catholic Primary School.