



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School: St Peter's Catholic Primary School
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Hazel Grove
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Tel No: 0161 483 2431

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Headteacher: Mrs C Finan

Chair of Governors: Mrs U Devlin

Date of Inspection: 11 March 2015

Inspector: Mrs R Hedger

St Peter's Catholic Primary School continues to be an outstanding and successful Catholic primary school. It is a welcoming, vibrant Catholic community, with Jesus firmly at the heart of all it does.

Since the last inspection the school has established a room for prayer known as the Faith Room and an area of the grounds is beautifully maintained as an outdoor area for prayer. Both areas are popular with the whole school community. The inspector was welcomed to the Faith room before the school day began, where children organised and led morning prayers.

During the academic year 2013-14, a Faith Council which includes pupil representatives from each year group was established. Pupils are rightly, very proud of their roles and their achievements, especially their role in choosing the Gospel story for each class, which is studied in depth over the year. Each class evaluates their gospel story and explores how the stories, events and message link to members of 'St Peter's family', and how that impacts on our lives today.

The Catholic character of the whole school is reinforced through a model of positive learning attitudes with the aid of the characters who comprise "St Peter's Family" e.g. Tim the team worker, Rory the reflective learner, Thelma the thinker. Children are actively encouraged to reflect on all aspects of school life and make positive comments. An example of this is the RE notice board where each week, a group of children are invited to offer their reflections on the weekly assembly.

The school has successfully developed the Religious Education scheme of work "The Way, The Truth and The Life". The introduction of an online assessment system has enabled the school leaders to monitor pupil attainment and progress, which is included in termly meetings with the Headteacher. Religious Education is a key priority in the School Development Plan and the action plan is well annotated, enabling governors to have a full understanding of the Catholic life of the school.

During the Learning Walk, the inspector visited every class. In each class, there was evidence of high standards of teaching and learning. Evidence of outstanding provision could be found in the children's books; in the quality of displays of children's work around the classrooms; in the conversations between the children and their teachers; and in the teachers' planning notes, which included clear differentiation based on previous assessments. The school has recently introduced a new marking strategy, which is known as the "Green Pen". This is popular with the children as it allows them to reflect positively on the teacher's suggestions and add to their work using green pen.

The children are enthusiastic learners and are keen to talk about their Religious Education experiences. They know and live the school's Mission Statement. They are able to articulate the meanings of the Gospel stories in their everyday lives. They express their own views and beliefs with confidence and are always encouraged to do so.

The leadership of the school is outstanding. The focussed and dedicated Leadership Team, which includes the Religious Education subject leader, lead a highly motivated and energetic staff. All leaders, governors and managers of St Peter's are deeply committed to the Catholic Church's mission in education. Their interactions, demonstrating integrity and sincerity, bear witness to their collective commitment to the communication of Christian faith to be believed and lived. They derive energy for the shared purpose of their work from the gospel teachings of Christ and strive successfully to create an atmosphere within the school community in which each child and adult can reach their true potential, unique in the image of God.

The school has very comprehensive monitoring and evaluation procedures in place and should continue to use them to deliver what is an outstanding quality of Religious Education.

Areas of Outstanding Practice

Outcomes for pupils

An example of outstanding practice is the “Nurture Groups”.

The school actively seeks the views and opinions of all pupils through “Nurture Groups”. The children are divided into small groups with two pupils from each class in each group. A member of staff then leads the group discussion seeking pupil views on a range of topics chosen in advance. All staff including governors, support staff and lunchtime staff participate. The children feel that their views matter and they have a voice in the decision making in school. Last year the school’s Anti-bullying Policy was re-written following feedback from the Nurture Group meetings.

Leaders Governors and Managers

In September 2014 the school appointed four new governors and a new Headteacher. This was a significant change for the school. Prior to these changes the existing Governing Body prepared and developed a transition document for the Headteacher and an Induction Programme for new governors, which included visits to the school, meetings with staff, training on the role of governors, the Terms of Reference for each committee and an introduction to the teaching and resources in school. This ensured a smooth transition for the new Headteacher and governors. The transition programme for the headteacher has now been adopted as an exemplar across schools.

Provision

Lessons are well-planned to challenge, interest and engage the children. An example of this was seen on the Learning Walk when a Year 6 class used their knowledge of the story of Palm Sunday to mime still images in dramatization. This will lead to a play script in English writing. An excellent example of cross curricular planning.