



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School:	St Simon's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Bosden Avenue Hazel Grove Stockport SK7 4LH
Tel No:	0161 483 9696
URN:	106127
Headteacher:	Mrs Elizabeth Inman
Chair of Governors:	Mr Peter Coleing
Date of Inspection:	27 November 2015
Inspector:	Mr Philip Sharp

St Simon's Catholic Primary School through the dedication of the Headteacher, Religious Education (R.E.) team, staff, and Governors continues to provide an outstanding Catholic Education for all pupils. The Governing Body know their school well and provide support and challenge for the school Leadership team.

The School's Mission Statement, "Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God" is at the heart of everything that the school achieves. As a pupil from the school council stated, "It's a great environment to learn, to be friends, to learn not only in the classroom." Relationships are a strength and lead to mutual respect and support within the school and parish community.

The Headteacher, R.E. leadership team, and Governing Body through a rigorous monitoring and evaluation process have a clear understanding of the R. E. provision. As a result they are aware of the high standards being achieved and the areas for continued development. The R.E. link Governor takes an important and active role in supporting and monitoring the R.E. curriculum.

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school, and children are given many varied and different opportunities to develop their own spirituality and prayer life. In the assembly observed by the inspector the pupils were enthusiastic in their responses and singing and were respectful and reflective. Within the classroom, the children are given time to reflect with the introduction of the Angelus, prayer boxes and focal points. They are also confident to lead and organise their own liturgies, not only in the classroom but also for the whole school community. Parents and parishioners are invited to participate in the worship and greatly appreciate these opportunities. The development of the prayer room has enhanced this area of school life. It is clear from the questionnaires returned by parents that they are fully supportive of the school.

Teaching and Learning throughout the school is a strength. During the 'Learning Walk' the inspector saw many examples of outstanding practice. The R.E. provision has been greatly enhanced by the ongoing development of the Creative R.E. Curriculum. The use of I.T. drama, discussion groups, singing and reflection time brought the lessons to life and the children were fully engaged and enthusiastic in their learning. Pupils are aware of their local community and the World community through the links the school has forged with local groups. The British Council Connecting Classroom Initiative has allowed children to engage with pupils in three schools in Kitwe, Zambia.

In summary, St. Simon's is an outstanding school which continues to develop its spiritual life due to the dedication of the Headteacher and whole school community.

Areas of Outstanding Practice

The children benefit greatly from the ethos of the school and the excellent opportunities they are given to develop their spirituality and knowledge of their faith. This is enhanced by the outstanding use of I.T. to support teaching and learning.

The Headteacher, R.E. team, staff and governors are deeply committed to the Catholic Mission of the school. They have a clear vision for the school and know its strengths and areas for development through a rigorous monitoring and assessment system. The expertise of the R.E. team greatly benefits the whole school community.