



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Werburgh's & St Columba's Catholic
Primary School
Address: Lightfoot Street
Hoole
Chester
CH2 3AD

Tel No: 01244 981228

URN: 111384

Headteacher: Mrs K Oates

Chair of Governors: Mr S Williams

Date of Inspection: 14 March 2018

Inspectors: Mr K Toms
Mrs E Inman

This is our school St Werburgh's and St Columba's

A place to be inspired, be accepted, be yourself and be unique.

Be able to grow spiritually, academically and morally.

Be able to contribute to the community and be a responsible global citizen.

Be able to reach for the stars and fulfil your potential.

A place providing an excellent Catholic education for everyone.

Where we belong, where everyone belongs.

FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		50	49	49	42	47	42	49	328
Catholics on roll		26	33	36	31	37	34	38	235
Other Christian denomination		7	7	4	7	6	3	8	42
Other faith background		1	2	3	1	3	0	1	11
No stated religious affiliation		16	7	6	3	1	5	2	40
Number of learners from ethnic groups		15	14	11	9	19	9	10	87
Total on SEN Register		2	1	3	9	4	8	13	40
Total with Statements of SEN		2	0	0	1	1	1	1	6
FSM		0	2	4	2	2	2	6	18

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

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Werburgh's Church	150
St. Columba's Church	85

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
Chester Catholic High School	28
Upton High School	5
Christleton High School	5
Caldy Grammar School	4
West Kirby High School	1
Bishops High School	1

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	2	2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	
Total RE teaching time (Hours)	-	76	76	76	95	95	95	95	608

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	11
Part-time teachers	8
Total full-time equivalent	14.9
Support assistants	30
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	53%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	12
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	6
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

Published admission number	50
Number of classes	12
Average class size KS1	25
Average class size KS2	30

FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year	Current financial year 2017	Next financial year
RE	£2000	£1500	£1500
English	£1,767	Budget £750	Budget £700
Mathematics	£553	Budget £1,000	Budget £700
Science	£775	Budget £1,000	Budget £700

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
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OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS	1
<p>Outcomes for pupils at St Werburgh’s and St. Columba’s school are outstanding with the school’s mission statement <i>“to follow in the footsteps of Jesus”</i> underpinning all the children say and do both in the school and the wider community. The children show incredible respect and care for each other and all within their wider community. The very effective Mini Vinnies group, together with the Liturgy Team and faith In Action Group play a leading role in the prayer life of the school and are widely praised for its involvement within the wider community. Parents and Governors praised it for the links it makes to the elderly and the various charities it supports through fund and awareness raising. During discussions the pupils were extremely respectful of each other and of the need to show tolerance to all, regardless of their faith background. The same respect for each other was evident in all the classes.</p> <p>Pupil attainment in all key stages is almost always above average with children making good progress from on entry baseline assessments. The children showed a good grasp of Religious language and showed excellent skills in discussing the various themes in their lessons. One pupil, making links with Pope Francis’s reflections on God’s mercy, remarked that, “You can never break the relationship with God.”</p> <p>The children show an obvious enjoyment and enthusiasm for their Religious Education lessons and this is reflected in the carefully presented workbooks where the children take obvious pride in their work. An effective and creative approach to Religious Education ensures the children’s enthusiasm is harnessed and allows them to respond very effectively in a variety of ways. Music, art and drama are all used very effectively to enhance learning in Religious Education and the children thoroughly enjoy the variety of opportunities offered to them.</p> <p>The children have developed their own skills in leading and planning their own Collective Acts of Worship. The inspectors were able to see these skills reflected in individual class Christian meditations and prayer services where great reverence and prayer was shown at all times. The children’s “Faith in Action” approach to prayer and celebration is central to the Catholic life of the school.</p>	

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	1
<p>The vibrant and committed leadership of the Head Teacher, ably supported by her Religious Education Coordinators and dedicated Governors, ensures that St. Werburgh’s and St Columba’s goes from strength to strength. All development issues from the last inspection have been very effectively met. There is a rigorous approach to monitoring and assessment and the Governors are fully involved in this process. They know their school well and have a very clear understanding of what they need to do to ensure high standards remain at the forefront of their planning. This was reflected well in the school’s SEF and in a revised Religious Education School Development Plan which ensures greater clarity and purpose. All leaders and managers have collaborated fully in this process.</p> <p>Leaders and managers place high quality Continuing Professional Development at the core of this process, allowing all staff to become more conversant and confident with playing a full part in the Church’s mission. Training and support is offered at all levels and there is excellent support across the different key stages where pairing of staff is a real strength of the school. The inspectors were able to observe this during the lesson observations through the school.</p> <p>Pastoral support is excellent throughout the school. Opportunities are provided for parents to become more involved in the prayer life of the school and develop their own spiritual development alongside the children. Parent responses were overwhelmingly positive of the school and its Head Teacher and staff are held in very high regard.</p> <p>The Parish Priest and Governors work extremely closely with the school and are rightly proud of the progress being made. This is also reflected in the way the two parish communities are working together to develop their sacramental life. They are fully aware of their role as Governors and offer very effective support and challenge to continue to maintain and enhance the standards at the school. The Governors ensure the school is fully compliant with Bishops’ Conference requirements.</p>	

PROVISION	1
<p>Teaching and learning observed during the inspection were consistently good with elements that were outstanding. Pupil attainment is of a high standard with a higher than average number of children above expected levels for their age. The children are highly motivated and rise to the challenges presented to them. They showed very good prior knowledge and responded well to the challenging questions and tasks presented to them. Tasks were very effectively differentiated. Teachers planned very effectively to build on previous learning and this was followed up with a good and effective marking system which gave children opportunities to respond accordingly. A variety of teaching and questioning techniques allowed children to explore difficult themes and deepen their understanding. Teachers showed great skill in using driver words to help children develop higher order thinking skills. Support staff are to be commended for their very effective contributions in lessons, helping and encouraging all to achieve the objectives of the lesson. Good IT resources were used very effectively to support teaching and learning in Religious Education lessons. A rich variety of approaches and the use of art, music and drama helps to keep the children highly motivated and focused in their lessons.</p> <p>Collective Worship is indeed key to the life of the school and all staff are actively involved in developing this within their own classes and in whole school celebrations. Great emphasis is placed on allowing children to take a lead in prayer and liturgical celebrations. Prayer and reflection underpin all these celebrations. The Collective Act of Worship, led by the Head Teacher, was particularly prayerful and reflective whilst allowing children to make their own meaningful responses and develop their understanding of the nature of God's greatest gift.</p> <p>The school's Collective Acts of Worship reflect the Church's Liturgical Year as well as celebrating the themes developed in The Way, The Truth and The Life. Traditional prayers and the reciting of The Angelus allow the children to anchor their faith in the rich traditions of the Church. Regular class and school Masses allow the children to unite with the Church in its fullest sense. Great care is taken by staff and the Parish Priest in helping them understand the celebration of the Mass.</p>	

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	1
<p>St. Werburgh's and St. Columba's is an outstanding Primary School in providing a Catholic Education for all its pupils. The outcomes for pupils are consistently above average and the children are true "ambassadors" living out their Mission Statement <i>to follow in the footsteps of Jesus</i>. They make a significant contribution to their wider community and this is particularly evident in the way in which they have developed the Mini Vinnies. The children are extremely responsive in Religious Education lessons and enthusiastically develop an understanding of their faith.</p> <p>The Head Teacher, together with the Religious Education Coordinators and the Governors, provide outstanding leadership. They know their school well as reflected in a very effective SEF and School Development Plan for Religious Education. They set challenging targets for themselves and ensure that all children make good and outstanding progress. Monitoring and assessment systems are very effective and all leaders and managers play a full part in this process.</p> <p>Provision throughout the school is at least good and often outstanding. There is a keen awareness of the importance of Continuing Professional Development with the needs of all identified and reflected in the School Development Plan. Liturgical opportunities are rich and varied and all staff and pupils play a prominent role in leading prayer, reflections and celebrations. Teaching and learning is at least good and often outstanding and every effort is taken to offer challenge and support for children throughout the school. The school is very well placed to build on their successes and continue to extend the attainment of all children.</p>	

PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

104 questionnaires returned.

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	76	27	1		
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	76	28			
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	81	23			
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	67	35			2
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	56	41	2		5
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	63	38			3
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	55	41	4		4

PUPILS QUESTIONNAIRE (YEAR 2)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	15	2	
2	I learn new things in Here I am lessons.	17		
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	16	1	
4	I have to work hard.	17		
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	17		
6	My teacher listens to me.	16	1	
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	15	2	
8	I get praise when I do my best.	14	3	
9	Other children are kind and behave well	9	8	
10	I am happy on the playground.	12	5	
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	17		
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	17		

PUPILS QUESTIONNAIRE (YEAR 6)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	23	9	2
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	22	12	
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	15	16	3
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	29	5	
5	Do you have to work hard?	27	7	
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	28	6	
7	Do other children behave well?	8	24	
8	Are teachers fair to you?	28	6	
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	24	9	
10	Are you given responsibility?	21	12	1
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	17	12	5