



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE S48 MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School:	Our Lady and St Oswald's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Upper Brook Street Oswestry Shropshire SY11 2TG
Tel No:	01691 652849
URN:	123553
Headteacher:	Mrs N O'Dwyer
Chair of Governors:	Rev Stephen McKenna
Date of Inspection:	22 June 2017
Inspector:	Mrs E Inman

Our Lady and St Oswald's Catholic Primary School provides an outstanding Catholic Education for all pupils despite a period of significant instability in leadership. Christ is truly at the heart of the mission of the school. Pupils talk about their school with pride, using words such as respect, sharing, helping, happy, healthy, welcoming. They say that their teachers are amazing and that everyone works hard to make the school better. Staff are very happy in their work and greatly appreciate their talented and enthusiastic new Head Teacher.

Pupils benefit from the proximity of the church to their school and the school maximises the opportunities that this offers for regular visits to the church and involvement in parish life. Pupils are very aware of the needs and hopes of the world beyond their immediate experience, noted particularly on the day of the monitoring visit during an assembly which focused on National Refugee Week. It was evident that pupils had considered the challenges for, and the needs of, refugees previously.

From starting points in Religious Education that are below expectations on entry into the school, the vast majority of pupils achieve standards that are at least in line with age related expectations, or above, by the time that they leave the school at the end of Year 6. Pupils with additional needs are supported appropriately.

The Governing Body, led by a committed and passionate Chair of Governors, know their school well and have now been able to recruit and appoint a dynamic, visionary, dedicated Catholic Head Teacher who took up post in January 2017. The impact of her work is already evident and this is a harmonious, happy, ambitious school in which to learn and work. The Head Teacher is ably supported by an enthusiastic Religious Education Leader who is devoted to the vision of Catholic education for pupils, parents and for staff. She provides clear direction and support for her colleagues. Leaders and managers are delighted that they have now appointed a Catholic Deputy Head Teacher who will take up her post in September 2017.

Leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the impact of teaching and learning, as well as Catholic provision, and reports are made termly to governors through the Head Teacher's report. Leaders strive to ensure the accuracy and rigour of their systems and are seeking to embed this further. Ambitious plans for embedding outstanding practice and enhancing the provision for Catholic education are at the heart of leaders' vision for the future.

The school accurately judges the quality of teaching in Religious Education to be good and there are clear plans to develop a wider range of innovative teaching styles and activities so that, in time, teaching in Religious Education will be consistently outstanding. Teachers ensure that all support staff are deployed effectively to meet the needs of every pupil. Creative use of staff and timetabling ensures that, although the school has mixed year groups, all pupils access the age appropriate teaching in the Religious Education scheme, 'The Way, the Truth and the Life,' that is required to be taught in all Catholic schools of the Shrewsbury Diocese. The school is aware that the Diocesan requirement is of curriculum Religious Education that equates to 10% of total teaching time.

Areas of Outstanding Practice

- Pupil contribution to the evaluation of collective acts of worship
- Strong parish links as demonstrated through Mary's Garden
- The clear vision and ambition of the Governing Body and the new leadership team following a period of upheaval