



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

School:	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Marlborough Road Sale M33 3AF
Tel No:	0161 973 4938
URN:	106348
Headteacher:	Mrs B Harrold
Chair of Governors:	Rev S Woolley
Date of Inspection:	10 December 2014
Inspector:	Mr K Toms

St Joseph's is a vibrant and outstanding Catholic School, constantly seeking new ways to ensure the Catholic mission of the school remains at the heart of the community. The Mission Statement, *"Praying Together, Learning for Life, Caring for All"*, is truly a living reality in this school community underpinning daily lives. Children achieve very high standards in their work and the new Religious Education scheme of work is helping to achieve greater focus on the Church's teachings. The excellent leadership team and the strong and effective partnership with the parish, make this a very effective and supportive Catholic community, where everyone feels valued and able to flourish.

Parents spoke movingly, to the inspector, about the support staff offered, particularly in times of difficulty, and how this had strengthened their own faith.

The children have a deep understanding of their faith and are able to speak with great clarity and understanding of their school's Mission Statement. They are extremely reflective and show great independence in organising and celebrating their own Collective Acts of Worship. Their behaviour is exemplary and reflective of this outstanding school community.

St. Joseph's remains outstanding in all areas but particularly exemplified in the following:

Leadership and Management

- A clear Catholic vision and ethos for the school, which drives the excellent senior leadership team in partnership with the governors, staff, parents and the parish.
- Clear tracking procedures and assessment strategies, which are raising the level of challenge for all children.
- Strong support and guidance offered to all staff, helping them to reflect on particular themes and so extend children's understanding.

Collective Acts of Worship

- These are central to the life of the school, integrating the seasons of the Church with themes from *'The Way, The Truth and the Life'*.
- Prayer is central to the life of the school and truly unites all children, whatever their religious background.
- Children show great independence in leading Acts of Worship themselves.
- Resources are used very effectively to aid learning and support worship.

Catholic Life of School

- Parents are effectively supported in helping their children to develop their prayer life through the travelling Nativity and Travelling Crosses.
- Strong links to the local community support such things as fair trade, links with residential homes, the Cornerstones project for the homeless and hungry, Mission Together and a thriving 'Mini Vinnies' group.
- Overseas links to the Gambia Project and the Valley of the Moon nursery in Bolivia.
- Catholic social teaching is at the heart of the life of the school.