



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
Address: Etchells Street  
St Petersgate  
Stockport  
SK1 1EF

Tel No: 0161 480 5029

URN: 106122

Headteacher: Mr D Mulcahy

Chair of Governors: Mr M Bourke

Date of Inspection: 3 July 2015

Inspectors: Mrs E Robb  
Mr P Sharp

# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*'Where We Learn To Love and Love To Learn'*

**Mission**



**Statement**

*"Together at St. Joseph's*

*We learn to love*

*Following Jesus,*

*Sharing our gifts*

*And*

*Building God's World"*

***Anam Cara***

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		18	23	24	30	22	19	13	149
Catholics on roll		12	21	20	25	20	17	13	128
Other Christian denomination		2			2	1	2		7
Other faith background		2			1				3
No stated religious affiliation		2	2	4	2	1			11
Number of learners from ethnic groups		18	23	24	30	22	19		149
Total on SEN Register			4	7	5	1	3	2	22
Total with Statements of SEN				1	1				2
FSM		3	2	2	5	2	6	3	23

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent		Fixed term	2
Index of multiple deprivation				

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St. Bernadette's, Brinnington	7
St. Mary's Stockport	10
St. Joseph's Stockport	31
St. Philip's, Offerton	56
Our Lady's, Edgeley	15
St. Joseph's, Reddish	13
St. Ambrose, Adswold	9
Other	8

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
St. James Catholic High	6
Harrytown Catholic High	4
St. Anne's Catholic High	1
Stockport School	
Denton Community College	1

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week		2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	17.5

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	7
Part-time teachers	2
Total full-time equivalent	8
Support assistants	7
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	81
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	8
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	4
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

NAME OF SCHOOL	
<b>St. Joseph's Catholic Primary</b>	
Published admission number	25
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	21
Average class size KS2	21

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2013/2014	Current financial year 2014/2015	Next financial year 2015/2016
RE	76,121	77,431	79,848
English	134,212	141,412	152,441
Mathematics	133,162	140,213	151,581
Science	91,260	65,632	99,960

<b>Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
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<b>OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS</b>	<b>2</b>
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There is an atmosphere of trust, respect and calm at St Joseph's Catholic Primary school. The children are happy and they report that they love coming to school. They are proud of their faith, their school and their school community.

There has been sustained improvement in Religious Education since the last inspection. The standard of work in the children's books, dialogue with children and assessment outcomes, all show that the children have made good progress. This year's assessment outcomes confirm that more children are reaching higher levels of attainment.

All lessons observed by the Inspectors were good with outstanding features. The children showed their enjoyment of their Religious Education lessons. They were enthusiastic and demonstrated a thirst for religious knowledge and understanding. They aim to do their best at all times. They were respectful of, and listened to, the views of others. Excellent questioning techniques were used constructively to help children to become more reflective in their responses.

The children's behaviour is excellent. All children are given responsibility in creating and sustaining the welcoming atmosphere which is apparent throughout the school. They do this by supporting children new to school, welcoming families and parishioners. They respond well in an environment where all feel valued. During discussions with the School Council the children were keen and willing to talk about the changes that they have witnessed and commented that '*the school has changed a lot in a good way*'. Children are proud to talk openly and confidently about their school. They enjoy going to Church and meeting other members of the parish. The parishioners are always delighted to see the children and comment on their respectful attitudes when attending Mass. The relationship between the school and the parish is excellent.

The children willingly participate in all aspects of Collective Worship, especially the Golden Assembly. Parents and carers attend these assemblies each week, and with the whole community are given an opportunity to celebrate and recognise their God given gifts and talents. Children from Years 5 and 6 help to deliver these assemblies.

During the observed Collective Worship the children were prayerful, reverent and respectful. The scripture readings, music and song, the selective use of ICT, contributed to a meaningful Act of Worship. The children are comfortable praying within their class, school and parish community. They are aware of and understand the importance of key celebrations throughout the liturgical year.

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>1</b>
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The school has gone from strength to strength under the inspirational leadership and vision of the present Headteacher. Together with the newly appointed Deputy Headteacher they have radically transformed St. Joseph's Catholic Primary school. Through their dedicated, focussed and highly motivated approach they have energised the school into becoming a visible presence in the community.

Leaders, managers and governors are deeply committed to the Church's mission in education; the catalyst being the involvement in, and creation of, the Mission Statement. The children, staff and governors were all involved in the creation of this new Mission Statement, which is understood, known, lived and witnessed throughout the whole school.

Through their teaching, learning, work and daily lives, staff, children and governors express their active involvement in shaping and supporting the Mission of the Church.

Leaders and governors carefully monitor all areas of Religious Education. Outcomes from the scrutiny of planning, teaching, learning, pupils' workbooks, assessment and tracking of children's progress are used effectively to inform improvement plans and guide professional development

training. The Religious Education action plan forms an integral part of the school development plan and underpins the vision and direction of the school

The Governors challenge and support the Headteacher and the Senior Management Team, and are relentless in their expectations for all staff to deliver the best possible teaching and learning experiences for all the children in their care. The questionnaires returned by parents indicate the overwhelming support for all the school aims to achieve for the benefit of the children.

The areas for development identified in the last inspection have been encompassed within the many changes and initiatives that have taken place. Significant improvement is evident in the opportunities for, and quality of, Collective Worship. The next step is for the children to have greater involvement in preparing and leading Acts of Worship.

<b>PROVISION</b>	<b>2</b>
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The children benefit from a staff who not only teach but aim to inspire and nurture them on their faith journey. The quality of teaching across the school is good with some examples of outstanding practice.

Lessons are well planned to challenge, interest and engage all children Staff training has been used to good effect to develop the use of questioning which is deepening and challenging children's learning and understanding; widening their learning experiences and developing their understanding of the world in which they live. The children enjoy their Religious Education lessons. This was clearly evidenced in lessons observed by the Inspectors.

A great emphasis is placed on the emotional, spiritual and moral development of the children which is deeply rooted in the School's Mission statement. Staff are given plentiful opportunities to develop their own spirituality, which in turn helps them to inform, inspire and influence the children in developing their own prayer life and spirituality. For example, in several classes the children are encouraged to write their own prayers independently and children in Year 6 classes have been involved in Retreat/ Reconciliation days with the Holy Ghost Fathers. Also, the children are guided by the mottos- *Anam Cara (Soul Friend)* and they know St. Joseph's is 'where we love to learn and learn to love'. This contributes to the creation of a spiritual and prayerful environment.

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school and contributes strongly to the feeling of family and welcome. A great deal of thought is given to ensure that celebrations are rich and meaningful experiences for all, and often convey powerful messages which reflect a deeper understanding of the Church's mission. The provision is further enhanced through strong links with the Parish Priest and parish community.

The children are very much aware of the needs of others both locally and globally and how they can help to make life better for others through their generous fund raising activities and subsequent donations. For example, the children at St Joseph's raised funds to support Fr Pat Clarke's Mission for children in the shanty towns of Sao Paulo. Children support the local St. Joseph's Food Banks and the Wellspring group, who care for the homeless in the area. Through this consideration for others children are reminded how they can impact on building God's world; a further consolidation of the school's Mission Statement.

Children are provided with a wide range of opportunities to enjoy before, during (lunch time) and after school. These include Breakfast club, Dance club, After-School club, Football club and The Little Church (Children's Liturgy Group) to name just a few.

The provision of Religious Education meets the requirements of the Bishops' Conference.

<b>OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS</b>	2
<p>St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a successful, thriving school providing a good education for all children. There have been radical changes since the last inspection resulting in great improvement in all areas. The school provides a haven of calm, trust, support and care, all in the spirit of the Mission Statement.</p> <p>Children, teachers, teaching assistants, and all those connected to St Joseph's are valued and their contribution to the school enhances the effectiveness of the Religious Education provided and informs the improvements that are made.</p> <p>All those involved in the school have been part of an exceptional journey and the celebration of this journey is being manifested in the continued development of the Catholic ethos, which lies at the heart of the school community. All staff, governors, parents, carers, and parish community members are recognised as key partners as St. Joseph's continues its journey in helping the children to '<i>Build God's World</i>'.</p> <p><b>What the school could do to improve further</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on the solid foundations that have been laid by continuing to improve the quality of teaching and learning throughout the school</li> <li>• Increase and develop opportunities for children to gain confidence in planning, leading and presenting Collective Worship across the whole school and parish community</li> <li>• Provide opportunities, through professional development training, for all staff to share responsibility for the continued development of Religious Education across the whole school.</li> </ul>	

**Parents' Questionnaires**  
**55 Parents returned questionnaires**

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	41	12	2		
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	34	20	1		
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	37	20	1		
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	26	23	3	2	1
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	30	16	6	1	2
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	32	16	2	0	5
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	26	14	11	1	3

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	25		0
2	I learn new things in Here I am lessons.	16	9	0
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	24	1	0
4	I have to work hard.	22	3	0
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	21	4	0
6	My teacher listens to me.	20	4	1
7	<i>When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.</i>	19	6	0
8	I get praise when I do my best.	19	6	0
9	Other children are kind and behave well	11	14	0
10	<i>I am happy on the playground.</i>	15	10	0
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	19	6	0
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	25	0	0

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	11	0	0
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	7	4	0
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	9	2	0
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	8	1	2
5	Do you have to work hard?	10	1	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	11	0	0
7	Do other children behave well?	9	2	0
8	Are teachers fair to you?	11	0	0
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	10	1	0
10	Are you given responsibility?	9	2	0
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	10	1	0