



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

School:	Ladymount Catholic Primary School
Address:	Portal Road Pensby CH61 5YD
Tel No:	0151 648 4326
URN:	105084
Headteacher:	Mrs M Jackson
Chair of Governors:	Mr B Sharp
Date of Inspection:	26 June 2013
Inspector:	Mrs E Inman

Ladymount continues to be an outstandingly effective Catholic Primary School. It is a welcoming, vibrant Catholic community, with Jesus firmly at the heart of all it does. Pupils, parents and staff are proud to be part of this aspirational, high achieving school. One pupil said, 'There is absolutely nothing I would change about my school,' and her view was enthusiastically echoed around the group being interviewed. Another said, 'I feel safe here.' There is no complacency; improvement to the Religious Education curriculum and in the wider Catholic life drives the school's Development Plan. Pupils and staff articulate a very clear vision for Catholic education in their school.

Leaders and managers know the school well. Rigorous self-review and evaluation determines focused action. This is evident in the work that has been done to address the apparent drop in standards amongst the older children, following the piloted introduction of the new Religious Education scheme, 'The Way, the Truth and The Life.' This scheme is being used throughout the Diocese. Because the new scheme was piloted in just three classes; the Headteacher, and experienced Religious Education co-ordinator, were able to plan and deliver high quality training during a two day retreat attended by all teachers and most support staff and governors. Standards achieved by pupils in upper Key Stage 2 are now sound, as a result of supplementing the activities proposed in the scheme. The leadership team is now actively seeking a solution to the emerging challenge of adapting the scheme to meet the needs of pupils in shifting mixed age year groups. The carefully planned introduction of 'The Way, the Truth and the Life', has resulted in pupils who are enthused about their learning in Religious Education. 'We have learned more scripture this year – parables and stories of Jesus,' said one pupil. The school serves two parishes; links with both are very strong. The parish communities benefit from an information board, in each of the churches, which is maintained by staff from the school, making sure that the wider Catholic community is aware of what is going on in school.

The quality of Collective Worship in the school is outstanding, enhanced by pupil- prepared and pupil-led liturgies. During the whole school worship, experienced by the inspector, every child was prayerfully attentive and engaged. This reflects the wonderful experiences also being provided for the pupils in their classes. Parents are invited to join the school, in worship, wherever possible and greatly appreciate these opportunities.

Areas of outstanding practice

- The excellent quality of Collective Worship enables the entire school community to put Jesus Christ at the heart of all that it does and, in the words of the Mission Statement, effectively 'sharing a living experience of our Catholic faith.'
- The community benefits from the skilful leadership of an exemplary Religious Education co-ordinator, whose knowledge and expertise enhances the experience of everyone in this Catholic community.