



DIOCESE OF  
**SHREWSBURY**

---

DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School  
Address: Floatshall Road  
Baguley  
Wythenshawe  
M23 1HP

Tel No: 0161 998 3419

URN: 105536

Headteacher: Mrs J Bramhall

Chair of Governors: Mrs M Bearpark

Date of Inspection: 25 November 2021

Inspectors: Mr K Toms  
Mrs J Johnson

# THE SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT



*With joyful hearts, we  
love, learn and praise  
as the family of God*

**SCHOOL: Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Baguley, Wythenshawe**

**DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: July 2015**

**JUDGEMENT FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION: Outstanding**

**AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION**

No areas were identified for development at the last inspection.

**PROGRESS MADE WITH AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM THE PREVIOUS INSPECTION**

Although no areas were identified at the last inspection the school remains focused on a continuously rigorous process of self-evaluation, very effectively responding to Diocesan guidelines on Relationships and Sex Education and impending changes to the revised Religious Curriculum Directory and the new Prayer and Liturgy Directory. Their foresight and readiness to embrace new initiatives meant that they were well placed to respond to the unforeseen consequences of the Covid 19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns that followed, whilst still making progress in the key development plans they had identified for themselves.

**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS:** how effective is the school in providing Catholic Education.

---

1

**This is an outstanding Catholic School**

---

*The above judgement on overall effectiveness is based on all the available evidence following the evaluation of:*

**CATHOLIC LIFE**

---

1

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

---

1

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

---

1

## Summary of key findings:

- Almost all pupils speak enthusiastically about belonging to this vibrant Catholic community, embracing the School's Mission Statement to "Love one another; as I have loved you." They make it a living reality in their daily lives. They know their voice is valued and heard and makes a significant contribution to their lives and the life of the school.
- Behaviour is exemplary throughout the school and the pupils feel safe, knowing they are well supported in an environment in which love, tolerance and forgiveness are central to their community.
- All leaders take a pride in their roles and enthusiastically work to achieve high standards for all in the community. Outstanding evaluation, assessment and monitoring systems ensure they are able to accurately identify gaps and plan very effectively for future developments. The leaders and governors know their school well. They meet all Diocesan requirements for Religious Education and the Catholic Life of the School.
- The exemplary leadership of the Headteacher, supported by the well-respected Religious Education Coordinator, ensures all feel valued and supported in their roles. Continuing Professional Development is much appreciated and very effective.
- Parents speak of how much this Catholic community means to them and the tremendous support they give to all, especially in such challenging times. 'It feels like one big family.'
- Collective Worship is truly the "heartbeat" of this Catholic community. All leaders, staff and pupils value their roles in promoting prayer and liturgy throughout the school. Sacred Heart is a truly outstanding school.

## What the school needs to do to improve further

- Continue to develop prayer and liturgy in the light of the anticipated new guidelines and the introduction of the revised Religious Curriculum Directory.
- Continue to support the Continuing Professional Development opportunities, already a strong feature in the school.
- Share the outstanding practice in the wider Catholic Community, both locally and at Diocesan level.

## Information about the Inspection

The Inspection of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School was carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, and in accordance with the Shrewsbury Diocesan Framework and Schedule for Denominational Inspections approved by the Bishop of Shrewsbury. The inspection reviews and evaluates how effective the school is in providing Catholic education. This process begins with the school's own self-evaluation and the inspection schedule follows the criteria set by the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (NBRIA 2017).

The inspector reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school
- The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education
- The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education
- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship
- The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school
- How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education, Collective Worship and the Catholic Life of the school

The inspection was carried out by two inspectors over one day:

One Act of Collective Worship (Liturgical Prayer) was observed, respecting the need to work within the parameters of Covid safety.

An Act of Collective Worship (Liturgical Prayer) was observed in Year 6.

All other classes were observed in the period set aside for lesson observations.

The initial Pre - inspection phone call and subsequent zoom meeting were important in the early discussions we were able to have. The school website is exemplary, being well arranged, informative and allowed visitors to gain a real insight into the Catholic Life of the School.

## Information about this school

- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is part of the now combined Parish of the Sacred Heart and St. Peter's Parish in St. Bonaventure's Missionary Area, Baguley, Wythenshawe.
- The school serves a broad catchment area, but an overall deprivation factor places it in the fifth quintile, the most deprived.
- 54% of the children are white British. 31% of children have English as an additional language (above the National Average and in quintile 1).
- Sacred Heart is heavily oversubscribed. Currently 91% of pupils are baptised Catholic, 8.5% are Christian and 1.5% are of other faiths. All pupils have a religious affiliation.
- Attendance is outstanding.
- During lockdown the school stayed open for over 60% of the school population.
- Sacred Heart School was a vital link of support for all families during this period and still is.

## Full report – inspection judgments

### CATHOLIC LIFE

<b>The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school	1
The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision of the Catholic life of the school	1

- A significant feature of Sacred Heart School is the overwhelming appreciation almost all children show for the Catholic Life of the School. They speak with great clarity on what the mission of the school means to them and how they embrace the mission and ethos of the school.
- Pupil voice is seen as central to developing the mission of the school and is a vital component of evaluating and planning for improvement. Pupils value the fact that their voice is an integral feature of this process.
- Respect and behaviour are exemplary throughout the school and the pupils themselves speak clearly of the importance of forgiveness being at the heart of all they do. All behaviour in lesson observations and behaviour around the school clearly reflects this.
- Almost all the children speak of the leading roles they are encouraged to take on and speak eagerly of their desire to resume the many activities they have been involved in, in the wider community. They value their work in supporting the climate change initiative and the document “Laudato Si” is seen as an important part of their mission. A thriving garden club is a practical way they have been able to support this.
- Pupils value the fact that their voice is an integral feature of this process.
- They value their roles as Ambassadors or members of the Mini Vinnies group and appreciate the vital role they play in supporting everyone in the school community and beyond. They are keen to resume a more hands on approach already established.
- They are extremely proud of their Catholic tradition and the part they play within it.
- A moving Collective Act of Worship accurately reflected the roles the children played and their empathy towards all those in need, particularly the refugee community.
- The children value their experience of being on various Retreats provided by the school.
- They gain confidence from the well established Relationships and Sex Education programme and related Personal, Social and Health Education Work. More work on their Mental Health is particularly appreciated. This is also supported by the *Jigsaw* material. All are delivered within the framework of the Catholic guidelines and the Church’s teaching on Social Justice. The Church’s traditions are enthusiastically embraced. They are proud to belong to this tradition.
- Governors are extremely active and supportive in promoting the school within the wider Catholic Parish Community. Governors, Parish and School are a vibrant partnership at Sacred Heart School.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Religious Education is outstanding

1
---

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	1
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education	1

- Almost all children make good and outstanding progress and are highly motivated in their Religious Education lessons. In the lessons observed they were always fully engaged in their work and spoke of how they enjoyed debating and deepening their knowledge and understanding of their faith and becoming better people. Recap of scripture and previous lessons was evident through all the lessons and in the work scrutiny.
- Pupils needing extra support are encouraged by very supportive learning assistants to make equally good progress in the lessons.
- All policies and assessment and monitoring procedures reflect the outstanding standards Sacred Heart School continues to develop and sustain in challenging circumstances.
- The calm, supportive and visionary leadership of the Headteacher is superbly matched by the enthusiastic Religious Education Coordinator who is rightly praised by all the staff and Governors.
- All staff are enthusiastic about their roles as faith leaders and work very effectively as a team, fully supporting the Catholic ethos and leadership of the school.
- Pastoral needs are central to the ethos of this school and are particularly appreciated by staff and parents during these difficult times.
- The leadership team make full use of Diocesan training opportunities as well as providing a very high standard of in-house training. This is much praised by new members of the team. A recent innovative training day at Hollingworth Lake exemplified this.
- The Coordinator must be commended for the high standards he sets in maintaining his monitoring files, and the Head and all the staff contribute to the high quality of the files and policies in place. This allows all within the community to monitor teaching and learning very effectively, identify gaps and very accurately and plan for improvements.
- The experienced and supportive Governing Body speak with joy of how the school provides a thriving environment at Sacred Heart. They have developed their own monitoring skills significantly. This allows them to ably support the high standards and to continually re-evaluate and build on them.
- Parents are equally proud of their school and praise the Headteacher and staff for all their practical support during this time. It was particularly moving to read their comments of how the school community had reached out to them.
- The provision for Religious Education is truly exemplary and a testament to the celebratory nature of all who are part of this much-loved community.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### Collective Worship is outstanding

1
---

How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship	1
The quality of provision for Collective Worship	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship	1

- Acts of Collective Worship, Prayer and Liturgy are central to what is the “beating heart” of this community.
- The quality of the singing during the Act of Collective Worship was outstanding and reflected the prayerful and reverent way in which pupils approached opportunities for prayer and liturgy through the day.
- All Acts of Worship follow the Church’s Liturgical Year closely and the pupils show their very capable and independent skills in leading and preparing them. Very good use is made of incorporating current items in their thoughts and prayers. The Inspectors found the theme of being the voice of the poor and disadvantaged very moving and uplifting.
- The pupils speak with confidence about how they are able to prepare their own liturgical prayers, selecting appropriate passages from scripture and supporting resources.
- Older pupils regularly lead liturgical prayer services for the younger pupils.
- Almost all pupils are sensitive to the needs of others. They speak with deep conviction of the need to understand and accept each other regardless of different backgrounds and faiths.
- Leaders and all staff are outstanding role models in leading and encouraging children in prayer and liturgical prayer. All staff lead prayers in staff meetings and are enthusiastic about their roles as faith leaders. They fully appreciate the opportunities they have to develop their own skills through continuous Professional Development. It is a very high priority in the school.
- The experienced governors, curate and Chaplaincy team are enthusiastic about their roles within this strong faith community. They are fully supportive and proud of the school and provide appropriate challenge, ensuring this community at Sacred Heart continues its quest to seek the best for everyone. The governors fully meet the requirements of the Diocese. It rightfully retains its outstanding status.