



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School:	St Paul's Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy
Address:	Marley Road Poynton Cheshire SK12 1LY
Tel No:	01625 383040
URN:	141831
Headteacher:	Mrs N Armstrong-Boyle
Chair of Governors:	Mr J Kalnins
Date of Inspection:	14 July 2015
Inspector:	Mrs E Inman

St Paul's Catholic Primary is an outstanding Catholic school. Pupils, staff, governors, parents and the wider parish family are rightly proud of their school. The revised Mission statement, from the words of Oscar Romero, 'Aspire not to have more but to be more', is embedded in every aspect of the school's work and evident from the moment that a visitor walks through the door. Faith permeates all that the school does. Provision for the entire school community is enriched by the school's close links with their feeder Catholic High School, All Hallows Catholic College.

The Headteacher's faith and vision is tangible. This is evidenced through the quality of provision for prayer and reflection; the rigour with which teaching and learning in Religious Education is monitored and evaluated; and the scrutiny of outcomes for pupils, which impacts on a consistent drive to improve further the opportunities for the school community. The Headteacher is well supported by a committed Deputy Headteacher and an inspiring, enthusiastic, creative Religious Education subject leader. There are robust systems in place for ensuring that standards in Religious Education are consistently high for all groups of learners. Governors noted that every single child is cherished as a unique individual. The school's self-evaluation of the Catholic life of the school and its provision for Religious Education is well supported with documented evidence. Governors know their school well. They are kept well informed about standards in all areas of the Catholic life of the school and they contribute significantly to the daily life of the school. There is no complacency in this school.

Worship, in many forms, is highly valued by the school community. One parent commented, "Wednesday Word is the highlight of my week; it is food for the soul. I love the way that children and parents and sibling groups sit together anywhere, on the floor or on benches in this prayerful space...I know that parents come not for their children but to be with their children and share in the life-affirming sense of community, family and parish. Wednesday Word is a spirit-filled retreat in which all are welcomed into the Christ-centred warmth of St Paul's school." This was evident on the day of the monitoring visit; prayer was distinctively Catholic yet inclusive. Pupils from the Faith Council spoke movingly and enthusiastically about the opportunities for prayer in school and the impact that their work has had on the prayer life of the school, such as the development of the school prayer.

Improvement since the last inspection

The Mission statement has been revised and reviewed twice since the last inspection. It is understood by everyone and impacts directly on the values that the school promotes and celebrates.

Areas of Outstanding Practice

The quality of worship in St Paul's Catholic Primary is exemplary. The whole school community contributes to, and benefits from, the prayer life of the school.

The school's partnership with its feeder High School, All Hallows, enhances the Catholic life of the school, exemplified in the John Paul II Foundation for Sport work that is done collaboratively.