



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Address: Wheatland Lane
Wallasey
Wirral
Merseyside
CH44 7ED

Tel No: 0161 638 3919

URN: 105073

Headteacher: Mrs K Vernon

Chair of Governors: Mrs E Allman

Date of Inspection: 22 October 2015

Inspectors: Mrs R Hedger
Mr P Sharp

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Together in faith we nurture, encourage and inspire each other to achieve excellence and become all that Jesus calls us to be.



FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The school's context and, particularly, any significant changes in its circumstances since the last inspection

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll	21	35	26	37	32	34	32	37	254
Catholics on roll	15	22	16	26	22	16	24	23	163
Other Christian denomination		5	2	3	4	12	5	9	41
Other faith background		1	2			1			4
No stated religious affiliation	6	7	6	8	6	5	3	5	46
Number of learners from ethnic groups		1	2			1			4
Total on SEN Register			4	8	5	2	4	5	28
Total with Statements of SEN									
FSM		10	8	11	13	14	16	18	90

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent		Fixed term	4
Index of multiple deprivation				

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Joseph	254

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
St Mary's College	20

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours)	1.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	19

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	14
Part-time teachers	2
Total full-time equivalent	14
Support assistants	13
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	43%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	14
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	3
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	4

NAME OF SCHOOL	
St Joseph's Catholic Primary	
Published admission number	45
Number of classes	13
Average class size KS1	20
Average class size KS2	20

FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2014/15	Current financial year 2015/16	Next financial year 2016/17
RE	£3679.10	£3708.64	
English	£4792.85	£1762.25	
Mathematics	£969.91	£400	
Science	£711.07	£490	

S48 Report

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS	2
<p>The outcomes for pupils are good with many outstanding features. The inspectors spoke to the members of School Council, who were able to express their own views and beliefs with confidence. They are beginning to take on responsibility in developing the Catholic Life of the school beyond the classroom. An example of this is the work they did in highlighting the evils of bullying and the enthusiasm they expressed in seeking ways to support those less fortunate than themselves. The pupils recognise that there has been a significant improvement in pupil behaviour, they feel safe and are confident that bullying will not be tolerated.</p> <p>All pupils were fully involved in creating the new school Mission Statement which is featured around the school. The contributions of pupils are all valued and displayed in their Mission Statement books. When asked the purpose of the Mission Statement one pupil replied "it's our goal, it is something we have to achieve."</p> <p>Standards in Religious Education are good and pupils' achievements are evidenced by their work in books and through numerous other activities and events. These are scrutinised by the Leadership Team as part of the annual monitoring procedure, as well as completing lesson observations. This year the school has developed assessment and tracking systems to provide more robust analysis of pupil progress and attainment. These include planned half-termly assessments against identified attainment targets together with assessment against "I Can" statements for all pupils for each strand of the attainment targets. Assessment recording sheets are completed at the end of each topic</p> <p>Pupils help to plan Collective Worship sessions. They are able to do this with increasing independence towards the upper end of Key Stage Two. They have a sense of pride and ownership towards these sessions. 'Stay and Pray' sessions provide lovely opportunities for children, staff and parents to worship together and to develop their faith. These are welcomed by the parents. The introduction of the Angelus across all year groups has been particularly successful. Pupils from early years upwards thoroughly enjoy and engage well in the Angelus through both song and prayer at age appropriate levels.</p>	
LEADERS AND MANAGERS	2
<p>The leaders and governors of the school are fully committed to the Church's mission in education. They have an excellent understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development.</p> <p>The energetic and dedicated Headteacher, appointed two years ago, leads a highly motivated leadership team, which includes the Religious Education subject leader. Together, they strive to inspire and motivate all to ensure that every child has access to the best possible learning opportunities. The staff fully support the ethos of the school and work extremely hard to ensure children have access to good quality lessons.</p> <p>The Religious Education action plan forms an integral part of the school improvement plan and helps to support the vision and direction of the school. This is reviewed and evaluated at every meeting of the full Governing Body.</p> <p>The Governing Body shows its commitment to all aspects of school life by keeping itself fully informed about what is happening in the school and by keeping up to date with changes in legislation and guidance information. The majority of the governors are also parishioners. In discussion with the inspectors, the governors stated that in the last two years there has been a dramatic improvement in the links between the school and the parish, which they believe is a result of the high</p>	

intention and intelligent direction of the Headteacher's leadership.

School leaders have worked hard to improve the provision for Collective Worship and pupils have a much clearer understanding of both liturgy and worship. The school has identified the 'Creative Curriculum' as an area for development for this year and has planned for the appropriate training and resources to be in place to ensure quality provision.

Questionnaires returned by parents show that the vast majority of children enjoy attending the school with ninety eight percent of questionnaires indicating that parents are happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches. It is clear from the answers given by parents that they fully support the Mission Statement of the school.

PROVISION	2
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Teaching observed by the inspectors was effective in enabling pupils to make good progress as learners. Teachers are aware of their pupils' abilities and have a good subject knowledge which challenges most pupils and contributes to their good progress. The pupils value and respond to feedback both orally and through written responses. Lessons observed made effective use of time and all had good pace but differentiation was often limited to outcome. Inspectors saw a range of teaching styles and activities. The school is making good and interesting use of iPads for recording pupils' work and other activities. The use of questioning during lessons, to develop pupils' ideas, was generally good with some outstanding features. However, in some instances, there was an over-reliance on closed or limiting questions.

Collaboration within the cluster of Wallasey Catholic schools has provided opportunities for the sharing of good practice, including moderation and assessment, as well as the development of a shared resource base which is accessed by all schools.

The introduction of Sunday Family Masses on the 1st Sunday of each month and class masses have been particularly successful in encouraging families to become more involved in the Mass, including promoting the involvement of pupils and staff in the Sunday Mass. This has resulted in an increase in families attending Sunday Mass and participation in activities led by the parish outreach team including "Messy Church" and Children's Liturgy.

Changes made to the Sacramental Preparation Programme two years for children and their families have been particularly successful. Families now attend five sessions jointly led by school and Parish Catechists to support their child's preparation for First Forgiveness and Holy Communion. These sessions encourage the involvement of children alongside their parents through reflective and interesting activities and periods of personal reflection. The impact of these activities can be seen in the knowledge shared by the children and their parents, as well as in the very positive feedback received.

The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school is very good. Each classroom has a focal point for a display relating to the current topic. These are all well-presented and many include the pupils' own work. From discussion with pupils it was clear they enjoy and respond to the responsibility of planning and leading Collective Worship and prayer, and value the opportunities provided. They are aware of the importance of prayer and that there are different ways to pray, such as singing, quiet prayer, meditation, praying together in class, as well as their own private prayers. They understand that prayer is important in our relationship with God and how Jesus taught us to pray.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	2
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St Joseph's is a good Catholic Primary School with some outstanding features. The school is

committed to providing a high quality Catholic education that enables pupils to achieve a feeling of self-worth and identity. The welcoming environment and care given to displaying the work of pupils demonstrates that pupils are valued and their efforts acknowledged.

The governors and staff are committed to the Catholic mission of the school and excellent relationships exist between staff, pupils, parents and the wider community of the parish.

The governors and leaders shared vision and understanding of the school is evidenced by the clarity and vision of the school's Self Evaluation and School Improvement Plan. These include clear and explicit action points to move provision within the school from good to outstanding.

The school's capacity for sustained improvement is very good.

All the targets from the last inspection have been met.

What the school could do to improve further

- To ensure teaching is consistently highly effective and challenging across all year groups by the development of more open questioning and extending the use of creative learning opportunities in RE.
- To develop the role of Mini Vinnies within the school so that pupils can extend their role in fund-raising and supporting needs within the local community and further strengthen the links with the parish.

Parents' Questionnaires
44 Parents returned questionnaires

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	33	9	2	0	0
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	29	14	0	0	1
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	31	12	1	0	1
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	18	22	3	0	1
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	19	20	3	0	2
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	23	18	0	0	3
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	19	19	2	0	

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	32	4	1
2	I learn new things in R E lessons.	33	4	0
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	34	2	1
4	I have to work hard.	35	2	0
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	31	6	0
6	My teacher listens to me.	34	3	0
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	36	1	0
8	I get praise when I do my best.	34	3	0
9	Other children are kind and behave well	30	7	0
10	I am happy on the playground.	32	4	1
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	34	3	0
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	35	2	0

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	17	18	0
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	25	10	0
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting ?	19	16	0
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	27	7	1
5	Do you have to work hard?	26	9	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	32	2	1
7	Do other children behave well?	15	17	3
8	Are teachers fair to you?	28	7	0
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	25	8	2
10	Are you given responsibility?	20	12	3
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	24	11	0