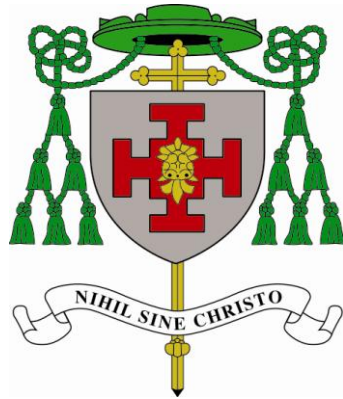


# DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY

## DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

*...committed to encouraging 'fullness of life'*



### **SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:**

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

School:	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Woodchurch Road Prenton CH43 5UT
Tel No:	0151 652 6781
URN:	105092
Headteacher:	Mr S Dainty
Chair of Governors:	Mrs A Roberts
Date of Inspection:	14 February 2011
Inspectors:	Mrs E Inman Mr K Toms Mrs A Cassidy

# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## OUR SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT.

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

- *Building skills for life with enjoyment and high expectations.*
- *Creating a happy and secure and caring place to learn.*
- *Fostering respect between ourselves and the world we live in.*
- *Teaching the Catholic faith through example and prayer.*

Where all are welcome.

## 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	52	60	59	59	60	57	58	60	465
Catholics on roll	41	48	47	47	53	55	51	57	399
Other Christian denomination	3	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	11
Other faith background	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
No stated religious affiliation	8	12	10	9	5	0	5	3	52
Number of learners from ethnic groups	5	2	6	4	3	3	1	1	25
Total on SEN Register	0	1	6	9	13	8	10	8	55
Total with Statements of SEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FSM	0	3	8	11	5	6	11	10	54

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	FSM 13%			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St. Joseph's Birkenhead	289
Holy Name of Jesus Oxtou	84
Other Parishes	95

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
St. John Plessington	34
St. Anselm's College	8
Upton Hall School	9

TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total teaching time (Hours)	15	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	Excluding breaks and assemblies

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	12
Part-time teachers	9
Total full-time equivalent	16.4
Support assistants f.t.e.	11.5
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	76
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	94
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	13
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

NAME OF SCHOOL	
Published admission number	60
Number of classes	16
Average class size KS1	30
Average class size KS2	30

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2008/09	Current financial year 2009/10	Next financial year 2010/11
RE	1600	2500	4000
English	1400	2200	2000
Mathematics	1600	1800	2000
Science	1000	800	1000

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
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<b>OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL</b>	<b>2</b>
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**How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education**

St Joseph's is a good Catholic Primary school with elements of outstanding practice. Outcomes for pupils, the provision for pupils and the school's capacity for sustained improvement are good. The community enjoys strong, positive, affirming relationships; these are a significant feature of the school where faith is lived out and the mission of the church is promoted. As one parent wrote, "The staff in the school are always available to speak to me about anything I need to discuss with them no matter how small it may seem."

**What the school could do to improve further**

- Develop knowledge and understanding of expectations at each level in both Revelation and Church by assessing and moderating work collaboratively.
- Use monitoring information to analyse and evaluate outcomes for all groups of pupils in order to plan improvement and raise attainment.

<b>PUPILS</b>	<b>2</b>
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**How good outcomes are for pupils, taking account of variations between different groups.**

The pupils are very proud of their school and are wholehearted in their praise. Members of the School Council spoke enthusiastically of their involvement in renewing the Mission Statement. They felt there was little they wanted to change about their school and enjoyed the variety of work they did in RE lessons. The pupils benefit from the teaching and support of a committed staff of high calibre who put them at the heart of all they do.

The pupils are interested and engaged in their learning and their attentiveness during lessons is excellent. The assessment data gathered by the school shows that they make good progress in Religious Education during their time at St Joseph's. The work seen in the pupils' books on the day of the inspection was, however, limited and generally did not reflect their learning of Scripture and Church teaching, being predominantly focused on their current experience, explored at the beginning of each topic. These articulate, interested pupils have the capacity to talk about their learning in Religious Education and giving relevant, developmental feedback will enable them to do so. A more systematic analysis of data would help considerably to support the generation of hypotheses about the progress of all groups of pupils and action to be planned in order to raise standards of attainment.

The pupils enjoy the opportunities that they are offered to take on responsibilities in the school. The School Council meets regularly and has a voice in school decisions. They contributed to the review of the school's Mission Statement. Play leaders and pupil mid-day helpers are very caring and contribute to the nurturing, family ethos of the school in addition to other roles that they are encouraged to engage in such as Librarians and Special Friends. Pupils are well mannered and polite. They are well placed to continue their development of a greater leadership role, both in the prayer life of the school and as drivers of their own learning in Religious Education.

Pupils participate in the Catholic life of the school. They understand that religious belief and spiritual values are important for many people. The pupils spoke confidently about the importance they attached to belonging to a Catholic primary school and the influence it had on their daily lives. They are considerate to others and caring, demonstrated by their support for Wisdom Primary school in Nigeria as well as what they do for each other in school and in their local community. The pupils behave with reverence during times of prayer; they have the capacity to take on the planning and leadership of collective worship.

<b>PROVISION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>How effective the provision is for Catholic Education</b>	
<p>All the staff at St Joseph's Catholic primary school demonstrate a commitment to the provision of a good Catholic education and they aspire to improve further. Lessons observed during the day of the inspection were generally good or better. The more successful lessons were characterised by a clear understanding on the part of the teacher and the pupils of what was being taught and learned, and the children knew what they needed to do to improve. In these lessons, good questioning, accompanied by time to think, to which they are well accustomed, enabled all pupils to engage and make progress. The school is aware that it needs to ensure that children have opportunities to produce more independent work with a focus on Revelation and Church teaching. The marking of pupils' work confirms that teachers and pupils are not always clear about the learning intention of the planned activity. The Religious Education team, which includes senior leaders, governors and clergy, is already aware that work needs to be done in this area and plans to involve teaching staff in the moderation of assessed work so that clear progression and challenge is planned for. In order to ensure that all pupils are achieving as well as possible, they would benefit from analysis of the progress that they are making.</p> <p>The school works well in partnership with neighbouring Catholic schools to reflect on the Religious Education curriculum and to plan ways of enriching and improving the provision. All staff, teaching and support staff, gather at the start of each new topic in Religious Education to reflect upon the theme to be taught.</p> <p>The school offers a variety of opportunities for worship, from whole school gatherings to class Masses and prayer in class. The pupils are very attentive and have the potential to take a greater role in planning and leading worship. The clergy from both parishes visit school regularly and support the prayer life of the school. Year Six attend a retreat. The RE co-ordinator offers voluntary prayer groups for pupils during Advent and Lent and the school is very pleased that their plans for a quiet, prayerful space are coming to fruition.</p>	

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic Life of the school</b>	
<p>The leadership and management team is committed and dedicated to the development of quality Catholic education in St Joseph's Catholic Primary school. The positive relationships within the school, amongst pupils, amongst staff and between pupils and staff and parents and staff seen during the inspection, are a direct outcome of this strong leadership and vision.</p> <p>Since the last inspection the school has made progress in the monitoring of Religious Education and the Catholic life of the school. As the school gathers more information and data it is well placed to use this to evaluate and analyse outcomes for all groups of pupils in order to identify priorities for development. A very strong, supportive Governing Body has the capacity to challenge the impact of the school's monitoring and evaluation of the Catholic life of the school and on standards in Religious Education in order to promote continued, focused improvement. Membership of the Governing Body is representative of both parishes, St Joseph's and Holy Name of Jesus.</p> <p>Strong partnerships, both local and global, are a key feature of St Joseph's Catholic Primary. In addition to the very positive relationships within the local Catholic community, schools and parishes, the leadership team ensures that the school is involved with the local community and its schools, taking full part in sporting opportunities as well as currently hosting Wirral Gymnastics Club. St Joseph's has also worked closely with neighbouring community schools on joint projects such as an anti-bullying campaign. The development of support for Wisdom primary school in Nigeria enables pupils to identify with the global dimension of our faith.</p> <p>St Joseph's in an inclusive community which strives to ensure that all really are welcome. An Inclusion Manager supports the more vulnerable pupils. Parents know that they are valued and their opinions will be heard and acted upon whenever possible.</p>	

## INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Key to judgements: Grade 1 = outstanding, grade 2 = good, grade 3 = satisfactory and grade 4 = inadequate	Judgement
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<b><u>OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL</u></b>	
How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education	<b>2</b>
How good outcomes are for pupils, taking particular account of variations between different groups	2
How effective the provision is in promoting Catholic education	2
How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school	1
The school's capacity for sustained improvement	2

<b><u>PUPILS</u></b>	
How good outcomes are for pupils, taking into account of variations between different groups	<b>2</b>
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	
• <i>The quality of pupils' learning and their progress</i>	2
• <i>The quality of learning for pupils with particular learning needs and/or disabilities</i>	2
• <i>Pupils standards of attainment in Religious Education</i>	2
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school	2
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's collective worship	2

<b><u>PROVISION</u></b>	
How effective the provision is for Catholic Education	<b>2</b>
The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education	2
The effectiveness of assessment and academic guidance in Religious Education	3
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum meets pupils needs following Bishops Conference policy and Diocesan requirements	2
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school	2

<b><u>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</u></b>	
How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school	<b>1</b>
How well leaders and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school and plan for improvement to outcomes for pupils.	2
How well leaders and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan for improvement to outcomes for all pupils	2
The extent to which the governing body provides effective challenge and support for the Catholic dimension of the school so that areas for development are tackled decisively and statutory and canonical responsibilities are met	1
How well leaders and managers develop partnerships with parents / carers and other providers, organisations and services to promote Catholic learning and pupil well-being	1
How effectively leaders and managers promote community cohesion	1

## PARENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

**Number of questionnaires distributed:** Every child

**Number of questionnaires returned** 148

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	108	38	2		
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	110	37		1	
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	111	35	1		1
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	79	60	2	1	6
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	94	52	1		1
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	99	45	1		3
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	77	58	6		7

### **Year 2 Pupils Questionnaire. Completed by 57 pupils**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	49	7	1
2	I learn new things in Here I Am lessons.	44	13	
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	49	8	
4	I have to work hard.	54	3	
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	44	12	1
6	My teacher listens to me.	50	7	
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to	47	9	1
8	I get praise when I do my best.	42	15	
9	Other children are kind and behave well	24	31	2
10	I am happy on the playground.	38	16	3
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	39	17	1
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	55	2	

### **Year 6 Pupils Questionnaire . Completed by 55 pupils**

		Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	37	13	4	1
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	23	29	3	
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting ?	17	20	15	3
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	37	12	6	
5	Do you have to work hard?	20	25	10	
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	39	8	8	
7	Do other children behave well?	10	29	14	2
8	Are teachers fair to you?	40	11	4	
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	28	18	8	1
10	Are you given responsibility?	33	11	11	
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	29	12	8	5