



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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# REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

School:	St Margaret Ward Catholic Primary School
Address:	Cherry Lane Sale M33 4GY
Tel No:	0161 969 9852
URN:	106359
Headteacher:	Mr A Ratchford
Chair of Governors:	Miss A Risdon
Date of Inspection:	7 November 2014
Inspector:	Mrs R Hedger

St Margaret Ward Catholic Primary School continues to provide an outstanding and effective Catholic education. The school provides a warm, friendly and welcoming environment with the Mission Statement firmly at the heart of the school.

The leadership of the school is outstanding. The focussed and dedicated Headteacher leads a highly motivated and energetic leadership team, which includes the Religious Education subject leader. The Parish Priest, governors and staff are equally committed to the values of the school and share the Catholic vision.

Since the last inspection, the school has successfully introduced the Diocesan scheme of work for Religious Education called 'The Way, The Truth and The Life'; has strengthened monitoring and assessment procedures; has appointed a link governor for Religious Education; and has placed real value on Collective Worship, where Christ is at the centre of all the school does.

Collective Worship had been identified as a focus for development by the leadership team who carefully planned the training, resources and introduction of Collective Worship to be timetabled in class each week. The aim was to give the children a real voice in planning, leading and evaluating worship. The Inspector observed a Collective Worship session prepared and led by children from Years 4 and 5. They began with the story from the Gospel of Jesus calming the storm. The standard of organisation, the mood setting, the use of resources, the content of the reflections, the responses from the children and the depth of understanding were outstanding. A group of children encouraged the participants to meditate and reflect on the Gospel reading and consider how the message impacts on our lives today.

During the learning walk, the inspector visited every class. In each class, there was evidence of high standards of teaching and learning. In the "Booster Class" the Inspector was able to participate in the quiet meditation prior to the start of the lesson. Evidence of outstanding provision could be found in the children's books; in the quality of displays around the classrooms and in the high regard given to the children's work from 'The Way, The Truth and The Life'; in the conversations between the children and their teachers; and in the teachers' planning notes, which included clear differentiation based on previous assessments. In one lesson the class teacher was talking about feelings and about how Mary felt when the angel asked her to be the mother of Jesus. The discussion focussed mainly on Mary, but one pupil said he thought that the Angel must have been very nervous about bringing the message from God. He even speculated about how the angel would have felt if Mary had said 'no'.

In discussion with the pupils, the Inspector was told about the school's commitment to Fairtrade. In 2008, the school was recognised as a Fairtrade school and has this year achieved the new Fair Achiever status, which recognises that the school has fully embedded Fairtrade into their daily lives and works to raise awareness of Fairtrade in the local community. The pupils organise and run Fairtrade stall and events at parents' evenings, school events and after Mass at the weekend.

This term the school introduced a weekly prayer group, which children may attend at lunch time on a voluntary basis. The number of children attending is steadily growing and when asked why, the children said they valued "a quiet time to talk and listen to Jesus".

## **Areas of Outstanding Practice**

### **Outcomes for pupils**

Standards in Religious Education are outstanding and pupil's achievements are evidenced through numerous activities and events, in addition to work in books. These are scrutinised by the Leadership Team as part of the annual monitoring procedure, as well as completing lesson observation and evaluative learning walks.

## **Leaders Governors and Managers**

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. Many of the governors are also parishioners and help in the organisation of family events, involving both school and church, to enhance the Catholic life of the community.

## **Provision**

Collective Worship is outstanding and is the result of high intention and intelligent direction. The skilful introduction of class Collective Worship boxes has aided and supported pupils in preparing and leading their own classes in prayer and liturgy.