



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School
Address: Rossall Grove
Little Sutton
Ellesmere Port
Cheshire
CH66 1NN

Tel No: 0151 338 2430

URN: 111357

Headteacher: Mr R Hughes

Chair of Governors: Mrs C Winterburn

Date of Inspection: 23 June 2016

Inspectors: Mrs E Robb
Mr P Sharp



St Mary
of the Angels

Love Jesus,
Love Learning,
Love Life



FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		28	30	27	29	30	29	28	201
Catholics on roll		16	20	17	26	25	16	23	143
Other Christian denomination		7	4	2	1	3	6	3	26
Other faith background				1					1
No stated religious affiliation		5	6	7	2	2	7	2	31
Number of learners from ethnic groups		3	3	2	3	1	4	1	17
Total on SEN Register		0	5	6	5	4	2	6	28
Total with Statements of SEN		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
FSM		3	1	1	0	2	1	4	12

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	Many of our children live within the 10% -20% most deprived area which adjoins the school boundary.			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St Mary of the Angels	130
St Saviours	13
Other (non RC)	58

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
Ellesmere Port Catholic high	26
St Anselms	1

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week		2 hr 40m	2 hr 40m	2 hr 40	3hr	3hr	3hr	3hr	

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	8
Part-time teachers	0
Total full-time equivalent	8
Support assistants	10 (5.4 FTE)
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	75%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	8
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	5
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

NAME OF SCHOOL	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	29
Average class size KS2	29

FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2014/2015	Current financial year 2015/2016	Next financial year 2016/2017
RE	4621	6362.77	6633
English	4040	4735.35	1818
Mathematics	2033	3190.97	4479
Science	612	720.16	706

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
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OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS	1
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St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School provides outstanding Catholic education. The belief in, and response to the changed Mission Statement are significant factors in this outstanding school. There is total commitment to living out the Mission Statement in all areas of school life, linked with parish and community. The children are fully aware of the significance and relevance of the simplified but profound meaning of their Mission Statement; “Love Jesus. Love learning. Love life.”

From their earliest years, the children at St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School experience what it means to “Love Jesus, Love learning, Love life” and subsequent years build on these firm foundations. Baseline assessments in Religious Education show that an overwhelming majority of children come to school with very little knowledge of Catholic traditions and of any Gospel stories. As a result of very good teaching and learning experiences, the children make rapid progress and their attainment at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 indicate standards at or above the national average.

Children are happy, hardworking and enjoy school. They work well in teams to develop their own Collective Worship; even the youngest children, in Early Years, make up their own prayers and share these confidently with others. The children have access to a wealth of spiritual experiences, retreats to Pantasaph, reflection and study of Our Lady of Lourdes, Stations of the Cross, Benediction, shared Masses with parishioners, as well as regularly celebrating Mass in school. Children are aware of and understand the importance of key celebrations throughout the liturgical year.

Links with the parish are exceptionally strong; parish, school and community relationships are a key feature of this school. The Parish Priest and Parish Deacon give a high priority to bringing these elements together, and, along with the tireless work of staff, led by the inspirational Headteacher, a highly successful school community has been established.

The children’s behaviour is excellent. They take responsibility for their own actions and volunteer as Play Leaders helping younger children at lunch time. Children are polite, extremely well-mannered and keen to help and look after each other.

Children make very good progress in Religious Education and attain highly compared to their starting points. They display an excellent attitude to work during Religious Education lessons. They are respectful and reverent during times of Collective Worship. They are aware of the importance of prayer and that there are different ways to pray. They are comfortable praying either on their own or with their class or school community. They speak confidently about all aspects of their Religious Education work. Comments in children’s Religious Education books indicate they have a good grasp of the topics taught and relevant questions and remarks support the children’s next steps in their learning. Lesson observation records show a continued focus on the raising of standards for all children in Religious Education.

The provision for Religious Education securely meets the Diocesan requirements.

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	1
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The Headteacher has a clear vision for the school which is shared by all involved in the school, parish and community of St Mary of the Angels. The Headteacher is well-supported by his governors, management team, hardworking and committed staff and the dedication and support of both the Parish Priest and the Parish Deacon. All ensure that the school is providing the best possible Catholic education for all children and this is communicated to the whole school community. Consequently, leadership and management are outstanding.

The governors are proud of their school and rightly so. They visit school often and provide effective challenge, whilst supporting the school leadership wholeheartedly. The appointment of a Parish Governor illustrates their commitment to promoting Catholic education further within the school and within the parish community. The “Meet and Greet” sessions for parents each morning are supported by the Religious Education Governor and Deacon, enhancing the evangelical role of the school.

The robust systems in place ensure that governors regularly monitor and evaluate the quality of provision and the Catholic life of the school. They review the Religious Education Improvement Plan at every governors’ meeting. These meetings are attended by the Religious Education Subject Leader, who is available to clarify or explain any questions arising from the plan or from the Subject Leader Report. The pastoral life of the school is also monitored in a similar way. This excellent self-evaluation process ensures that the governors have a sound knowledge of the many strengths of the school as well as the areas to address for further improvement.

The governors attend Diocesan termly meetings and Diocesan training courses, such as training for Foundation Governors. This enables the governors to be skilled in their roles in supporting the Catholic life of the school.

PROVISION	1
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The Religious Education provision fully meets the requirements of the Bishops’ Conference. The implementation of the Assessment for Learning policy ensures children can learn independently and understand how to improve in their Religious Education journey. In the lessons observed teaching was at least good with some outstanding features. Lessons are well planned, differentiated and engage the children. The learning environment is exciting, stimulating and well-organised with music used to very good effect. There are prayer focal points in the classrooms which provide children with resources to experience prayer and reflection. Suites of ipads are used across the school to assist children in research, to read Gospel stories and to develop their Religious Education work through interactive apps. Through observation and scrutiny of Collective Worship record books, it is clear that the children are becoming increasingly reflective and confident in how to explore their spirituality. Pupil outcomes are tracked carefully and consistently across the school to ensure that progress is made by all children. All needs are catered for, from providing scaffolding for those children who require this support, to providing challenge for the more able.

The dedicated, hard working teachers and teaching assistants have access to quality training opportunities which enable them to continually improve the provision for all children. All strive for high expectations. The Diocesan scheme of work for Religious Education, ‘The Way, the Truth and the Life’ is fully implemented and school is looking at ways in which they can enrich the provision further through developing a more creative approach to teaching Religious Education.

There are many aspects of global issues covered in this school. For example, the use of the Local Authority’s multicultural service to provide resources for Judaism and Islam, regular Tanzanian visitors, a Spanish exchange trip to Pamplona, retreats and trips to Pantasaph; all providing children with experiences which enrich further their educational provision, and develops their understanding of and respect for, other beliefs and cultures. The children are very generous in their fundraising activities and support many agencies such as CAFOD, Mission Together and Junior Diabetes.

The children enjoy their Religious Education lessons and attending Mass. They are happy in school and know that they can always go to an adult if they are worried or upset. The School Council meets every week. Children are listened to when they make suggestions and consequently feel valued. The parents support the school in many ways and have a great respect and appreciation for all the school does to educate their children.

The school provides outstanding provision for all of the pupils.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	1
<p>St Mary of the Angels provides outstanding Catholic education. The response to, and the understanding of, the changed Mission Statement is at the heart of the daily work and life of the school. An outstanding feature of this school is the strength of relationships throughout the community. The Parish Priest and the Deacon contribute greatly to this. The governors, the Headteacher, the Religious Education Subject Lead Teacher, members of the senior management team and all staff work extremely hard to promote and live the Catholic faith; hence the Mission Statement underpins all the school sets out to achieve.</p> <p>In conclusion, it is apparent that Religious Education underpins all that St Mary of the Angels aspires to achieve. The Gospel values are clearly demonstrated in the daily life of the school. St Mary of the Angels provides an exemplar of outstanding practice where the school, parish and community work in unison.</p> <p>What the school could do to improve further</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to review and develop creative approaches in the teaching of Religious Education, so as to improve and further enrich teaching and learning experiences. 	

Parents' Questionnaires

62 Parents returned questionnaires

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	42	20	0	0	0
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	52	10	0	0	0
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	53	9	0	0	0
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	39	21	0	0	2
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	38	24	0	0	0
6	The school enables my children to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	44	18	0	0	0
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	34	25	2	0	1

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	27	0	0
2	I learn new things in Religious Education lessons.	27	0	0
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	27	0	0
4	I have to work hard.	27	0	0
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	25	2	0
6	My teacher listens to me.	25	2	0
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	23	4	0
8	I get praise when I do my best.	24	3	0
9	Other children are kind and behave well	25	2	0
10	I am happy on the playground.	22	5	0
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	26	1	0
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	27	0	0

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	26	0	0
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	23	3	0
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	19	7	0
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	25	1	0
5	Do you have to work hard?	27	0	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	24	2	0
7	Do other children behave well?	24	2	0
8	Are teachers fair to you?	24	2	0
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	22	4	0
10	Are you given responsibility?	23	3	0
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	23	3	0