



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Monica's Catholic Primary School
Address: St Monica's Close
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 3AW

Tel No: 01925 267609

URN: 111322

Headteacher: Mrs A Norman

Chair of Governors: Mrs L Barker

Date of Inspection: 31 October 2017

Inspectors: Mrs E Robb
Mrs M Bulmer

Vision and Mission Statements

Loving to Learn, Learning to Love like Jesus.

The aims of the school are summed up in our acrostic prayer:

Share and love one another
Together work to be like Jesus

Make people smile
Only teamwork can make dreams happen
Never stop trying
Include everyone in all we do
Care for others around the world
Aim to be the best we can be

The staff, governors and parents of the school pledge to promote the Mission of the school through our actions and prayers. Please see the Mission Pledges powerpoint on the web site.



St. Monica pray for us.

FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		25	28	30	29	31	31	28	202
Catholics on roll		21	23	25	23	28	24	18	162
Other Christian denomination		4	3	2	4	1	6	5	25
Other faith background								1	1
No stated religious affiliation		4	2	3	2	2	1	4	18
Number of learners from ethnic groups		6	2	3	3	3	3	1	21
Total on SEN Register		2	0	1	4	5	5	4	21
Total with Statements/EHC plans or High Needs Medical Funding		2	0	1	2	1	2	2	10
FSM						2		2	4
Pupil Premium		1		1	2	3	6	4	17

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent		Fixed term	3 days
Index of multiple deprivation	8			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St. Monica's Appleton	202

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
Cardinal Newman Catholic High School	3
Loreto Catholic Grammar School	1
St. Nicholas Catholic High School	2
St. Ambrose Catholic Grammar School	0
Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College	1
St. Gregory's Catholic High School	1

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week		2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	17.5

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	6
Part-time teachers	4
Total full-time equivalent	8
Support assistants	11
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	81
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	8
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	4
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

NAME OF SCHOOL	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	28.5
Average class size KS2	29.25

FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Financial Year 2015/16	Financial Year 2016/17	Financial Year 2017/18
RE	603	1255	212
English	924	5187	
Mathematics	143	1600	
Science	56		

Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate	Judgement
---	------------------

OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS	1
<p>Children attending St Monica’s school experience exciting and varied opportunities to ensure that their needs are catered for from Early Years until they leave in Year 6. They are introduced to the Mission Statement: ‘Loving to Learn, Learning to Love like Jesus’, and as they journey through school they become aware of its significance, meaning and impact.</p> <p>On entering school children are involved in baseline assessments, which indicate that many of the children come to school with very little knowledge of Catholic traditions and of any Gospel stories. As a result of these assessments targets are set. These are monitored throughout the year, and the school gives the children the best possible chance of making good progress.</p> <p>Through teacher assessments, scrutiny of work and lesson observations, the children are monitored and supported appropriately. In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 the majority of children make good progress; where underachievement is identified appropriate support is provided. Attainment is at least good, with some children working at above age related expectations.</p> <p>The school fulfils its role in providing for those children whose experience of Catholic faith is limited, bringing the children from a basic starting point to achieving well.</p> <p>The children are happy, hardworking and enjoy school. They particularly enjoy planning, preparing and participating in all acts of Collective Worship. They are reverent and respectful, and often surprise their teachers in their responses which can be deep, thought provoking and full of awe and wonder. This is a strength of the school.</p> <p>In the Collective Worship observed, skillfully led by the Headteacher, the children participated with reverence and enthusiasm through prayer, discussion and song. The children were familiar with prayers and Mass responses.</p> <p>Children know that their views are respected and listened to through the work of the Pupil Voice. They are proud of their fundraising activities and help to support local, national and global charities, for example: a sponsored Santa Skipping event, involvement in a homeless charity in Liverpool, shoes and coats for Syrian refugees, Mission Together and Cafod, to mention just a few. They talk easily and confidently about their school. The children told the Inspectors that they feel safe in school, enjoy responsibility and particularly enjoy the way in which their teachers make learning fun. They know that the teachers will always help them when they experience difficulties, are upset or worried.</p>	

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	2
<p>Leaders and managers are fully committed to the Catholic Mission of the school.</p> <p>There are outstanding features in the leadership and management of this school. The Headteacher, who is also the Religious Education Leader, provides vision and direction firmly rooted in the mission statement and Gospel values. Her dedication to promoting the success of this school is exemplary.</p> <p>She encourages, supports and challenges Staff to improve teaching and learning in Religious Education and her enthusiasm impacts positively upon standards in the school.</p> <p>There is a commitment to develop further a distributive leadership structure, which will support and encourage others to assume more responsibility.</p> <p>The Headteacher, Governors and Staff monitor and evaluate the Religious Education curriculum through lesson observations, scrutiny of work, assessment and tracking. These actions ensure that</p>	

all are fully aware of strengths and areas for development.

The Headteacher/ Religious Education Leader produces an annual report which identifies the areas for development to be included in the School Development Plan.

Appropriate training and induction procedures are available for Staff, for example: the Diocesan Induction programme for Newly Qualified Teachers.

The Chair of Governors, who is also the Religious Education Governor, works alongside the Headteacher/ Religious Education Leader to review policies and developments in the Catholic life of the school. The development of the creative curriculum continues to have an impact on teaching and learning, and training for new members of staff is planned.

Leaders and Managers are committed to ensuring the high profile of the Catholic character of the school. The Governors regularly attend Masses where children are present and comment on the improvement in children's responses during these Masses. The use of Music during Masses and Acts of Collective Worship provides opportunities for children to be reflective and prayerful.

Questionnaires returned by parents indicate strong support for the Headteacher and Staff. The Headteacher works with Parents and Governors to develop and create opportunities to strengthen the partnership of school, home and parish.

Parents are welcome into the school and their opinions listened to. They have approached school with ideas for charitable events and have influenced changes to the Sacramental Programme through a Parent Survey. As a result, variations to the celebration of the Sacraments were implemented, as well as changes to the meetings. Also a newly restructured Religious Education Newsletter provides information to parents.

From questionnaires received it is obvious that parents are very supportive of the school, the Headteacher and her Staff.

A few comments made by parents:

The Headteacher, "is an exemplary headteacher, her love and passion for what she does shines out of her"

"...her staff are fabulous too and live their values everyday"

"My daughter went through the Sacrament of the Eucharist programme last year - this was thoughtfully done and she developed in her understanding and her faith"

(Parental Questionnaires 2017)

PROVISION	2
<p>The Religious Education provision fully meets the requirements of the Bishops' Conference. Areas relating to the last inspection have been addressed.</p> <p>Assessment is used effectively to record pupil attainment, to inform future planning and identify children who require additional support. Accuracy in assessment procedures has been strengthened through moderation meetings with Diocesan schools in Warrington.</p> <p>Lessons are well planned. Skillful questioning in lessons engages, supports and challenges pupils; encouraging empathy, reflection and thoughtful discussion.</p> <p>Teaching across the school is good with outstanding features, and there is a strong commitment to make all teaching even more effective.</p>	

The children are polite, friendly and very courteous. Their behaviour is excellent. The children take pride in their Religious Education books. Marking relates to the Religious Education objective and children are encouraged to respond to comments made in their books by their teachers. Through the use of group self assessment charts the children are encouraged to assess their own progress.

All Staff work hard to ensure that the children enjoy their Religious Education lessons. They benefit greatly from the range of resources and enrichment activities available to them, especially the effective use of Information Technology. The inclusive ethos of the school ensures that all children have access to appropriate resources, especially those children who experience considerable difficulties.

Teaching Assistants and other adults are valued and are deployed effectively to provide help and support appropriately.

Collective Worship is outstanding. The children are encouraged to plan, prepare and deliver meaningful Acts of Worship. There is a Liturgy Group which is responsible for choosing music and display for whole school worship. They assist and support the younger children in preparing their Acts of Worship.

The children are encouraged to evaluate Worship in school through Pupil Voice lessons. Planning for spiritual and moral development, prayer and the liturgical life of the school is undertaken conscientiously. 'The Statements To Live By' programme is particularly valuable in supporting the children's engagement in reflection and prayer, as well as considerations in moral issues.

It is part of the school's ethos to ensure that all children can engage in Collective Worship. Staff are skilled in providing appropriate resources to this effect, for example artefacts and braille information are provided for a blind child.

The Parish Priest visits school regularly and the children enjoy attending Mass on a Friday morning. They also enjoy participating in, for example, the Nativity and Passion plays which help children to engage, reflect and understand the significance of these Liturgical celebrations.

The renewing of the Mission Statement in 2015/16 established a commitment to the mission of the school and the resulting pledges indicate the personal commitment from children, staff, governors and parents.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	2
------------------------------	----------

The Inspectors agree with the school's self evaluation that St Monica's is a good school with outstanding features. For example, Collective Worship is outstanding and the school's commitment to inclusivity is also outstanding.

This school is a good example of a Catholic school rooted in the Gospel values. The school has the capacity to improve further, driving standards upwards with an emphasis on the school's Catholic mission.

These are exciting times for St Monica's. There is energy and there is resolve to continue this successful journey.

What the school could do to improve further:

- Continue to develop a distributive leadership structure supported by the Governors.
- Continue to develop the creative curriculum
- Continue the excellent work in promoting the Catholic values and ethos

Parents' Questionnaires
42 Parents returned questionnaires

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	32	9	1	0	0
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	37	5	0	0	0
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	34	7	1	0	0
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	30	10	0	1	1
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	27	14	0	0	1
6	The school enables my children to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	31	8	0	0	3
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	26	13	1	0	2

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	18	12	1
2	I learn new things in Religious Education lessons.	18	11	2
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	23	7	1
4	I have to work hard.	22	9	0
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	20	11	0
6	My teacher listens to me.	29	2	0
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	23	7	1
8	I get praise when I do my best.	22	9	1
9	Other children are kind and behave well	10	20	1
10	I am happy on the playground.	16	14	1
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	19	11	1
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	25	5	1

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	21	4	0
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	18	7	0
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	16	9	0
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	18	7	0
5	Do you have to work hard?	17	8	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	20	5	0
7	Do other children behave well?	5	20	0
8	Are teachers fair to you?	24	1	0
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	24	1	0
10	Are you given responsibility?	21	4	0
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	18	7	0