



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School:	St John's Catholic Junior School
Address:	Old Chester Road, Bebington CH63 7LH
Tel No:	0151 645 9615
URN:	105080
Headteacher:	Mrs E Mullins
Chair of Governors:	Mr P Baxter
Date of Inspection:	20 March 2013
Inspectors:	Mr K Toms Mrs P Blake

Mission Statement

" Love one another as I have loved you"

St Johns RC Junior School is a happy, caring school that values the contributions of all to grow together to achieve excellence and success.

Our Aims:

- We work in partnership to develop the whole child's spiritually, morally, intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically and artistically , to make the world a better place according to the values embodied in the Gospels.
- We provide fun and stimulating learning opportunities in a happy, healthy, caring learning environment
- We build relationships and develop self esteem, respect and a sense of belonging within our school, parish and wider community.
- We create experiences that develop life long skills ,and equip everyone to become learners for the future. To be responsible, face challenges with confidence and perseverance.

FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll					67	61	59	59	246
Catholics on roll					54	47	47	45	196
Other Christian denomination					6	6	5	7	24
Other faith background					1	1	2	0	4
No stated religious affiliation					6	7	5	6	24
Number of learners from ethnic groups					7	2	6	2	17
Total on SEN Register					17	15	9	10	51
Total with Statements of SEN					1	0	0	1	2-IPFA
FSM					7	7	12	10	36

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation	0.25			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St John's	183
St Luke's	4
St Anne's	9

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
St John Plessington	54
Upton Hall	2
St Anselms	2
Wirral Grammar for girls	1

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours)					2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	10
Part-time teachers	4
Total full-time equivalent	12
Support assistants	8
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	83%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	10
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	7
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	1

Published admission number	240
Number of classes	8
Average class size KS1	n/a
Average class size KS2	30

FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2011/12	Current financial year 2012/13	Next financial year 2013/14
RE	£1000	£2000	£3000
English	£2000	£4000	£3000
Mathematics	£1000	£2000	£2000
Science	£500	£1000	£1000

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

Judgement

OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS

1

Achievements and standards in Religious Education at St John's Catholic Junior are outstanding overall. In an environment where they feel safe and secure, the pupils take advantage of the rich variety of learning activities and excellent pastoral care. This ensures that all learners feel valued and respected.

Given their capabilities and starting points, pupils make good and, in a number of cases, outstanding progress in Religious Education. In all the lessons observed by Inspectors the children showed a high degree of concentration, excellent recall of prior learning and keenness and enthusiasm. The children were preparing for Holy Week, including the celebration of the Eucharist in Year 3 and reconciliation in Year 4. All the lessons began or ended with a reflection and the children approached these occasions with great prayerfulness and reverence. In discussion the children showed an excellent command of appropriate religious language and were extremely confident when talking about what these topics mean for them today. For example, the children in Year 6 were able to reflect on the betrayal of Jesus by his disciples and how this might make them feel. They were then able to consider situations when they had been let down and how they then felt.

Spiritual and moral development is outstanding and relationships at all levels are excellent. Pupils are well-motivated and eager to learn. Their behaviour throughout the inspection was exemplary.

The pupils were acutely aware of the importance of belonging to their faith community and the support and care they received from the teaching and support staff. They had been fully involved in revisiting their Mission Statement and had no doubt that this was completely lived out in their school and in its wider community. To "Love one another as I have loved you" was something they felt was at the heart of all they did and inspired them to respect all people, whatever tradition they came from.

The children spoke about how they enjoyed their Religious Education lessons and played a full part in planning and preparing for class and whole school liturgical celebrations. They particularly enjoy the new scheme of work *The Way, The Truth and The Life* and the opportunities it gave them to deepen their knowledge and understanding of their faith. Although their attainment is good overall they are showing a huge capacity to take this much further.

Pupils' contribution to, and benefit from, the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. They participate in a wide range of activities and events. Artwork of a high calibre, by St John's pupils, is used in school and in the Parish church to enhance community prayer and worship. Pupils are confident planning their own liturgies, reading at Mass and singing.

Overall the outcomes for pupils at St. John's are outstanding.

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	2
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The highly-focussed Head Teacher is an impressive leader. She provides strong leadership and strategic direction and ensures that all are involved in helping to promote the school's Mission Statement. She is supported by a committed and hard-working staff team. The Head Teacher together with a very dedicated and knowledgeable team of Religious Education subject leaders have developed a rigorous monitoring and assessment system which allows them to analyse and plan very effectively for improvements in pupil attainment. This provides all leaders, Governors and managers with an accurate self-evaluation of their school and allows for effective planning for future improvement.

On her recent appointment, the Head Teacher reviewed the Mission Statement with all stakeholders whilst at the same time assimilating a newly-adopted scheme of work, *The Way, The Truth and The Life*. Parents, too, were fully involved in this process and were extremely appreciative of the strong partnership that exists at all levels within the school and wider community. The leadership team shows an outstanding commitment to promoting, monitoring and evaluating its provision for the Catholic life of the school.

The two subject leaders (part of the leaderships commitment to succession planning) work very effectively together. They work well with all the staff, giving excellent support to them as they develop the new scheme of work. Their commitment and dedication, together with the support of all the leaders and managers will ensure that standards in Religious Education will continue to rise.

The Governors have a clear vision for the school, making good use of the expertise they have. The Parish Priest is a regular visitor to the school and many parents and parishioners are actively involved in the life of the school. This is a fully cohesive community.

PROVISION	2
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The quality of teaching is good with some outstanding elements. This together with good use of high-quality resources, including ICT, has a positive impact on achievement and standards. Teachers have secure and good subject knowledge. Planning was found to be detailed and lessons are well-prepared and ensure pupils are able to make at least good progress. In many cases pupils are challenged in their thinking and there are some good opportunities for independent work.

Further attention to differentiation and the establishment of marking responses which enable pupils to know what they do well and which provide support for next step improvement, will assist the rate of pupil progress and attainment at higher levels.

Children were extremely confident in discussing their work and showed excellent recall of prior learning. They were able to discuss how the work they were doing in Religious Education lessons might influence their own actions today. They showed high levels of application to their work and ability to stay on task.

Lessons were varied to suit the learning styles of the children and the children spoke about how much they enjoyed these lessons, especially the related drama and art work. Art displays related to Religious Education were excellent throughout the school. All support staff are involved in supporting groups of learners in their lessons and this contributed greatly to the progress all children were able to make. ICT plays a significant role in supporting the learning process. All the lessons gave the children opportunities to reflect in a prayerful way on the work they were doing.

Planning for spiritual development is outstanding and the liturgical life of the school is vibrant. Collective worship is central to the school's approach in helping pupils to a greater understanding of their behaviour, and of the traditions of their faith. In discussion with the pupils they properly appreciated their role in planning and leading Acts of Worship and pupils were able to understand how to develop themes through prayer, song, dance and drama. The Collective Act of Worship, exploring the events of Palm Sunday, also reflected the school's outstanding work in this area.

The school works in full partnership with the Parish Priest and the whole parish community. Very effective programmes of preparation for first sacraments exist and parents were particularly supportive of these. *The Way, The Truth and The Life* has been comprehensively shared with parents and they felt that it had greatly helped their children (and themselves) to understand their faith better. This is best summed up with the comment of one parent who said, "I don't know how to thank all the teachers enough for what they do."

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	2
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St. John's Catholic Junior School is very effective in providing a high standard of Catholic Education. It is a good school with a significant number of outstanding features. Standards of teaching and learning throughout the school are already high and under the strong leadership of the new Head Teacher should continue to improve.

All children make at least good progress with many pupils making outstanding progress. Due to the recent implementation of the excellent evaluation and monitoring systems, indications are that the school will continue to move forward. This will become more marked as the new scheme of work becomes more embedded and the very effective systems of monitoring and evaluation impact positively on the attainment of the pupils.

Leadership in St John's is compassionate and purposeful. It also challenges when necessary, and uses self-evaluation to determine priorities and celebrate achievement. The Head Teacher, Governors and managers know their school well. They are fully committed and dedicated in promoting the Catholic ethos of the school. They are all significantly involved in monitoring the work of the school and planning for future improvements.

The Mission Statement has been reviewed by all stake-holders - it is known by all the children, and is quite obviously lived out through the school.

There is excellent support from the parents who genuinely appreciate the work of the school in promoting and developing the faith life of their children. Impressive use of ICT adds a valuable dimension to the strong partnership with parents: the inter-active website enables parents to access details of work in Religious Education.

It is evident that this school community of St John's is thriving, is securely founded, and is a credit to all involved.

What the school could do to improve further

- Develop and implement strategies which enable pupils to identify next steps in their learning, and what they need to do to achieve them
- Ensure work is well-differentiated, posing appropriate challenges for all pupils

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

Key to judgements: Grade 1 = outstanding, grade 2 = good, grade 3 = requires improvement and grade 4 = inadequate	Judgement
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<u>OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS</u>	
How good outcomes are for pupils, taking particular account of variations between different groups	1
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school	1
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	2
How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship	1

<u>LEADERS GOVERNORS AND MANAGERS</u>	
How effective leaders, governors and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school	2
How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils	1
How well leaders, governors and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils	2

PROVISION	
How effective the provision is in promoting Catholic Education	2
The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education	2
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum promotes pupils' learning	2
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school	1

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	
How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education	2

PARENT'S QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

NO SENT OUT NO RETURNED 85

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	56	29			
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	65	20			
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	64	21			
4	The school seeks the views of parents/ carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	53	29	2		1
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	61	23	1		
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	59	25			1
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	53	30	2		

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FOR YEAR 6 PUPILS

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	28	25	1
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	25	27	2
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	21	28	5
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	42	12	
5	Do you have to work hard?	37	17	
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	47	7	

7	Do other children behave well?	11	42	1
8	Are teachers fair to you?	40	14	
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	41	13	
10	Are you given responsibility?	35	17	2
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	31	16	7