



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Benedict's Catholic Primary School
Address: Hall Road
Handforth
SK9 3AE

Tel No: 01625 520207

URN: 111323

Headteacher: Mrs J Gornell

Chair of Governors: Mrs J O'Brien

Date of Inspection: 29 November 2016

Inspectors: Mr P Sharp
Mrs J Johnson

Mission Statement

**As unique
individuals we do
our best at work
and play for the
love of God and
others.**

FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll	0	30	30	29	28	30	25	29	201
Catholics on roll	0	18	13	18	19	21	16	21	126
Other Christian denomination	0	1	3	4	5	2	5	3	23
Other faith background	0	1	4	2	1	2	1	2	13
No stated religious affiliation	0	10	10	5	3	5	3	3	39
Number of learners from ethnic groups	0	7	8	8	4	7	5	7	46
Total on SEN Register	0	0	1	2	2	2	3	2	12
Total with Statements of SEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FSM	0	6	3	2	3	4	2	4	24

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

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
All Hallows Catholic College	15
St James' High School, Stockport	3

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week		2 hrs 15 mins	2 hrs 15 mins	2 hrs 15 mins	2 hrs 30 mins	2 hrs 30 mins	2 hrs 30 mins	2 hrs 30 mins	16 hrs 45 mins

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	9
Part-time teachers	4
Total full-time equivalent	11
Support assistants	7
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	54%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	9
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	1
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0

NAME OF SCHOOL	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	29.5
Average class size KS2	28

FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2015/2016	Current financial year 2016/2017	Next financial year 2017/2018
RE	£3500	£4459.66	£3000
English	£8000	£9212.47	£6000
Mathematics	£4000	£5059.32	£3500
Science	0	0	0

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
<p>The children of St. Benedict's are proud of their school, they are highly motivated learners and as a result, make very good progress in their Religious Education across the school. The Catholic life of the school provides a nurturing, safe and secure environment in which they are effectively supported and challenged on their faith journey. At the end of Key Stage 2, many pupils' attainment is well above average. They are proud of their school community and are respectful to each other, adults and visitors. They are aware that there are people in the local and international community who need help and are eager to support these groups through prayer and fund raising. Through groups such as the School Council and Team Benedict the children organise guided reflections, prayers and fund raising. For example, throughout the year the children collect food to be distributed to the local community via "Hampers for Hope". The children also fund raise for C.A.F.O.D. and Mission Together. Pupils value the links the school has with the Parish as well as the local community and speak proudly of their achievements relating to these.</p> <p>In the lessons observed pupils' behaviour was excellent, they were eager to participate in and contribute to the discussion. They express their own views and beliefs with confidence and are able to refer to the teachings of Jesus. In group discussions during the Y6 lesson observed on how people with disabilities should be treated, children listened attentively and were able to build on each other's views using Gospel values to support their comments.</p> <p>The children have a very clear understanding of the school's mission statement, which was reviewed at the beginning of the school year. Their response to times of prayer and reflection is excellent. They are confident in organising collective worship within their classes, whole school and parish community. In collective worship observed the children chose the theme resources and organised the focal point. Children were confident to share their prayers and intentions with the whole group. Team Benedict, the school's 'Growing in Faith Team', has set up a prayer point which is a communal area that children can use for reflection and quiet prayer. Children are aware of and understand the key celebrations throughout the Liturgical Year. They appreciate the importance of prayer, meditation and praying together in class as well as their own private prayer. They understand that prayer is important in our relationship with God and know how Jesus taught us to pray.</p> <p>Within this fully inclusive Catholic school there is a rich diversity of faith tradition, with all pupils displaying tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others, whilst remaining proud of their own faith traditions and confidently expressing their views and understanding.</p>	

LEADERS AND MANAGERS	1
<p>The Headteacher provides outstanding leadership for the school. She has a secure grasp of the needs of the school and its community and is fully committed to ensuring the mission of the Church is carried out. In this task she is ably supported by the Religious Education subject leader. The school leaders, staff, governors, and Parish Priest are deeply committed to the school and the Church's mission in education.</p> <p>The staff team share the vision for the school and all contribute to, and understand how, monitoring the quality of teaching and learning and collective worship, alongside rigorous self-evaluation, helps to inform the action plan for development and improvement of all areas in the Catholic life of the school. The school has developed a class tracking sheet to monitor the progress of children during the year. The Chair of Governors, who is the Religious Education Nominated Governor, knows the</p>	

school well and the Governing Body, whilst allowing the senior management team to drive the school forward, is exacting in their questioning and aware of their responsibilities. Governors receive regular reports from the Headteacher, attend appropriate training and are actively involved in the life of the school. The nominated governor for Religious Education accompanies staff on learning walks and meets with middle managers and children. Governors also attend liturgical services, school assemblies and assist with the sacramental programmes.

Leaders and managers are very clear on the need for targeted planning and strategic action to ensure the school continues to improve. They understand the need for rigour and that pupils' high attainment in each year group is crucial to achieving high standards. As a result in-service training for staff is identified and meets their individual needs. Where this cannot be met by expertise within the school, the school has sought and acted upon advice from the Diocese. In addition, staff attend courses provided by the Diocesan Education Service and other outside providers.

The Parish Priest visits the school every week to talk to children and staff. He works hard to support the Catholic life of the school and to encourage strong links between parish and school. He welcomes the impact of the good relationships between the school and the parish. He sees the school as a place where everyone is "Living out the spirit of the Gospels". Links with All Hallows High School have led to collaborative work being developed with nearby Catholic primary schools.

The questionnaires returned by the parents indicate strong support for the school. Parents are made welcome and attend class assemblies and school masses, as well as liturgical celebrations throughout the year. They are kept informed of all aspects of school life through newsletters and Religious leaflets. One returned questionnaire stated:

"I feel confident that St. Benedict's supports and encourages the values we share with the children at home. Here, the boys are taught an ethos and a manner of behaving that will support them throughout their lives. We really value the R.E. curriculum and how it builds on the Catholic nature of the school".

The children's questionnaires indicate that they are expected to work at school. They also show the children learn new things in their Religious Education lessons, enjoy praying together and the opportunities for quiet reflection.

PROVISION	1
<p>In the lessons observed teaching was good. Teachers' planning successfully builds upon children's prior learning and understanding, enabling them to take the next step in their learning. The dialogue between children and adults is of a high quality. There was clear evidence of cross curricular links both in the lessons and assessment of pieces of work.</p>	
<p>Scrutiny of children's books showed that marking was consistent with the school's marking policy, although next steps for learning were not always evident. Sometimes, pupils are given the opportunity to respond to the marking so that they progress their thinking, especially making links to Scripture and how this helps inform the way we, and others, live our lives.</p>	
<p>The children enjoy the opportunities for role play, art, singing, discussion, reflection and quiet prayer. Teachers have strong subject knowledge which challenges and motivates children and contributes to their good progress. High quality resources including technology assist children's learning.</p>	
<p>A cross curricular approach ensures that children are motivated and make good progress as learners. Children listen attentively and settle to well planned activities quickly, maintaining concentration and making progress in their learning. Children are given every opportunity to develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of their learning.</p>	
<p>Collective Worship is central to everything the school undertakes. A variety of opportunities for reflection, prayer and liturgy are planned and pupils respond enthusiastically. Many of the services</p>	

are planned, organised and led by the children. Examples of children organising and leading collective worship were observed in both key stages. Children from different faith traditions are welcomed and form an integral part of the life of the school. Respect and tolerance are strengths of the school.

The introduction of Team Benedict has had a positive impact on the whole school community. The enthusiastic members of Team Benedict are rightly proud of their achievements, and can articulate how, with adult assistance, they have carried out a range of activities to support the faith journey of the pupils, including teaching them how to pray the Rosary, and about the life of St Benedict.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	1
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St. Benedict's is an outstanding Catholic primary school which provides high quality Religious Education. Children are highly motivated learners and as a result, make very good progress throughout the school.

The Catholic life of the school provides a safe, secure and nurturing environment in which children are effectively supported and challenged on their faith journey.

The dedicated and highly motivated Headteacher ensures the Church's mission in education is central to all the school undertakes. She is highly effective in sharing her vision with all stakeholders and as a result they respond with enthusiasm to new challenges. The Religious Education subject leader and staff provide support and all live out the Gospel values in their approach to the care of the children and in striving to improve outcomes for all.

Knowledgeable governors understand their strategic role and offer appropriate support and challenge to the Headteacher in maintaining and developing the Catholic life of the school.

Provision for pupils is very good and children are happy and well –motivated, and they respond positively to all the school does. They show care and support for each other and respect and tolerance for others' beliefs and values.

The pastoral care support and guidance provided by the school is valued by the children. The links with the parish community are excellent and the school's success in this area owes a great deal to the commitment of the Parish Priest.

Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. They appreciate the strong ethos of the school and the Religious Education and Collective Worship it provides.

The community of St. Benedict's provides a warm, caring and supportive ethos where children feel valued, secure and supported. This is reflected in the Religious Education provided and informs the improvements that are being made. Staff, governors, parents and the parish community respect each other and show a commitment to assisting and joining the children in their faith journey.

What the school could do to improve further

- Develop the existing marking system to ensure that children understand what is required to sustain good progress in their Religious Education.
- Continue to collaborate with neighbouring Catholic schools to develop existing moderation and assessment activities, with particular reference to Levels of Attainment.
- Encourage and support staff to study and complete the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies.

Parents' Questionnaires

36 Parents returned questionnaires

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	32	4			
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	29	7			
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	30	5			1
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	24	12			
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	21	14			1
6	The school enables my children to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	24	9			2
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	25	8	3		

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	27	1	1
2	I learn new things in Religious Education lessons.	29		
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	26	2	1
4	I have to work hard.	27	2	
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	26	2	1
6	My teacher listens to me.	24	4	1
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	26	2	1
8	I get praise when I do my best.	27	2	
9	Other children are kind and behave well	27	2	
10	I am happy on the playground.	17	10	2
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	24	5	
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	27	2	

Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	23	9	
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	21	11	
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	13	19	
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	26	6	
5	Do you have to work hard?	30	2	
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	29	3	
7	Do other children behave well?	5	26	1
8	Are teachers fair to you?	27	5	
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	21	11	
10	Are you given responsibility?	29	3	
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	29	3	