



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St James' Catholic Primary School  
Address: Cheriton Close  
Hattersley  
Cheshire  
SK14 3DQ

Tel No: 0161 367 9886

URN: 106239

Headteacher: Mrs J Walker

Chair of Governors: Mr K Toms

Date of Inspection: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Inspectors: Mrs E Robb  
Mr P Sharp

*“Together we are learning to follow Jesus”*

## **THE MISSION STATEMENT**

“St. James' Catholic Primary School aims to provide a caring environment for all pupils and staff, where all are recognised as children of God. Christ is at the heart of our school community, where Gospel values are promoted so that each individual has the opportunity to grow in faith, use their gifts and reach their full potential and become responsible, happy and confident members of society.

As educators we share with parents and parish the responsibility for developing the "whole child" - socially, intellectually, emotionally, spiritually and sacramentally.

We are a community of people working and praying together and striving to grow closer to God in every way”.

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll	18	17	19	19	23	26	23	25	170
Catholics on roll	9	6	10	3	8	13	8	12	69
Other Christian denomination		1				2	1	1	5
Other faith background	1	2			1			3	7
No stated religious affiliation	8	8	9	16	14	11	14	9	89
Number of learners from ethnic groups	1	1	2	1	2	3	5	3	18
<b>Total on SEN Register</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Total with Statements of SEN</b>					<b>1</b>				<b>1</b>
FSM	UFSM	UFSM	5	9	9	6	14	8	51

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	9
Index of multiple deprivation	Tameside 027a ranked 910/32,844			

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
St James the Great	170

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
All Saints Catholic College	8
Longendale High	2
Alder Community College	1
Wright Robinson College	1

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week	1 hr		2 hrs			2.5 hrs			

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	8
Part-time teachers	4
Total full-time equivalent	
Support assistants	10
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	58.3
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	7
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	1
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	3

NAME OF SCHOOL	
Published admission number	30
Number of classes	7.5
Average class size KS1	19
Average class size KS2	24

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2015/2016	Current financial year 2016/2017	Next financial year 2017/2018
RE	£2,000 allocated resources £1,274.15 spent £2,000 allocated training £2,022.83 spent	£2,000 allocated resources £2112.09 spent £3,000 allocated training £3,992.72 spent	£2,000 allocated resources £2,000 allocated training
English	£2,000 allocated resources £2,000 spent £2,000 allocated training £1,255 spent	£2000 allocated resources £1,393.11spent £2,000 allocated training £1,000 spent	£2,000 allocated resources £2,000 allocated training
Mathematics	£2,000 allocated resources £2,546 spent £2,000 allocated training £1,254 spent	£2000 allocated resources £409.95 spent £2,000 allocated training £134 spent	£2,000 allocated resources £2,000 allocated training
Science	£1,000 allocated resources £865.94 spent No training	£1,000 allocated resources £70.56 spent No training	£1,000 allocated resources £2,000 allocated training No training

<b>Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
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<b>OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>St James' Catholic Primary School is a good school where all children feel safe, cared for and valued.</p> <p>The Mission Statement underpins all that happens at St James' school which aims to provide</p> <p><i>"a caring environment for all pupils and staff, where all are recognized as children of God..."</i></p> <p>and <i>"Christ is at the heart of our school community, where Gospel values are promoted..."</i></p> <p>It is evident that the school lives out the aims of the Mission Statement and that the children understand the simplified but effective statement</p> <p><i>" Together we are learning to follow Jesus"</i></p> <p>This journey involves all in the school and parish community.</p> <p>The Mission Statement is regularly discussed with the children during assemblies and Religious Education lessons.</p> <p>The children are given opportunities to be reflective and can engage in discussions about spiritual, moral and ethical issues as well as talk readily about their faith and what is important to them. They are considerate, care for each other and understand the significance of forgiving and being forgiven. They enjoy celebrating key feasts in the liturgical and academic year in school and in Church. There are regular Masses held in Church attended by parents, governors and parishioners. The school often receives positive comments about the children's excellent behaviour during Mass from members of the parish community.</p> <p>Pastoral care for all pupils is outstanding and especially for those children who may be vulnerable. All children experience an environment set within the ethos and fundamentals of the school Mission Statement.</p> <p>The children at St James enter school significantly below average in attainment, however by the end of Key Stage 1 their attainment in Religious Education is broadly in line with their attainment in English, just slightly below National expectations. As the children move through school they make at least good progress in all areas and achieve expected or better levels of attainment at the end of Key Stage 2, including Religious Education.</p> <p>During the inspection there was evidence to show that from their earliest years in school there were opportunities for children to develop their language skills through excellent resources, e.g. Story Sacks, and skillful questioning.</p> <p>The Religious Education books were well presented and, clearly, good progress is made. There are effective tracking and assessment procedures in place, which are discussed termly and progress is monitored carefully.</p> <p>The children enjoy Collective Worship. There are Prayer Focus tables in each classroom, and the introduction of Liturgy Boxes in all classrooms encourages and supports children to reflect on the liturgical year and topics being studied. The Liturgy Boxes also enable the children to become more selective in their use of appropriate resources for prayer and worship.</p> <p>During the Collective Worship observed members of the school's Brass Band supported the hymns being sung.</p>	

The children show a great awareness of the needs of others, not just in their immediate environment but beyond school. The Mini Vinnies help in the organisation of fund raising activities, for example funds for CAFOD, providing Harvest gifts, supporting Mountain Rescue and Children in need, to mention a few.

The children are aware of the impact of their actions as - comments from the Mini Vinnies suggest:

*“We care for people in our community”*

*“ We care for people outside school as well as inside”*

They are to be congratulated on their generosity and empathy.

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>2</b>
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All leaders, managers, and governors are deeply committed to the mission of the Church through their work in school. The Chair of Governors, who is also Religious Education Governor, and the Vice Chair visit school regularly. The Parish Priest is very supportive and is keen to be involved in all aspects of school life and the school community. There is a strong sense of mission at St James' school. The Governors conduct a range of monitoring activities through lesson observations, scrutiny of work and assessments which, when analysed, provide a clear understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development. They find, “through the Ofsted lens” a useful tool to access this information. The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team work tirelessly to ensure that the children experience exciting, well planned and well structured lessons. The creative curriculum is being implemented to great effect. The Governors provide excellent support and challenge for the school, and although they are realistic in their expectations of standards, their support and challenge provides direction for further improvement. They are invited to attend Diocesan and school organised Religious Education training with staff. Through Headteacher reports, committee meetings and newsletters they are kept informed of developments within the Religious Education curriculum

Leaders, governors and managers place great value on pastoral care, guidance and support as they believe that these are crucial to the spiritual and moral outcomes for pupils as well as academic achievements.

The Governors see the school as a place *“where children are clearly loved”* and where the children and community meet Jesus - Faith in Action.

The Governors are clearly proud of their school and all of the achievements so far. They are fully committed to continuing the excellent work which is producing such good outcomes for the children in St James' school.

<b>PROVISION</b>	<b>2</b>
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The Religious Education curriculum provided by the school fully meets the Diocesan requirements.

All lessons observed during the Inspection were at least good, with some displaying outstanding features. They were well planned, with clear aims, appropriately structured with good pace and creativity. Although differentiation was evident, this is still an area for development as already identified by senior leaders.

The Way, the Truth and the Life is used effectively and is delivered in an exciting and creative manner which ensures that children clearly enjoy their Religious Education lessons. Teachers have strong subject knowledge and their recent excellent training in Foundations in Faith, RCIA and creativity in the Classroom, are providing high calibre lessons which are exciting, stimulating and lively, resulting in purposeful learning. All teaching and learning was enhanced further through the excellent and creative use of high quality resources.

Pupils were enthusiastic about their learning. They enjoyed the way in which they could participate more fully through the variety of activities organised for them such as drama, art and technology.

The way in which Staff have embraced the Creative Curriculum is to be commended.

Religious Education is used to good effect to develop children's language. This was particularly evident in the Early Years. All teachers had high expectations of all pupils in terms of work output, standards of work presented and behaviour.

The children's behaviour in all lessons was outstanding.

Teaching Assistants worked hard to ensure that children who needed additional support received this sensitively, and contributed greatly to the quality of teaching and learning.

The Sacramental preparation is managed through school and is supported by the parish community. This is also an opportunity to discuss and share liturgies with parents.

The children have access to a very popular and well attended Breakfast Club; they are taken to pantomimes, have WOW days and Retreat days. This year the school is involved in Forest School Work which promotes cooperative learning and encourages children to develop a sense of awe and wonder in our world, thus supporting the essence of Religious Education in school.

Collective Worship is an important part of school life and contributes to the strong feeling of family and shared vision. A variety of styles and approaches are used to try and engage the pupils through all the celebratory activities throughout the year.

All Staff are involved in leading and participating in Collective Acts of Worship; they work hard to make these Acts meaningful, reverent and reflective. Children are being encouraged to become more involved in planning and preparing Collective Worship, and this is an action for further development.

The very supportive Parish Priest, who is also a Governor, works hard with the school to ensure services are reverent, meaningful and accessible.

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS**

**2**

St James is a successful school providing a good Catholic education with outstanding features. The school is very welcoming, and it is clear that the Gospel values permeate throughout this school.

One of the many strengths of this school is the sense of community built on trust. St James' school provides a place where all feel welcomed, safe and valued. This is due to the excellent work and commitment of the Headteacher, fully supported by her Staff and Governors.

Relationships are excellent; there is a friendly, calm atmosphere throughout the school. The children are happy, very courteous and enjoy coming to school. They know that they are listened to and enjoy working in an environment where they can achieve.

The children's questionnaires show that they are proud of their school.

The parental questionnaires received show that the parents are very happy with the school, especially the values and attitudes which school teach. The parents feel welcome when in school and are always invited to attend school Masses and class celebrations.

### **What the school could do to improve further**

- Ensure all pupils are given opportunities to prepare and lead Collective Worship.
- To develop further differentiation through activity/task and to provide challenge for the more able.

## Parents' Questionnaires

### 31 Parents returned questionnaires

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	21	9	1	0	0
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	24	6	1	0	0
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	26	5	0	0	0
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	15	12	2	0	2
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	15	15	0	0	1
6	The school enables my children to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	18	13	0	0	0
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	16	13	2	0	0

## Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	19	1	0
2	I learn new things in Religious Education lessons.	18	2	0
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	20	0	0
4	I have to work hard.	20	0	0
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	15	5	0
6	My teacher listens to me.	20	0	0
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	19	1	0
8	I get praise when I do my best.	20	0	0
9	Other children are kind and behave well	16	4	0
10	I am happy on the playground.	20	0	0
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	20	0	0
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	20	0	0

## Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	16	6	2
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	18	6	0
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	12	12	0
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	16	7	1
5	Do you have to work hard?	16	8	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	20	4	0
7	Do other children behave well?	7	14	3
8	Are teachers fair to you?	23	1	0
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	15	9	0
10	Are you given responsibility?	16	8	0
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	22	2	0