



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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## REPORT ON THE S48 MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

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

School:	St Bernard's Catholic Primary School -
Address:	A Voluntary Academy Sherbourne Road Ellesmere Port CH65 5EW
Tel No:	0151 355 2047
URN:	140896
Headteacher:	Mr A Moor
Chair of Governors:	Mrs B Letissier
Date of Inspection:	14 July 2017
Inspector:	Mr P Sharp

St. Bernard's Catholic Primary, through the dedication of its Principal, Head of School, Senior Leadership team, Religious Education Subject Leader and the whole school community, continues to provide an outstanding Catholic Education for all pupils. The Governing Body know their school well and provide support and challenge for the school leadership team.

Central to the school's success is its Mission Statement and the manner in which it is lived out by the whole school community:

**“To Grow, Love and Learn following Jesus”**

The Principal and Senior Leadership team are fully focused and motivate the whole school community to strive for excellence. Gospel values are at the heart of everything the school attempts to achieve. The school reaches out to the local community and beyond, to spread the Gospel and live the Mission Statement. As a Teaching School they share their outstanding practice with other Catholic schools and through programmes such as “Ignite” support and develop future Catholic school leaders and teachers.

Collective Worship and prayer is central to the life of the school and children are given many varied and different opportunities to develop their own spirituality and prayer life. This can be seen by the prayer stations around the school, prayer focal points within each classroom and the high quality Religious Education displays across the school. In the whole school assembly observed by the inspector the children's behaviour was excellent, they were respectful and reflective when saying prayers and when listening to the Gospel reading and prayers written by Y6 pupils. Within the classroom children were given time to reflect and they are confident to lead and organise their own liturgies not only in the classroom but also for the whole school community.

The children have a clear view of what the school mission statement and being part of a Catholic school means. As one pupil stated:

**‘We have a school mission which helps us to focus on making the World a better place and feel closer to God.’**

The school regularly seeks the views and opinions of parents through questionnaires. Parents are fully supportive of the school with such comments as:

**‘The school lives through the Gospel values and this is clear in everything they do.’**

The monitoring and evaluation of the Religious Education curriculum is outstanding. The Senior Leadership team, ably supported by the Religious Education subject leader, has ensured excellent progress in the continued development of the Religious Education curriculum. The rigorous monitoring and assessment system provides consistency across classes and contributes to the raising of standards thus ensuring that children of all abilities make good progress. The school has been trialling a new assessment and monitoring system: ‘Balance’ which will assess and track children's progress and attainment in Religious Education. This will allow senior managers and governors to monitor individual class and whole school attainment and progress.

A range of teaching styles and creative learning ensure that children are actively engaged with their lessons and learning. There are many opportunities for children to take on extra responsibilities such as School Parliament, Peer Mentors, House Captains and Minnie Vinnies. These groups act as role models for the children. These opportunities support the children to grow both spiritually and morally.

In summary, St Bernard's Catholic Primary is an outstanding Catholic school which continues to develop its spiritual life due to the dedication of the whole school community. Staff, governors, parents and the parish community are totally committed to assisting and joining the children in their Faith journey.

## **Areas of Outstanding Practice**

### **Outcome for pupils**

The school ethos gives the children excellent opportunities to develop their spirituality and knowledge of the faith. Collective worship is central to the life of the school and children experience numerous opportunities to support their private and public prayer.

### **Leaders and Managers**

The Principal, Head of School, senior leadership team, Religious Education subject leader, staff and governors are deeply committed to the Catholic mission of the school. They have a clear vision for the school and know its strengths and areas for development through a rigorous monitoring and assessment system.

### **Provision**

The children greatly benefit from their Religious Education curriculum and the Catholic ethos of the school. Excellent opportunities are provided for them to develop their spirituality and knowledge of the faith.