



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

School: Cheadle Catholic Infant School

Address: Conway Road
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Headteacher: Mrs K Lofthouse

Chair of Governors: Mrs M Erb

Date of Inspection: 12 November 2014

Inspector: Mrs R Hedger

Cheadle Catholic Infant School continues to be an outstanding and effective Catholic school. The school provides a warm, friendly and welcoming environment with the Mission Statement firmly at the heart of the school.

Since the last inspection, the Senior Leadership Team has changed and developed to include year group team leaders as well as curriculum leaders, thus reflecting the developing needs of the modern curriculum. The dedicated Headteacher, school staff and governors are passionate about the on-going development of the entire potential of every person – children and adults alike. The team has developed strategies to ensure standards and achievement remains very high. Relationships are a strength of the school and excellent relationships exist between pupils, staff, parents and governors. Non Catholic staff are confident in their teaching and appreciate the support given by the Headteacher and the leadership team.

The school has successfully introduced the Diocesan scheme of work for Religious Education called 'The Way, The Truth and The Life'; has strengthened monitoring and assessment procedures and has established Collective Worship as a weekly feature in each class. It is currently developing the Baseline assessments for children entering the school and Collective Worship in Year 2, to enable the children to take more responsibility for the content of Collective Worship by helping them to write more of the prayers and reflections.

Unusually, the school serves three parishes. In order to support each parish and the involvement of the parents and children with parishioners, the school will celebrate their liturgies in each of the churches, beginning with the forthcoming Advent Service.

The children are enthusiastic learners and are keen to talk about their Religious Education experiences. They know and live the school's Mission Statement and interpret it anew at the beginning of each year as they progress through the school. They are able to articulate the meanings of the Gospel stories in their everyday lives. They express their own views and beliefs with confidence and are always encouraged to do so. When asked if they learnt interesting things in their Religious Education lessons, one boy explained that they had been learning about mysteries and that the "Trinity" was a mystery but now he understands it because his teacher used a shamrock to show the whole leaf had three parts.

During the learning walk, the inspector visited every class. In each class, there was evidence of high standards of teaching and learning. Evidence of outstanding provision could be found in the children's books; in the quality of displays around the classrooms given to the children's work from 'The Way, The Truth and The Life'; in the conversations between the children and their teachers; and in the teachers' planning notes, which included clear differentiation based on previous assessments. The school makes good use of the 'I Can' statements for assessments.

The School Council was very proud of the contribution they have made to the school. The Council had been discussing how hard it is sometimes for Reception children to learn the school prayers and thought it would be a good idea if they had Prayer Friends. The idea was presented to the Headteacher, who agreed with the suggestion. This is now established in school and has proved to be very popular with both Year 2 and Reception. The concept has developed and now the Reception class are able to use their "big friend" to share their worries or concerns.

The Sacramental Programme has changed and now the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in Year 2 with the Sacrament of Eucharist being celebrated in Year 3 in Cheadle Catholic Junior School. The Headteacher stated that this has enabled the school to look in more depth at Reconciliation, resulting in a greater understanding and appreciation of this Sacrament.

Areas of Outstanding Practice

Outcomes for pupils

The outcomes for pupils are outstanding. Children are happy and eager to take on responsibilities. The development of Prayer Friends from the suggestion made by the School Council is an example of children who are confident in their own ability to support and encourage younger children in the development of their faith.

Leaders Governors and Managers

The Headteacher, staff and governors recognise the low level of faith experience of some children starting in the nursery and are actively seeking ways to take the prayer life of the school into their homes.

Provision

The development of the weekly planning session for each year group, ensures lesson planning is linked to a current assessment of pupils' prior learning and is differentiated so that it consolidates, builds and extends learning for all pupils. It is also a major support for the non-Catholic teachers