



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School:	St Philip's Catholic Primary School
Address:	Half Moon Lane Offerton SK2 5LB
Tel No:	0161 483 0977
URN:	106126
Headteacher:	Mrs C Hogan
Chair of Governors:	Mrs R M Slee
Date of Inspection:	16 March 2018
Inspectors:	Mrs R Moores Mrs K O'Hare

# THE SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT:



## Our Mission Statement

We recognise that as children of God, all pupils at St. Philip's deserve the highest possible standards of teaching and learning.

We seek, through daily worship, to support each other on our journeys of faith, to develop our awareness of the needs of the wider community and to proclaim and celebrate the Good News of God's love for all.

We strive to create a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment, rooted in Gospel values, where all can grow and flourish.

We work to establish strong links with all those responsible for the welfare and education of our children including parents and carers, our Parish, the local community and partner education and welfare agencies.

We aim to foster a sense of personal vocation and sense of belonging as well as a spirit of awe and wonder as our children discover and learn more about themselves and the world around them.

## Our Values

We **REJOICE** that each of us is a unique individual, created and loved by God.

We **RESPECT** everyone regardless of colour, race, gender, religion or background.

We develop **RESILIENCE** so that we can always do our best and be the very best that we can be.

## Our Motto

**'Christ at the Centre'**

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		17	29	33	32	28	29	21	189
Catholics on roll		*6	21	28	19	20	28	17	133
Other Christian denomination			3	1	2	1	0	3	10
Other faith background			4	3	8	6	1	1	23
No stated religious affiliation			1	1	3	1	0	0	6
Number of learners from ethnic groups									
Total on SEN Register			2	4	8	8	6	7	35
Total with Statements of SEN						1			1
FSM		5	1	4	2	1	2	2	17

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
St. Philip's, Offerton	188
Our Lady and the Apostles, Edgeley	1

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
Harrytown Catholic High School	22
Marple Hall School	2
Stockport School	1
Stockport Grammar School	1
Hazel Grove High School	2

RE TEACHING TIME	REC	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week	2	2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	16

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	8
Part-time teachers	1
Total full-time equivalent	
Support assistants (TAs)	11
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	2
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	0
Number of teachers who have completed 'Foundations in Faith'	4

NAME OF SCHOOL	
Published admission number	210
Number of classes	7
Average class size KS1	27
Average class size KS2	28

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year	Current financial year	Next financial year
RE	£2306.15	£3900	Budget yet to be set
English	£3035.87	£1400	
Mathematics	£1464.15	£1600	
Science	£538.99	£360	

<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>1</b>
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The pupils of St. Philip’s Catholic Primary school are rightly proud of their school and believe it to be ‘the best school in Stockport’. The school, led by a visionary Head Teacher and very dedicated Senior Leadership and staff team, is outward looking and very welcoming to the local and wider community. Pupils are inspired, challenged and supported to be the very best they can be; as a result outcomes are outstanding.

All pupils are happy and they feel loved and supported by the whole community. The three core values: Rejoice, Respect and Resilience are at the centre of all that the school does. Pupils take full advantage of the many opportunities offered to them within and beyond the Religious Education curriculum. There is a Mini Vinnie team which meets weekly and a Pupil Leadership Team where Year 6 pupils assume extra responsibilities. The Parish Priest visits school weekly to lead the Class Masses and Liturgies. Year 6 children attend an annual ‘Catholic Schools Together’ event and an annual residential trip and both Year 3 and Year 6 pupils benefit from attending annual retreats. Pupils are encouraged to be part of the parish community through leading Family Masses every half term and KS2 pupils attend weekly Mass on a rota basis. The school encourages a strong sense of social justice in its pupils and there are links with local, national and international charities.

Standards achieved in Religious Education are very high, with all pupils making at least good progress from their starting points. There is a wide selection of work in the pupils’ workbooks and it is clear that pupils take pride in their work. Marking provides opportunities for pupils to respond to questions set by their teachers and to develop greater thinking skills. Pupils value and enjoy their Religious Education lessons, with pupils saying they enjoyed learning about ‘the Kingdom of God’, ‘finding out about refugees’ and ‘doing hot-seating’. A parent also commented that staff’s enthusiasm for Religious Education lessons is definitely being passed on to the children.

Leaders and Managers rigorously monitor and evaluate the work of the school and this is reported to Governors every six weeks. The highly effective Religious Education Leader, who is also a Specialist Leader in Religious Education for the Diocese, is to be commended for her exemplary leadership of the subject.

Behaviour on the day of the inspection was outstanding and pupils are encouraged to behave well through a variety of incentives such as postcards sent home, Head Teacher Awards, Sports Awards and the awarding of ‘Do Jo’ points. Pupils listen well, are happy to be in school and know who to go to if they need any help or advice. Pupils really enjoy playtimes – as one pupil said: ‘It is really joyful’. Pupils, from the youngest to the oldest, act with reverence when they come together for worship and KS2 pupils are becoming proficient in planning and leading Collective Worship. Staff regularly join together to pray and reflect in the staffroom, with all staff taking it in turns to lead the reflection, and the Inspectors were privileged to be part of this opportunity for Collective Worship. It is clear that staff are at ease with their own spirituality and this is very inspiring for all those in the school community. Prayer is at the heart of the faith life of the school and pupils recognise that: ‘If we are following Jesus by being kind and helpful, then that too is a kind of prayer’.

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>1</b>
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Leaders and Managers are deeply committed to the Church’s mission in education and they work energetically and with great generosity in ensuring that they are focused on promoting the Catholic life of the school. A full programme of Masses and Liturgies provides opportunities for the school community to worship together and parents are welcomed and encouraged to participate. The Head Teacher and Religious Education Leader meet termly with the Parish Priest to plan Liturgies and ensure they are clear about the vision and mission of the school. Staff lead firmly by example in ensuring that spirituality is developed in all pupils. The school environment is affirming and all members of the school community are valued as being unique and special in the eyes of God.

Leaders and Managers understand the necessary drive for high standards in all subjects including Religious Education. They are fully involved in self-evaluation and the Self Evaluation Form accurately reflects the school's current position. The Governing Body is very knowledgeable and provides excellent support to school leaders. They attend Diocesan training sessions and are privileged to have a Secondary School Senior Leader as part of their number. The rigorous monitoring carried out by Leaders and Managers includes: 'Book looks', Learning walks, Formal observations and Pupil voice information. Data in Religious Education, as well as other core subjects, is monitored every half term and is discussed with staff in Pupil Progress meetings. This information is used to plan future actions and is then reported to Governors by the Religious Education Leader. One Governor commented that the school has seen 'a massive transformation' led by the dedicated Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team. The Religious Education Leader, who has been on a Catholic Leadership Training Programme, is very skilled and is a wonderful asset to the school. She ensures staff benefit from in-house training on curriculum or Collective Worship every half term. Assessment procedures are well embedded in the Religious Education curriculum and feed into planning and next steps appropriately.

Staff professional development is given a high profile and Governors ensure that all staff are given a Performance Management objective related to the Catholic Life of the school.

All teaching observed was at least good and in some cases outstanding.

Parents are kept informed of the Religious Education curriculum and standards are reported to them appropriately. The parents were overwhelmingly positive in the fifty questionnaires returned for the attention of the Inspectors and it is clear that they value the commitment and dedication of all staff.

PROVISION	1
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The Religious Education curriculum provided by the school fully meets Diocesan requirements. The majority of Religious Education lessons seen on the day of the inspection were outstanding. In the most effective lessons pupils were enthused and inspired by the creativity of the teaching and the content built on prior learning ensuring all pupils made good progress. Driver words were used to ensure that work was pitched appropriately and that pupils were challenged to achieve high standards. In one example where pupils were considering the Creation Story, the pupils were captivated by the awe and wonder created by the teacher and produced outstanding outcomes. It is clear that all staff have good subject knowledge and are well equipped to deliver creative lessons - work in the books demonstrated the wide variety of approaches used. Staff used opportunities within lessons to pray and reflect on their learning and to sing joyfully in celebration on occasion! Support staff were deployed well to ensure all pupils were supported appropriately. Teachers used excellent resources, including technology to engage pupils.

Teachers make good use of assessment strategies and celebrate pupils' achievements in a variety of ways, such as sending congratulatory messages and postcards home and referring pupils to the Head Teacher or Subject Leader for praise. Books showed good coverage of The Way The Truth and The Life. Marking is, generally, effective as staff respond to written work by posing challenging questions however, this could be extended by including words of affirmation as appropriate.

Sacramental preparation is school based and run by the Religious Education leader, supported by the Head Teacher, with all Sacramental Meetings taking place in Church. The Parish Priest spoke very highly of all the staff's commitment to, and support of, the Catholic mission of the school with regard to the sacraments

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school and always involves the stages of Gather, Word, Response and Mission. Pupils are encouraged to worship at home with their parents by the sending home of resources such as Advent bags. A quiet place is set aside in school for children to pray, especially during times such as Advent, Lent, May and October.

<b>OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS</b>	<b>1</b>
<p>St. Philip's Catholic Primary School provides an outstanding Catholic education for its pupils and has many strengths, the most significant being the staff who lead by example.</p> <p>The senior leadership of the school is highly effective and is ably supported by the skilled Governing Body. The Parish Priest gives generously of his time to support the whole school community particularly in developing the Catholic life of the school.</p> <p>Pupils are proud of their school and appreciate all that their teachers do for them – they are happy, supported and loved.</p> <p>Standards are continuing to rise as the school is fully focused on being the best it can be.</p> <p><b>What the school now needs to do:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school must maintain its outstanding provision.</li> <li>• The school could consider including affirmative comments, where appropriate, in response to work in Religious Education books.</li> </ul>	

**Parents' Questionnaires**  
**50 Parents returned questionnaires**

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	36	14	0	0	0
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	40	10	0	0	0
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	36	14	0	0	0
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	21	24	0	0	4
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	29	21	0	0	0
6	The school enables my children to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	36	14	0	0	0
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	26	22	1	0	1

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	19	9	6
2	I learn new things in Religious Education lessons.	17	16	1
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	25	6	3
4	I have to work hard.	30	4	0
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	16	15	3
6	My teacher listens to me.	25	8	1
7	When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.	19	8	7
8	I get praise when I do my best.	20	12	2
9	Other children are kind and behave well	8	20	6
10	I am happy on the playground.	14	14	0
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	10	12	12
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	25	5	3

**Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)**

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	14	6	
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	17	3	
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	5	14	
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	20	0	
5	Do you have to work hard?	16	4	
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	19	1	
7	Do other children behave well?	9	11	
8	Are teachers fair to you?	16	4	
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	16	3	
10	Are you given responsibility?	15	5	
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	15	5	