



# DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY

## DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION REPORT:

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

School: St Luke's Catholic Primary School  
Address: The Willows  
Off Fluin Lane  
Frodsham  
WA6 7QP

Tel No: 01244 259999

URN: 111379

Headteacher: Miss E Murtagh

Chair of Governors: Ms P Stitt

Date of Inspection: 16 March 2022

Inspectors: Mrs C Morgan  
Mrs E Robb  
Mrs M Jackson (shadow)

*Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we learn, love and laugh together*

**Mission Statement**

As God's family we learn, love and laugh.  
Together: Love one another, forgive one another  
Work together, play together,  
Worship together, be happy together.

Underpinned by the Gospel values

Our aim is to provide a high-quality education, ensuring each individual achieves their potential

**SCHOOL: ST LUKE'S FRODSHAM**

**DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: 05.11.2015**

**JUDGEMENT FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION: Outstanding**

**AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION**

- To consolidate the assessment process ensuring good practice informs future planning
- Develop further the creative curriculum ensuring all staff have access to the creative RE training identified for this academic year.

**PROGRESS MADE WITH AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM THE PREVIOUS INSPECTION**

St Luke's have consolidated the assessment processes across the school and have, in line with Diocesan guidelines, moved to using Age-Related Expectations. Following the return to school in September 2021, when restrictions were eased following the COVID19 pandemic, staff are again using these consistently.

Recent changes in staffing mean that further work now needs to be done to ensure all staff understand the process and make accurate and consistent judgements.

Teaching staff undertook the diocesan training on Creative RE and this is evident in the lessons observed during the inspection, in the pupils' books and in displays around the school.

**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS:** how effective is the school in providing Catholic Education.

2

**This is a good Catholic school**

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*The above judgement on overall effectiveness is based on all the available evidence following the evaluation of:*

**CATHOLIC LIFE**

2

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

2

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

2

**Summary of key findings:**

- St Luke's Catholic Primary School is a good school where a caring and supportive community lives out its Mission Statement every day. Pupils, governors, and staff work hard to create and maintain the Gospel values in all they do
- Governors challenge and support dedicated leaders and staff, who strive to ensure pupils receive the best possible Catholic education
- The committed Headteacher is also the Religious Education coordinator and, ably supported by the Deputy Headteacher and the governors, provides strong leadership, and works hard to provide a school where pupils, visitors and the whole school community experience a calm and purposeful environment where love of God and each other can flourish
- Staff, parents, and pupils appreciate the calm atmosphere and the help and support available to them as part of the Catholic Life of the school
- Pupils enjoy their Religious Education (RE) lessons and make good progress from their varied starting points, especially when teachers employ a range of creative strategies to enhance and deepen their learning
- Good resources support RE, the Catholic Life of the school and Collective Worship and governors are committed to ensuring that staff undertake appropriate professional development opportunities
- Pupils are reverent and respectful when praying and listening to the Word of God. They are keen to share their knowledge of their faith and the stories related to this.

## What the school needs to do to improve further

- Ensure that all staff undertake the Continuing Professional Development and Formation (CPDF) offered to support the introduction of the new Religious Education Curriculum Directory and the Prayer & Liturgy Directory from September 2022
- Strengthen the assessment process by working across cluster schools to moderate pupils' work in RE
- Leaders and governors should encourage staff members to undertake appropriate Catholic leadership training in order to nurture and develop future leaders.

## Information about the Inspection

The Inspection of St Luke's Catholic Primary School was carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, and in accordance with the Shrewsbury Diocesan Framework and Schedule for Denominational Inspections approved by the Bishop of Shrewsbury. The inspection reviews and evaluates how effective the school is in providing Catholic education. This process begins with the school's own self-evaluation and the inspection schedule follows the criteria set by the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (NBRIA 2017).

The inspector reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school
- The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education
- The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education
- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship
- The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school
- How well leaders and governors promote, monitor, and evaluate the provision for Religious Education, Collective Worship, and the Catholic Life of the school

The inspection was carried out by two inspectors and one shadow inspector over one day:

- The inspectors observed teaching and learning in seven classes
- Two Acts of Collective Worship were observed: Collective Worship in the EYFS Class and Collective Worship in the Hall for Key Stage One and Key Stage Two pupils, led by the Headteacher
- Discussions were held with the Headteacher, who is also the RE Coordinator, the Parish Priest, the Chair of Governors, a group of pupils, and four members of staff

- A sample of pupils' RE workbooks was scrutinised from every class as well as a sample of end of year reports
- RE Coordinator's files, including Monitoring records of Teaching and Learning, schemes of work and lesson plans, and the Headteacher's and the RE Coordinator's reports to governors were also scrutinised
- Pupil, parent, and staff questionnaires were reviewed as well as CPDF records for staff and governors
- A range of documents was made available and scrutinised including the Diocesan Self Evaluation Form (DSEF), the RE Action Plan, the School Improvement Plan, school policies, and minutes of governing body/committee meetings
- The school's website was checked for further evidence
- The monitoring and evaluation of lessons and Collective Worship was discussed with the Headteacher and the governing body representatives
- Displays around the school and in classrooms were also noted.

### **Information about this school**

- St Luke's is a small Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school, catering for pupils from 4-11 years old. The school has an annual admission number of 30, and there are currently 139 pupils on roll, 60% of whom are baptised Catholics. The school is currently organised into seven single age classes
- The school serves the parish of St Luke's in Frodsham
- The Headteacher has been in post since 2015 and was previously the Deputy Headteacher and Acting Headteacher. A new Deputy Headteacher was appointed from September 2015. The Headteacher has been RE Coordinator since the previous postholder left. There has been some change in staffing and governing body membership since the last inspection
- Staffing includes a full time equivalent of 8 teachers and 5 support staff. 63% of teachers are Catholic. 3 teachers hold the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies (CCRS)
- A very small number of pupils transfer to St Nicholas High School, mainly because of distance and transport costs.

## Full report – inspection judgments

### CATHOLIC LIFE

**The Catholic Life of the school is good**

<b>2</b>
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The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school	2
The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school	2
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor, and evaluate the provision of the Catholic Life of the school	2

- At St Luke’s, pupils and staff live out the school’s Mission Statement, ‘Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we learn, love and laugh together.’
- Pupils enjoy their time at St Luke’s and feel loved and cared for. They said it was a place where, ‘others were kind and forgiving and it was a joyful place to be.’
- Behaviour is excellent and pupils show respect for each other, their teachers, and visitors. Recent newcomers to the school have spoken of the warm welcome they have received from both children and adults
- The school environment is calm and affirming and all pupils know that high standards of behaviour are expected
- Pupils are proud of the roles they undertake in school and in the community. They understand that they have responsibilities towards others and work hard to support the Church’s Social Teaching on caring for the poor and vulnerable
- Some pupils are members of the ‘CAFOD club’ and they understand that part of their role is to raise funds for CAFOD, which they undertake willingly. They also support the local foodbank, care home and other charities, both local and national
- Pupils are keen to contribute to the Catholic Life of the school and willingly undertake the role of Prayer Leaders and members of Mini Vinnies as the school re-establishes these after the pandemic. They are happy and keen to work as members of the team
- Each classroom has a prayer focus and displays reflecting the Liturgical Year and the topic being studied in the RE scheme
- St Luke’s provides very good pastoral care and pupils benefit from this support. Leaders and staff know the pupils well. Staff commented that the school’s focus is always on ‘children’s’ well-being,’ and that ‘children are at the centre of all that is done.’ The quality of relationships within the school is excellent
- Pastoral programmes and that for Relationships and Sex Education are well-thought out and have been chosen in line with diocesan guidance. Appropriate consultation has taken place and further consultations are planned
- Leaders and governors are clear that, following the disruption of the recent pandemic, they are committed to developing the Catholic Life of the school and have begun to re-establish links with the parish, the Sacramental programme and with parents
- Leaders offer strong and nurturing support to staff, which is much appreciated. They lead by example and ‘no question is too silly,’

- Governors have a great commitment to the work of the school, and they provide challenge and support in all areas
- Leaders and governors attend appropriate Diocesan CPDF, which supports them in their work for the school and its community
- St Luke's has a good relationship with parents and the school is keen to welcome parents back into school as restrictions and infections from COVID19 lessen. Parents welcome this and one commented, "It's been lovely to be welcomed back to celebrate class Masses with the children following Covid."



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Religious Education is good

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How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	2
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education	2
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor, and evaluate the provision for Religious Education	2

- Pupils report that they enjoy their RE lessons and learn, 'new things about God and Jesus' in 'an interesting and fun way'
- In discussion, pupils were able to relate what they have learnt in RE to how they behave in school. They aspire to be, 'kind, joyful and forgiving'
- Pupils talked about their targets being set by the teacher and how they discuss what they need to do to improve
- Older pupils are clearly developing a sense of empathy and understand how what they are taught impacts on the way in which they are asked to live their lives
- Pupils demonstrate good prior knowledge of RE and were able to use this to inform their thinking and understanding
- In the lessons observed, pupils' behaviour was excellent, and they engaged well. They were interested in the work being taught and responded well to the creative tasks, working independently and in pairs
- In the best lessons seen, teachers set a good pace and used questioning to encourage pupils to reflect on what they were learning. In this way, pupils develop a deeper understanding of the topic, applying their knowledge from other areas and previous topics
- Pupil workbooks were extremely well-presented across all the classes, and there was a variety of creative tasks and written work. There was evidence of pupils' responses to teacher comments, which helped the pupils to extend their learning
- Attainment is good and many pupils are working at age-related expectations
- One parent commented, "The school delivers a high standard of RE teaching with high expectations for my children's work. My child enjoys her RE lessons and the variety of activities that are fun and engaging."
- Pupils learn about other faiths as part of their RE work and they are respectful of those whose faith is different from their own
- Teachers' planning is thorough, and lessons are linked to pupils' prior attainment. 'Driver words' are used to ensure that lesson content is relevant to the topic and will challenge and extend pupils' thinking. Teachers ensure that gaps in pupils' learning, especially because of the restrictions during the pandemic, are addressed thoroughly
- Teachers' subject knowledge is good and this, linked with a good understanding of how pupils learn, enables pupils to make good progress within lessons and over time
- Teachers use 'big questions' to encourage and develop pupils' learning in RE and in relating what they are learning to other subjects or to moral or social issues

- Resources are good and this, together with a creative approach to RE, enables pupils to develop a clear understanding of the topic being covered and of their Catholic faith as they progress through the school
- Support staff work well with individuals and with groups of pupils and they contribute to the understanding and the developing independence of pupils, particularly those who need additional support
- Leaders and governors ensure that RE lessons meet the requirements of the Bishops' Conference and that the scheme of work follows Diocesan requirements
- Over the last 2 years of the pandemic, monitoring, and evaluation of RE by leaders and governors has been restricted. As restrictions ease, the HT and RE lead has begun to reintroduce monitoring of lessons with learning walks
- As yet, governors have not recommenced their monitoring visits. This is planned for the summer term when leaders and governors should address any areas identified for development
- There is a clear RE Action Plan, which forms part of the School Improvement Plan. Areas for development are specific and part of the overall strategic plan for improving RE
- Assessment had been suspended during the pandemic but has been restarted. Each term pupils' annotated work builds a clear picture of assessment in each cohort.
- Teachers moderate assessments in small groups. Work now needs to be done on addressing moderation across the school and with other, similar schools so that assessment is accurate, and teachers are confident in their judgements
- St Luke's is well placed to continue the good progress they have achieved and CPDF related to the new Religious Education Curriculum Directory will enhance the work and understanding of all those involved in RE in the school.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### Collective Worship is good

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How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship	2
The quality of provision for Collective Worship	2
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor, and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship	2

- Two Acts of Collective Worship were observed during the inspection. Both were led by adults and included a prayer focus either prepared by the pupils or added to during the worship
- Pupils are reverent and respectful during Acts of Collective Worship and sing well. They join in with responses to prayers and listen to others with attention
- Pupils are knowledgeable about the liturgical year and could talk about what they had learnt previously about their Lenten journey. Each class has, since the return to school in September 2021, looked at the liturgical year and creative ways to represent this were explored, which is displayed prominently in each classroom
- They understand that they have a responsibility to carry forward the message they have received and undertake activities related to their experiences
- Pupils enjoy their Collective Worship and spoke about the calm, happy atmosphere they experience at such times. Pupils benefit from being part of a prayerful community
- Pupils understand the link between the Mission Statement and their daily prayer life as well as to their moral and spiritual development as kind, joyful, forgiving people
- Some pupils in each year group are Prayer Leaders and they are proud of this role, explaining how they take it in turns to lead Collective Worship over the academic year
- Collective Worship is clearly an important part of school life and during the pandemic the school ensured that pupils and their families were able to experience this. One way in which they did this was to link with St Nicholas Catholic High School to enhance St Luke's on-line provision
- Collective Worship is well planned, with a clear purpose and message. Staff are supported by the Headteacher and the Deputy Head in planning and delivering Collective Acts of Worship
- As restrictions ease after the pandemic, leaders and governors are beginning to look at safe ways in which parents and carers can once again become involved in the liturgy and worship in the school
- Great thought has been given to providing appropriate and meaningful resources for Collective Worship. This has enhanced the provision and displays around the school reflect the liturgical season and encourage thoughtful responses by pupils, staff, and visitors
- The link between the local parish community and the school is enhanced by the commitment of the Chair of Governors to supporting the Sacramental programme and groups such as the Mini Vinnies in school
- As the new, national Prayer and Liturgy Directory is introduced into our Catholic schools, all staff would benefit from undertaking CPDF offered to support and enhance understanding and provision.