

# Diocese of Wrexham



## SECTION 50 INSPECTION REPORT

Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Rebecca Langley  
Chair of Governors: Cllr D L Mackie

Date of Inspection: 27th and 28th March 2017

Inspectors: Bernard Stuart and Cheryll Oliver

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Canonical Inspection under Canon 806 on behalf of the Bishop of Wrexham and Inspection of  
Denominational Education under Section 50 of School Inspections, Education Act 2005

## **Main Judgement**

**Key Question 1: How good are outcomes?**

**Key Question 2: How good is provision?**

**Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?**

Inspectors also provide an overall judgement on the school's current performance and on its prospects for improvement.

## **What the judgement means**

Excellent.	Many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice or practice that is both consistent and highly effective.
Good.	Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement.
Adequate.	Strengths outweigh areas for improvement.
Unsatisfactory.	Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths.

The table below shows the terms Diocesan inspectors use and a broad idea of their meaning. It is for guidance only.

<b>Proportion.</b>	<b>Description</b>
With very few exceptions. 90% or more.	Nearly all Most
70% or more.	Many
60% or more.	A majority
Close to 50%.	Half/around half
Below 40%.	A minority
Below 20%.	Few
Less than 10%.	Very few

Copies of this report are available from the school.

# INSPECTION REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

The Inspection of Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic Primary School has been carried out in accordance with the Framework and Schedule for Section 50 Inspections (2010) issued by the Diocese of Wrexham and approved by the Bishop. The process of inspection in the Diocese has been developed as an activity of the Church to support schools in both maintaining and developing the quality of Catholic education provided.

The inspection of the school was carried out by two diocesan appointed Inspectors. They visited the religious education lessons and held meetings with the Head Teacher, the Chair of Governors, members of staff and pupils and attended the parents' meeting organised as part of the ESTYN inspection. They observed the school's work and provision, including prayer and collective worship. They looked at a range of evidence, including in particular, the school's own self-evaluation, the school's development plan and the pupils' recorded work.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL

Venerable Edward Morgan school's mission statement, 'Love and support in all we are taught' – 'Caria a chefnogaeth my mhopeth rhydan ni'n ddysgu', aims to place Christian values at the centre of everything the school does. It is a large voluntary aided 4-11 Catholic Primary School serving the parishes of Blessed Trinity, Queensferry, Blessed Sacrament, Connah's Quay and Sacred Heart, Hawarden in the Diocese of Wrexham and the Deeside Community. Nearly all of the families live within the Local Authority of Flintshire. The school is highly regarded in the local community and has close links with other local Catholic primary schools and the Saint Richard Gwyn Catholic High School. There are 279 pupils, 22 of whom are in the nursery. 60% of the children on roll are baptised Catholics, while the vast majority of the remainder have been christened in the Church of Wales. There are currently 13 full time teachers, including the Headteacher, of whom 12 are Catholics, with the remaining one a practising Christian. The majority of the staff either already have or are working towards having the CCRS.

It is an English medium school attracting a broad ability range from a wide socio-economic background. A significant number of pupils come from other Christian denominations. The population of EAL children has increased significantly since the last inspection from 0.9% to 12% and are mainly of Eastern European origin. In the school population since 2013 the percentage of pupils receiving FSM has increased from 9% to 13%.

**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS****GOOD**

It is evident that a large majority of parents praise the school for its caring, supportive and safe environment and for its clear Catholic ethos. The school tries at all times to be inclusive and to respond to Catholic parents and others who desire a faith-based education for their children. The school seeks to provide them with a foundation in the teachings of Christ whilst preparing them to be fully integrated into, and equipped to flourish in the community in which they live. There are excellent relationships within the school, with parents and with the feeder parishes. The weekly visits and input of one of the local parish priests contributes considerably. Prayer and worship form a key part of life in the school. Pupils make good progress and achievement in Religious Education.

In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils make progress and develop well and this continues into Key Stage 2. In Year 6 standards are very good and in line with Diocesan expectations. Most of the teaching seen during the inspection was good and there were some excellent aspects in upper Key Stage 2.

The spiritual and moral development provided for the pupils is constant and good. The pupils interviewed showed a lively and informed interest in and knowledge of their school and its ethos and values. The school benefits from the commitment of governors, some of whom are relatively newly appointed, who understand fully the school's mission and role. The Headteacher has been in post for 4 years, and was previously the Deputy Head. Together with the leadership team, the parish priest and committed governors she provides a supportive and well-ordered environment that ensures clear direction for all members of the school community. This ensures effective provision for the welfare and personal and spiritual development of pupils and the staff, most of whom have been appointed since the last inspection.

**PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT****GOOD**

The school has made good progress since the last inspection. Given the expectation of the Headteacher it is clear that the school has good capacity for continued improvement.

**WHAT THE SCHOOL SHOULD DO TO IMPROVE FURTHER**

- In Religious Education greater consistency in differentiation by task as evidenced in pupils' books is essential for continued improvements to be made.
- Although marking, assessment and levelling of work is generally consistent, it now needs to be developed further to provide constructive feedback so that pupils know what they need to do to improve. Pupils should be encouraged to respond to the advice given for improvement to ensure that they have engaged with the feedback.

- The school should ensure improvement in the quality and visibility of prayer tables in all classrooms and in the school entrance foyer.
- In order to support and provide a positive role model for the pupils, all staff and support staff should be present with classes whenever they gather for acts of worship.

#### **HOW GOOD ARE THE OUTCOMES.**

#### **GOOD**

It is to be noted that the behaviour of pupils in all lessons visited and generally around the school was excellent and displaying care for others. Pupils appreciate the distinctiveness of the school, displaying a care for each other, showing that the Catholic faith underpins day- to - day school life. During the year pupils are active in raising funds for CAFOD, Mission Together, Macmillan, a local food bank and the Poor Clare's community in Hawarden.

The achievement and enjoyment of learning by pupils in Religious Education lessons observed was generally good with some excellent aspects. The quality of work in both key stages is good with some excellent aspects in upper Key Stage 2. Marking and assessment is good and generally consistent. Evidence was seen of literacy, bilingualism, thinking skills and working with others.

The extent to which pupils contribute to, and benefit from, the Catholic life of the school is good. This will be further enhanced when new initiatives, such as the 'Prayer Partners' and the 'Gift Team', have had time to become fully embedded in the life of the school. The school incorporates the Welsh dimension into its daily activities with some prayers being said in Welsh. The Headteacher and the parish priest have organised a Mass schedule for all classes. Major feast and key moments in the life of pupils and school are marked with the celebration of Mass either in school or in one of the local parish churches.

Pupils were responsive to, and participated in, the prayer and worship observed by the inspectors. They show a willingness to lead and prepare acts of worship and they respond well to the resources of prayers and reflections provided for them.

#### **HOW GOOD IS PROVISION**

#### **GOOD**

The school fulfills the Bishops' requirement that 10% curriculum time be allocated for Religious Education and for the provision of daily acts of worship.

The member of staff responsible for Religious Education is highly experienced and provides good support for other members of staff. The quality of the teaching is judged to be good in the classes visited with some excellent features in upper Key Stage 2. There is an embedded procedure for assessment in the school and pupils are encouraged to use peer assessment and self-assessment. However, the school could expect to raise the current level of pupil attainment.

It is also noted that consistent use is made of 'I can' statements. While a prayer focus or table is present in every classroom the quality and/or presentation is variable across the classes seen.

On a more positive note, a number of recent initiatives were noted during the inspection, specifically, the Gift Team, the Prayer Partners, the Prayer Fobs, the Prayer Trail and the use of the 'See-Saw' programme. All of these which bode well for the future if they are maintained and further developed.

**HOW GOOD ARE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

**GOOD**

Leadership and management of the school are judged to be good in respect of providing a very supportive and well-ordered environment in which pupils demonstrate excellent standards of behaviour and attitudes to their fellow pupils. Both the Headteacher and the Curriculum Leader are established members of staff and know the school well. The Governors support them in promoting their vision of Catholic education. This is true even though some of the Governors are only recently appointed. The Mission Statement is evident across the school. Minutes seen from meetings suggest that both staff and governors have had input into the self- evaluation process being used effectively to examine and move the school forward. The Headteacher keeps the governing body informed of developments in the school. In the past the Curriculum Leader had established good rapport with the previous link governor for Religious Education and it is important that this partnership should now commence with the newly appointed person. The Headteacher works closely with the Parish Priest who is a regular visitor and friend to the school. Together they are developing both the worship, including the level of pupil input and leadership, and regular class masses. Finally, it is clear that the regular newsletters and use of technology enhance the school's communication with parents and with the wider community.

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## **Appendix 1. Evidence Base**

The school's self-evaluation reports and other relevant documentation

Meetings with the Headteacher and Religious Education subject leader

Meetings with the Chair of Governors

A meeting with parents

Lesson observations v

Scrutiny of planning and assessment

Scrutiny of pupils' work

Scrutiny of displays and prayer tables

Attendance at class and Key Stage 2 acts of worship

Discussions with pupils (the Gift Team, Prayer Partners, School Council and School Ambassadors

Discussions with staff

Observation of daily routines

**The Diocesan Inspectors wish to express sincere thanks to the Governors, Headteacher, staff, pupils and parents and also the Estyn Registered Inspector and the Inspection team for the courtesy and co-operation received during the inspection.**

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