



# St Modwen's Catholic Primary School

URN: 124326

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Birmingham

20–21 March 2025

## Summary of key findings

### Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

1

#### Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

1

#### Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

1

#### Collective worship (p.7)

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

1

The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference

Yes

The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop

Yes

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection

Fully

## Compliance statement

- This school fully complies with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference.
- This school is fully compliant with the additional requirements of His Grace.
- This school has fully addressed all previous areas for improvement.

## What the school does well

- The school's religious education provision enables pupils to develop a deep knowledge and understanding of the curriculum.
- Teachers' questioning effectively identifies the next steps in pupils' learning.
- Leaders have developed a powerful sense of community and belonging that all embrace.
- The school offers pupils a diverse range of inspirational prayer and liturgical experiences.
- Pupils' evaluation of their acts of prayer and liturgy is strong and effective in helping them improve.

## What the school needs to improve

- Consistently provide regular opportunities for pupils to present their work using various expressive forms in religious education.
- Ensure that systems for monitoring and evaluating collective worship are as systematic and rigorous as those for religious education and Catholic life and mission.

## Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

### Catholic life and mission key judgement grade

**Pupil outcomes**

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

1

**Provision**

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

1

**Leadership**

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

1

1

Pupils at St Modwen's have a strong understanding of the school's mission 'to aim high and achieve our God-given potential as socially responsible citizens, loving one another as Jesus loves us.' This is because the mission is lived out and modelled exceptionally well. They know they are deeply valued, and there are excellent relationships between adults and pupils. Pupils learn that St Modwen's is a community dedicated to following Jesus and can describe the ways they do this in their daily lives. Pupils respond positively to the demands of Catholic social teaching and can explain how the Gospels inform their actions. The Mini Vinnies and school parliament are active in fundraising for various charities. Pupils take a hands-on role when volunteering at the parish soup kitchen. They have a strong understanding of the need to care for our common home and have acted, for example, to reduce vehicle idling outside the school. Pupils are respectful of others and embrace differences. Behaviour throughout the school is respectful and cooperative. Pupils appreciate the chaplaincy provision at St Modwen's. They thoroughly enjoy contributing to and participating in the vast range of inspirational opportunities.

Staff embrace the school's mission and vision of 'excellence for all through Jesus' love.' There is a powerful sense of community, and staff are united in living out the school's mission. They are proud to be part of the school community. St Modwen's has a very positive school culture and is an uplifting, happy community to work and learn in. Staff have tremendous respect for each other and the families they serve. There is an all-encompassing culture of welcome. Everyone's unique identity and individuality are celebrated, and staff ensure people of all religious and ethnic backgrounds are valued and respected equally. Staff are positive role models for pupils and treat everyone with warmth, care and kindness. Pastoral care is strong, and staff care deeply about the pupils. The school environment is beautifully maintained. It is an attractive and

dignified, distinctively Catholic space. Numerous beautiful displays and focal points around the school provide opportunities for prayer and reflection. The well-planned chaplaincy provision ensures the spiritual and moral development of pupils and staff is strong. The school's relationship, sex, and health education (RSHE) provision is delivered through a sequenced scheme of work that meets diocesan requirements.

Leaders and governors diligently ensure St Modwen's lives out the Church's mission in education. The headteacher exudes joy, care, and enthusiasm through her faith-driven leadership and inspires all by her example. All leaders and governors embrace their responsibilities. Leaders and governors have nurtured a thriving and positive relationship with the parish, which is central to the Catholic life and mission of St Modwen's. The school actively supports parents and carers as the first educators of their children through a wide range of opportunities, such as regular class liturgies and sacramental preparation. Leaders and governors regularly capture the views of parents and carers, evaluate their findings and make adaptations to the provision in response. They ensure that strategic leadership and day-to-day management are rooted in the Gospels and Catholic social teaching. Staff feel valued, respected, and well cared for. Catholic social teaching is woven throughout the curriculum. Self-evaluation is accurate and based on thoughtful consideration of a wide range of regular monitoring evidence, with robust pupil monitoring and evaluation. Leaders and governors ensure that staff receive regular, well-thought-out training that helps them to improve their practice. New staff receive a highly effective induction.

## Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

### Religious education key judgement grade

**Pupil outcomes**

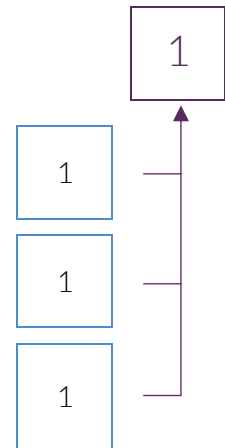
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

**Provision**

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education

**Leadership**

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for religious education



Pupils at St Modwen’s consistently develop excellent knowledge and skills in religious education. They make substantial progress from their starting points, and pupils with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) are very well supported towards the same curriculum endpoints as their peers. Pupils have strong religious literacy and excellent recall of what they have learnt in their religious education lessons. They thirst for learning and thoroughly enjoy opportunities to deepen their knowledge and understanding, often by reflecting on complex questions. They ask thoughtful questions of adults and each other and demonstrate deep knowledge and understanding. Pupils concentrate exceptionally well and thoroughly enjoy their learning. They take great pride in their work, which is usually neat and carefully presented. Pupils are highly motivated because the teaching at St Modwen’s is enjoyable, engaging, and matched to their needs. Behaviour in lessons is excellent, and pupils stay engaged, often for extended periods, without adult direction. As they progress through the school, pupils’ ability to work independently develops steadily. Pupils know how well they are doing and what they need to improve because teachers provide helpful feedback throughout lessons and regularly check pupils’ written work.

Teachers have strong subject knowledge in religious education because of the very high-quality support they receive. They are deeply committed to the value of religious education and understand its importance as a core subject in a Catholic school. Teachers and teaching assistants understand religious education's decisive contribution to pupils’ spiritual and moral development. Teachers plan lessons that match pupils’ needs because they carefully review every child’s knowledge and understanding within lessons and when checking pupils’ written work. Teachers’ questioning is a real strength of religious education at St Modwen’s, and teachers are highly skilled at deepening pupils’ knowledge and understanding by using very well-chosen,

precise questions. They consistently use pupils' responses to adapt their teaching to meet pupils' needs and address gaps in their knowledge. They follow an effective approach to teaching that builds pupils' knowledge step by step whilst regularly assessing and reaffirming pupils' prior learning. This approach is used consistently throughout the school and is highly effective in helping pupils to know and remember more. Teachers provide pupils with opportunities to present their work in a variety of forms, but this is not always consistently done.

Leaders and governors ensure the curriculum for religious education is very well taught. They ensure that teachers are well-trained and supported in delivering the curriculum. Religious education is very well-resourced and has the same status as other core subjects. The subject leader, also the deputy head teacher, makes an exceptional contribution to the high standard of religious education. Staff appreciate her generous support, enabling them to deliver the best quality religious education possible. She has a strong vision and can consistently secure the highest standards. Teaching is exceptionally well-sequenced, contributing to highly effective learning for pupils. Provision for pupils with SEND is strong because of a determined focus by leaders and governors. Religious education is systematically monitored and evaluated, driving a culture of continuous improvement. Leaders and governors have very high expectations of themselves and their staff. They provide very effective support to ensure these challenging standards can be met. The link governor regularly visits the school and feeds back to the governing body. This enables governors to understand and check the quality of provision and provide appropriate challenge and support for leaders.

## Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

### Collective worship key judgement grade

**Pupil outcomes**

How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

1

**Provision**

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

1

**Leadership**

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

2

1

Prayer and liturgy at St Modwen's are creative, engaging, and enjoyable, and this is reflected in pupils' enthusiastic responses. Pupils are respectful and attentive and participate actively in various settings. They are familiar with multiple ways of praying, both traditional and contemporary. They thoroughly enjoy 'rolling worship' during Advent, Lent, and other special occasions. Pupils have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the liturgical year and can describe various liturgical traditions of the school, such as the May procession. Pupils say they really enjoy whole school retreat days. They are proud to participate in celebrations with the parish and enjoy a very positive relationship with the two parish priests. Pupils are confident in planning, organising, leading, and evaluating their acts of prayer and liturgy. Their skills build up progressively throughout their time at St Modwen's. The quality of pupils' self-evaluation is a strength of the school, and pupils actively contribute to continuous improvement. Pupils can readily describe how their experience of prayer and liturgy inspires them to take social action. They make strong connections between prayer and liturgy and the school's many acts of charitable outreach.

Prayer, liturgy, and regular gatherings as a faith community are at the heart of life at St Modwen's. A well-established daily and weekly pattern of prayer and liturgy ensures its centrality. A vast range of creative and engaging approaches dramatically enhances this. One example is the festival of prayer – a week-long event focused on St Modwen's feast day with an outdoor Mass, pupil-prepared liturgy, music, and events for the entire community – all inside a giant marquee. Another example is the popular 'Easter play' set to contemporary music with bespoke lyrics. Leaders and staff are models of strong practice when leading and participating in prayer and liturgy. Their positive and consistent example helps pupils plan and lead their own high-quality liturgies. Pupils and staff share their unique gifts and talents, such as pupils playing

instruments and teachers taking the lead in organising and writing the lyrics for the 'Easter play.' The entire school is well used to provide creative and attractive spaces for prayer, liturgy, and reflection, both indoors and outside. The school offers many opportunities for parents and carers to participate in prayer and liturgy in the school and parish, and uptake is very positive.

The school's policy for prayer and liturgy supports the consistent quality of provision. A detailed progression map helps develop pupils' knowledge and skills when planning and leading their own acts of prayer and liturgy. Leaders and governors ensure the school calendar is planned around the liturgical year. They ensure regular opportunities for celebrating the Eucharist and for pupils to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Leaders and governors ensure all staff are provided with opportunities for their own formation so that they understand the importance of prayer and liturgy. Leaders ensure that scripture is central to school life. They provide support to staff to enable them to lead prayer and liturgy. Leaders and governors ensure prayer and liturgy are highly esteemed and well-resourced. Leaders' and governors' monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy is effective, but it is not as systematic and rigorously organised as in other areas, such as religious education. The school makes very effective use of pupil voice, which makes a valuable contribution to evaluating prayer and liturgy.

## Information about the school

Full name of school	St Modwen's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	124326
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	860 3420
Full postal address of the school	Tutbury Road, Burton-on-Trent, DE13 0AJ
School phone number	01283 247560
Headteacher	Andrea Sherratt
Chair of governing board	Jerome Emery
School Website	<a href="http://www.st-modwens.staffs.sch.uk">www.st-modwens.staffs.sch.uk</a>
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	February 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	1

## The inspection team

Mark Hinton  
Dianne Stokes

Lead  
Team

## Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement