

Partners in Communication - Silver

External Stakeholders

There is a commitment between St Monica's with businesses and other learning institutions to work towards a common goal of working together to enhance opportunities not only to our young people but many in the wider community. The school has been relentless in its strive to provide quality learning experiences to its pupils and in this taking advantage of other institutions and initiatives available.

The school has of late been involved in a bid for a vocational second specialism, a bid for a post 16 learning centre, involved in extended schools self evaluation in partnership with other providers of services in the borough as well as being a language college. The impact of these recent developments and initiatives has been significant. (See evidence)

The school has an 'excellent range of partnerships; for example, work with local partner primary schools.....many links with schools in Europe and Mexico as well as in China. The schools involvement in its local 14-19 strategy group has forged important partnerships for further curriculum development' Ofsted 09

Language college status has enabled the school to forge long lasting partnerships with business' and other educational institutions.

St Monica's recognises that communication with others is a necessity and learning for the school as well as individuals is an ongoing process, as a result the school is linked to various other organisations in a variety of ways;

The school are also members of i.net (International Networking for Educational Transformation); international network of schools, organizations and individuals who are committed to transforming learning through innovation.

The School also meets and works with their Catholic Cluster and the Specialist Schools Trust. St Monica's is also within a group of a 'family' of schools within the Greater Manchester Challenge in order to foster and encourage excellence.

The school plans to develop its links further with Manchester University and Salford University with particular regard to gifted and talented provision. (SEF 4i)

Transition is a major strength at St Monica's and partnerships between the high school and 5 feeder primary schools and up to 15 others is second to none; key transition staff have excellent relationships enabling them to provide information in a variety of ways throughout the year supporting pupils in their move to high school. A number of departments within school work with our primary schools including MFL and PE. MFL work with colleges and Special Needs Schools The year 6 transition Summer School every year is supported by local business who in partnership with the school provide valuable experiences to participating students of St Monica's and a number of feeder primary schools.

The stakeholders of the school have a shared vision (See SEF Section 2). The governing body are fully involved in the life of the school and are involved in all decisions. The governing body has representatives from our parishes, parents and business (HSBC). The governors are fully involved in making decisions about the school and with departments in setting School Improvement targets each year.

Within the governing body sub committees are concerned with specific areas and work with school staff to address for example; finance, discipline, curriculum.

All learning activities within school are evaluated by pupils, external organisations involved and pupils themselves in order to assess the effectiveness of the experience and inform future learning. All parties are informed of outcomes.

Before major events within school by outside agencies ie Just Youth, Mission Team, Business enterprise etc meetings before hand will take place to agree objectives and outcomes.

'The school is highly inclusive and a range of professionals, including learning mentors and outside agencies, provide students with outstanding care, guidance and support' Ofsted 09.

In order to support pupils pastorally the school works alongside a number of other agencies including Connexions, Relateen, CAMHS, PLC, Social Services amongst others. The Pastoral Care at St Monica's and its partnerships with external agencies has been recognised as 'outstanding'.

The school in March 2009 provided members running for election with Youth Parliament with the opportunity to visit St Monica's to discuss issues in the community for young people. The Youth Parliament elections also took place at St Monica's. Relationships with the successful candidate and the community will continue to develop with visits and forums in the foreseeable future.

Students engage in charity work for their local community, especially amongst the elderly. They also take part in holocaust memorial events.' Ofsted 09

Members of the community are involved in language classes and are asked for evaluation and feedback in order for the school to improve and improve its provision. (See evidence).

Departments throughout the school work with members of the community to provide expert knowledge, members of business and the community have been an invaluable resource in Art (Who worked with professional artists to produce display work), Drama (Working with Youth Theatre/Lowry and lighting/scenery professionals to learn about the theatre), MFL RE (services to the community) to name a few (See SEF).

The MFL department has links and relationships with a number of schools in Spain, France, Mexico and China.

There have been a number of visits to the 171 school in China which is a direct result of the partnership forged between the schools. St Monica's supports a Chinese language assistant each year also as a result of this partnership providing many opportunities for pupils to develop their understanding of Chinese culture and tradition.

The MFL department have worked to strengthen links with the community by providing language classes in the community to learn French, Spanish, Italian and for other groups to learn English; 'There are exchanges to Spain, France and China, including the chance for older students to undertake work experience in French Primary Schools' Ofsted 09

'Students cultural awareness is enhanced by links with a Chinese partner school and language assistant. Students also benefit from close links with a local school for Jewish students, from performances in school by African musicians and from links with a school in Gambia, which they support' Ofsted 09.

Some pupils in year 10 at St Monica's are involved in developing a joint website with exchange students from a partnership with a school in Valencia (see evidence).

The Young enterprise team has a link with Pricewater House Cooper; a successful accountancy company and has been supported by them and benefited from their guidance and advice. The Young enterprise team have worked alongside other schools in developing its own business. Pupils are involved in other projects outside of school including police forums, Youth Parliament to name a few (See SEF section 4e)

Year 10 Students 'now have an opportunity for a period of work experience. This is an improvement since the last inspection' Ofsted 09

All year 10 pupils will participate in work experience this has developed over recent years and over 230 pupils each year benefit from their time within local business who work with the school to help students to make decisions about their future and learn about the world of work.

St Monica's also works in partnership with further education institutions to help to support pupils in making decisions about their future. Holy Cross, Loretto College, Bury College are invited into school to speak to pupils. Groups of pupils may visit the college or Manchester / Liverpool Hope University.

In recent years St Monica's has been involved in collaborative timetabling with other local schools and colleges. Pupils from St Monica's have studied languages at Holy Cross College, Bury and pupils in key stage four study Health and Social Care at our local college with members of other secondary schools.

St Monica's is a 'flagship' for the LEA and within the diocese a model of Good Practice which is readily shared with other schools. A number of departments have also been involved in sharing good practice with other schools including RE, English, Science. The drama department have been involved in providing INSET to other schools.

A number of staff have been involved in visiting other schools in order to learn from them; schools include; Lymm High School, Xvarian College, Ambrose Barlow and many more.

Evidence to upload;

- There was lots of other evidence which could be used however in order to limit evidence uploaded will initially upload the following;
- SEF
- Screen shot Valencia Website
- Ofsted report
- Slides from Yr 6 info eve/ photos (assessor view only)
- Traffic Lights - extended schools SEF
- Example of feedback from language classes
- Overview of work experience/ Partnerships with colleges
- Vocation bid specialist schools.