

**INSPECTION REPORT**

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**Inspection carried out Under Canon 806  
and in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005**

**Name of School**      **St Anne’s Roman Catholic Primary School, Ancoats, Manchester, M4 7EQ**

Inspection date      9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Reporting Inspectors      Dennis Harrison, Martin Johnson and Anna Shanley

Type of school	Primary
URN	131884
Age range of pupils	3-11
Number on roll	219
Appropriate authority	The Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Tracey Weedon
Headteacher	Angela Shore
Religious Education Co-ordinator	Jacqueline Greene
Date of previous inspection	November 2012

<b>The Inspection judgements are:</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Explanation of the Grades</b>
Overall effectiveness of the school	2	1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
The quality of Catholic Leadership	1	
The Catholic Life of the school (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness)	1	
The quality of Religious Education (incorporating Word)	2	
The quality of Worship	2	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

## **CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL**

St Anne's is situated in the Ancoats area of Manchester City Centre. Although the area has witnessed significant urban renewal in recent years there is evidence of social deprivation in the area the school serves. The school is rich in diversity. 41% of children have English as an Additional Language. 21% are currently on free school meals with 36% receiving pupil premium which is above the national average. 10% of the children have SEND. The children enter the school with ability lower than that expected nationally. 7 of the 11 teachers are Catholic, with 3 holding the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies and 3 having completed the Catholic Leadership Programme. The headteacher and deputy headteacher both took up post at St Anne's in September 2009.

## **THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:**

- **The Catholic life of the school where every child is given every chance and is treated with love, dignity and respect.**
- **Delightful children who articulate their pride and joy in attending St Anne's with great affection.**
- **Outstanding leadership, including governance, which has protected St Anne's in times of challenge and change.**
- **The school's sense of community whereby every person is valued and welcomed as a child of God.**

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD**

St Anne's RC Primary School is led outstandingly well by the headteacher, the senior leadership team and the governing board. This is a happy and vibrant community that reaches out to the marginalised and less fortunate. A culture has been created which provides a joyful haven of security allowing every child and every family to feel valued and cherished. The children are rightly very proud of their school. They love being a part of the St Anne's family because the school has been exceptionally successful in providing outstanding Welcome and Welfare for all. Parents are passionate about the school and appreciate the school's distinctive Catholic nature. They know they belong to a special community and feel at ease to approach school as a respectful and warm welcome is always given. Christ is at the heart of the school's excellent witness to gospel values, especially in the way the whole school community reaches out to those in need. No one is marginalised or left out and the school invests significantly into caring supportive services, like CARITAS, to help to make each day a better day. Hence a powerful team ethic pervades which supports St Anne's strong Catholic tradition and mission in education. Religious Education is a strength of the school, especially the impressive deep knowledge the children possess of Sacred Scripture, the Bible and Catholic traditions and sacraments. The school should now find more opportunities to encourage outstanding presentation of work in Religious Education that can be displayed prominently and modelled to encourage even higher standards. Similarly the good provision in Worship, with lovely assemblies and weekly Masses, can be enhanced by ensuring the children enjoy many times of quiet, mindful and meditative prayer allowing them simply to listen to God whenever needed. The regular support from the parish priests enhances the Catholic life of the school. There is much to celebrate at St Anne's RC Primary School. As one parent said, 'When I arrived from far away I felt a little lost, but I now feel I belong as St Anne's has really welcomed and cared for my family – it is a real Catholic school!'

## **THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING**

The headteacher at St Anne's is a highly respected and valued person within the community. She is determined to provide a safe haven for the children and has been extremely successful in creating a welcoming school whereby parents and carers share complete partnership with the school. Very positive relationships have been created as is evidenced by the love, dignity and respect bestowed on every child. The deputy and assistant headteachers take key roles in the leadership of the school and share the headteacher's passion for the school to be successful and vibrant. Leaders are deeply committed to the school's mission in education and their outreach to those at the margins of society is a significant strength of the school. New teachers are supported well as they commence their roles and are given the opportunity to become familiar with the school's Catholic mission by attending in-service activities both in school and at Salford Diocese. The many staff changes that have occurred in recent years have been managed well and they benefit from the supportive team ethic which exists. Governors are fully involved in the school and have a clear understanding of the school's mission. They provide both support and challenge in equal measure, yet maintain trusting and positive relationships. This sets the tone for school's warm and open atmosphere. The involvement of the priests within the parish is very much appreciated and plays a key role in the formation of the children because they are actively involved in the daily life of the school.

### **THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness) IS OUTSTANDING**

The Catholic life of St Anne's is outstanding. The school has been very successful in reaching out to all of its families so that they feel a genuine sense of trust and belonging. Parents have no fear approaching the school as they know there will always be a listening ear. They feel that even the most difficult of matters can be raised with the school because trusting and supportive relationships are embedded. The families at St Anne's fully value the school's passion to ensure every child has a most positive Catholic education and in turn, the children follow the example from adults within the community and have become wholly respectful, welcoming and joyful around school. They are a credit to the school and their families. A measure of the profound commitment the school places on the welfare of its families is the enormous investment into caring and supportive services such as CARITAS. Families are very well supported in their parenting and this is reflected in the lack of exclusions, the scarcity of serious behavioural incidents and the high level of attendance. The children feel very safe and cared for and say that bullying rarely happens and is always dealt with immediately. Hence they instinctively reach out to others, both near and far, supporting many local charities and enjoying the reward of being active, loving members of God's family. They enjoy the 'My Happy Mind' project and they have a keen awareness of global issues. St Anne's reaches out to its local community in an exceptionally supportive manner. The school's mission declares 'Every child, every chance' and this is lived out in the school's impressive attitude to admissions whereby they 'never give up' on any child. St Anne's has been there when others have given up, giving many children and families a new start and a bright future. Hence the school bears outstanding witness to Gospel values. As one parent stated, 'I walk past three schools to bring my children here because this school has brought the smiles back into our lives!'

### **THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS GOOD**

The Mission Statement at St Anne's is known and understood by the children. They refer particularly to 'Every Child, every chance' as a key phrase for everyday life at St Anne's. The children were unsure when the mission statement was last reviewed, but enjoyed the opportunities to deepen their understanding in assemblies earlier in the year. Overall teaching observed and the standards of the children's work in Religious Education are good. It is not yet outstanding because teaching did not always significantly challenge all groups of learners. There was insufficient evidence of very high quality work, both in the children's books and on display that could be modelled to encourage ever higher standards, increased reward and confidence. Given that the children demonstrated outstanding Religious literacy in pupil talk, the school should now build on this most positive strength and find opportunities to celebrate and encourage exceptional outcomes based on high expectations for all. The youngest children develop positive attitudes to Religious Education because planning is strong, child friendly age appropriate resources are used and care is taken to provide a supportive learning environment. Teaching is at its strongest when excellent questioning skills are deployed, as in a Key Stage One lesson where the children were learning about the Last Supper. Positive relationships are a key strength of the school and enhance learning. In an Upper Key Stage Two class where children were discussing the concept of communion, the humour and encouragement used by the teacher gave the children the confidence to delve deeply into 'Big Questions' in a wonderfully supportive and risk free atmosphere. These good foundations should now be used to encourage really well presented work that shows individuality, creativity and reflective thinking so that the best work is always shared and celebrated in lively, vibrant displays that enhance the learning environment.

### **THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS GOOD**

The children at St Anne's have acquired a deep knowledge of Sacred Scripture and have impressive and confident Religious literacy skills. They enjoy gathering for Collective Acts of Worship with their community which are lovely events celebrating the uniqueness of each child. They behave beautifully in assembly and pray together with reverence. Children have the opportunity to take leading roles in these gatherings and they do so with confidence and skill. Parents attend in large numbers and enjoy the celebratory nature and the warm welcome they are afforded. The school has very recently opened a special prayer room and the children are looking forward to being able to access this for quiet, meditative and mindful prayer. Worship is good at St Anne's and will be outstanding when the children prepare and lead these times of meditative prayer so that placing themselves silently into the presence of God becomes a daily occurrence. This a natural step as the children acquire a greater range of prayerful traditions. There are set times each day for prayer in each classroom and lessons often start or conclude by offering the day's work to God. The children know they are children of God and share their worries, joys and dreams with openness. They particularly enjoy the involvement of 'Just Youth' who have had close links with the

school for many years. Every class has a prayer focus area. Prayer is resourced appropriately and is a core feature of the school. The children take an active role in liturgy and they attend Holy Mass every week. The involvement of the clergy in the daily life of school is highly valued and appreciated. The calm and reverent atmosphere around the school supports St Anne's outstanding social, moral, spiritual and cultural provision.

#### **AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- **To enhance further the quality of children's work by raising expectations of what children can consistently achieve and so that outstanding work is celebrated and modelled for all to witness.**
- **To extend the school's provision in Worship to include regular, child led, contemplative and meditative prayer.**
- **To create a more celebratory learning environment.**