

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 RC Primary School, Fielden Street, Blackburn, BB2 1LQ**

Inspection date 23rd January 2018

Reporting Inspectors Julie Frazer, John Thorpe

Type of school	Primary
URN	119511
Age range of pupils	3 – 11 years
Number on roll	238
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Glyn Hughes
Headteacher	Jeff Brown
Religious Education Co-ordinator	Leanne Brown
Date of previous inspection	May 2012

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the Grades
Overall effectiveness of the school	2	1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
The quality of Catholic Leadership	2	
The Catholic Life of the school (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness)	2	
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 a Roman Catholic Primary School with 238 children currently on roll including nursery children. The school serves the parish of Sacred Heart and St Anne's. 73% of the children are Baptised Roman Catholic and 8 of the 12 teaching staff are Roman Catholic, with the other 4 being practising Christians. A significant number of support staff are also Catholic. 2 members of staff have the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies and a third is currently undertaking this qualification. The school is situated in an area where there is high deprivation and there are currently 65% of children attending the school from different ethnic groups other than White British with 56% of the children having English as an additional language. The percentage of pupils with special educational needs is above the national average and the number of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan is significantly above the national average. The school population is quite transient and it regularly receives children who are new or recent arrivals to the country.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- **The manner in which the headteacher and senior leaders, supported by the governing body, demonstrate ambitious leadership. They have shown courage and determination in taking the school forward during a period of challenge and considerable change.**
- **The exceptional lengths that all staff go to in order to provide a school community that has the welfare of children, their parents and families at the heart of their work. As far as possible every child is cared for so that they can access all aspects of the Catholic life of the school on a daily basis.**

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL IS GOOD

St Anne's is a good Roman Catholic school which has undertaken significant changes in its leadership and staffing since its last inspection. All the areas for development since the last inspection have been met effectively. The school's recently reviewed mission statement clearly places Christ at the centre of its work and gives a clear and unambiguous vision of the aspirations for every child in the school. Since the appointment of a new headteacher and senior leadership team the school has grown from strength to strength. Governors are fully supportive of the school and its mission in Catholic education. The school provides an inclusive environment and welcomes its diverse community. Parents and visitors alike are welcomed in to the warm atmosphere that the school provides for all. A great sense of care and support for the welfare of all exists within the school. Children bear witness to Gospel Values and they place Christ at the centre of their school life. There have been significant improvements in Religious Education over the last 2 years and the introduction of a new scheme of work, along with rigorous monitoring and high expectations, have impacted positively on pupils' learning and their good levels of progress. Children are increasing in confidence in leading acts of worship and are enthusiastic about this. They are now ready to plan for and deliver these with increasing independence. Senior leaders, with the support of the governing body, have made a clear commitment to provide a Catholic school which places their children at the centre of all they do. As such, St Anne's is a school where children can grow and develop as individuals within a flourishing Catholic environment.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS GOOD

Since the appointment of the new headteacher in 2015 there have been significant changes in the teaching staff and senior leaders; 9 of the 10 teachers are new to the school. With this change there has been a rapid increase in expectations and standards in all areas of the school including the Religious Education curriculum. Senior leaders, including the Religious Education subject leader, have implemented a new scheme of work to support teaching and learning in Religious Education and have made clear their vision and expectations. There are now rigorous monitoring procedures in place which ensure that all pupils are making good progress in their learning. The school's mission statement was reviewed in 2016 and all members of the school community were included in this review. It was launched in early 2017. The headteacher and senior leaders demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare of the school community including children, parents and staff as well as those who are not of the Catholic faith. They welcome children who are new arrivals to the country providing effective support in meeting their challenging needs. Governors are effective in promoting the school. They have fully supported the headteacher through the significant changes in the last 2 years including the appointment of new teaching staff. They have allocated funding to support vulnerable children and provide effective resourcing for teaching in Religious Education and the Catholic life of the school. The governors understand the strengths of the school and the priorities for its improvement. The parish priest is fully involved in the life of the school and regularly celebrates Mass with the children.

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness) IS GOOD

St Anne's provides a school community in which everyone is valued and welcomed and Jesus is placed at the centre of all that it does. Parents are happy to send their children to this school which they say enjoys a clearly Catholic ethos and is highly inclusive. They also welcome the school's 'open door' policy and highly appreciate it. Each member of the school's diverse community is respected and valued. Pupils are proud to be members of St Anne's school and some families have deep roots going back many years. There are clear systems and procedures in place to ensure safeguarding and children have a very clear understanding of what to do if they are worried or concerned about anything. All staff and pupils demonstrate a high level of respect and care for others especially those who are on the margins of society. A family support worker is employed by the school and she has a passion for reaching out to families in need and to helping them in any way she can whilst being extremely mindful to respect their dignity. The many charities supported by the school encourages the children to think of others and to demonstrate compassion for those less fortunate than themselves in the local and wider community. The Sex and Relationships Education effectively guides the children in having respect for themselves and others. Children and staff are confident witnesses to the values of a Catholic community. Christ is placed at the centre of school life and all members of the school bear witness to its mission statement. Pupils behave well and understand that they bear witness to Christ in the manner in which they value and respect one another. The school's Faith Council plays an active role in school life and they are gaining in confidence. Staff demonstrate a clear sense of compassion and forgiveness and by doing this they have significantly improved relationships within the school.

THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS GOOD

The recently revised mission statement is understood by all members of the school community and the overarching principle of 'making tomorrow a better day' has a real impact on the manner in which members of the school community conduct themselves within the ethos of compassion and forgiveness. Religious Education is at the core of the Core Curriculum and its effect permeates throughout the school and beyond. This is shown by the fact that parents say that they choose to send their children to St Anne's due to its Catholic ethos, nature and supportive environment. The Religious Education subject leader has introduced 'Come and See' to support learning and teaching in line with the Curriculum Directory. Following its implementation she has led training for staff and undertaken supportive yet rigorous monitoring of learning and teaching within this subject area. Along with other senior leaders she has set ambitious targets for children's level of attainment and good progress is now being made by all children. Effective support is being provided for those children who might otherwise have presented barriers to learning. Assessment is used effectively to inform planning and improve learning. During the inspection some good and outstanding lessons were observed and so the school is now well placed to build on these foundations to ensure that learning and teaching continues to grow. Sacred Scripture is known and understood throughout the school and the Word of God informs teaching across the curriculum. In order to further support and help parents the school sends home a termly curriculum overview for Religious Education. Along with this there are suggested activities for parents to undertake with their children to further support their learning and deepen their understanding.

THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS GOOD

The school has shown a genuine commitment to worship and as such has given one of their teachers a specific responsibility for developing this aspect of its Catholic life. During the inspection the acts of worship that were observed were led confidently and competently by the children. Sacred Scripture was central to the acts of worship and pupils were able to ask the other children questions about the readings they had heard. In turn these questions were responded to appropriately. Throughout these acts of worship all the children participated with respect and reverence. As a result of the firm foundation and support that the children have been given by adults in the school, they are now well placed to develop and plan for their own acts of worship with increasing independence. Children spoke very enthusiastically about their involvement in planning for and delivering acts of worship and are now ready to undertake a greater level of responsibility for this. There is evidence throughout the school that children are encouraged to write their own prayers and this includes each of them having their own prayer journal. Children are given the time and opportunity to be silent and to contemplate and develop their relationship with Jesus on a daily basis. Throughout the liturgical year, the school undertakes acts of worship and celebrations which are age appropriate and the school actively seeks to expose the children to and engage them with a wide

variety of Scripture readings. The school, along with the parish priest, supports increasing numbers of children who are undertaking the Sacramental Programme and these numbers have significantly improved this year.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- **To develop further pupil leadership in worship so that they are able to build on their firm foundations and so prepare for and lead acts of worship with increasing independence and confidence.**
- **To identify and share the good and outstanding practice that exists within the school in order to continue to raise standards and provide even further challenge in teaching Religious Education.**