

INSPECTION REPORT

St Anne's R.C Primary School Moss Bank, Crumpsall, Manchester, M8 5AB

Inspection date 7th December 2015

Reporting Inspector Mr Andrew Sowerby
Mr John Thorpe

Inspection carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School Primary
 URN 105521
 Age range of pupils 3-11 years
 Number on roll 336
 Appropriate authority The Governing Body
 Chair of Governors Fr. David Glover
 Headteacher Mrs. Karen Orrell
 Religious Education Subject Leader Mrs Gemma Regan
 Date of previous inspection January 2010

The Inspection judgements are:	Grade	Explanation of the Grades 1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
Overall effectiveness of the school	1	
The quality of Catholic Leadership	1	
The quality of the Word of God	1	
The quality of the Welcome	1	
The quality of Welfare	1	
The quality of Worship	1	
The quality of Witness	1	
The following pages provide reasons to support these judgements		

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL

St. Anne's RC Primary School is an average sized primary school serving the parish of St Anne's, Crumpsall, Manchester. The current number on roll is 336; including the nursery. 71% of pupils are baptised Catholics. The school is gradually expanding to meet the growing population of the area and so the pupils, who are aged 3-11 years, are arranged single age classes: two form entry years Reception to Year 2 and one form entry Years 3 to 6. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds or who speak English as an additional language is 42%, which is well above the national average. The total percentage of pupils identified with SEND is 12.4%; 7 pupils have a statement/EHCP and 8 pupils currently under assessment. The proportion of disadvantaged children known to be eligible for pupil premium is 31%, which is above the national average. There are 15 full time teachers and 1 part time teacher, of whom 11 are Catholic. 6 Staff hold the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies and one other is completing it. The school also has 26 teaching assistants. The school has a strong commitment to a range of successful accreditations including: Healthy School's Accreditation, Primary Science Quality Mark gold award, Silver Sainsbury's Active Mark, Foundation International School's Award, and are currently working towards the Leading Parent Partnership Award.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL

St Anne's is an outstanding Catholic Primary school. All who visit and work at the school are immediately aware of the wonderfully warm and friendly welcome. All children are provided with a vibrant Catholic education in a caring and supportive environment, where differences are celebrated. All children take a great pride in the school, which is fully inclusive. For those children who experience challenges it provides for them an 'oasis of calm' where their individual needs are catered for. As one child put it "St Anne's is like the family of God where all are welcome irrespective of which religion they follow". The school works with the parish priest so that the whole Catholic community is seen as a united family. This ensures the pastoral and spiritual needs of all families and children are very well met. The dedicated headteacher, senior leadership team and RE subject leader have high expectations of adults and children. Together they have created an ethos where everyone recognises the need to work together to meet the needs of all its members. This work is further enhanced by the support of a well informed and very effective governing body. The children love coming to school and the school chaplains and RE ambassadors all expressed how very proud they are of the opportunities given to them. Pupils are friendly, polite and welcoming and their behaviour at all times is exemplary. They work hard to fulfil the high expectations of the adults. They enjoyed every opportunity to share with the inspectors their work. The staff and pupils demonstrate a very high level of respect, care and service to others. This is also enhanced by the many engaging and uplifting Acts of Collective Worship that the inspection team observed.

THE KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- Outstanding Catholic leadership across the school.
- The welfare of pupils which is of paramount importance.
- Excellent relationships.
- The exemplary behaviour of the children.
- The school's self-evaluation, which is accurate and reflective, so providing the school with a clear plan for future development.
- An informed and very effective governing body.

THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS OUTSTANDING

There is very strong leadership at all levels of the school community, which contributes significantly to the outstanding provision for Catholic education that the school currently provides. The headteacher, senior leadership team and RE subject leader provide an extremely clear vision for the school. They provide outstanding role models for the whole school community and as a result the development of the Catholic life

of the school is at the forefront of the school's work. The SLT are supported by an informed and knowledgeable Governing Body. The school has a clear plan for developing RE across the school and this is reflected in the priority it is given. Evidence for this can be found in the school's self-evaluation plan, which is based on the 5Ws model. The school is aware of its next steps and has clear plans for implementing them. As a result, the inspectors can verify that this evaluation is both accurate and reflective. The effective governing body has a clear sense of vision for the school and is aware of the need to continue to improve the school's learning environment, so as to ensure that the school can continue to provide such a high quality Catholic education.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORD OF GOD IS OUTSTANDING

The school's mission statement is clearly displayed throughout the school. It is known, lived and witnessed to and is evident at every level of the school. Consequently it has developed in the children a great sense of pride and belonging in the whole Catholic family of St Anne's. This was evidenced in the confident manner in which the children could explain how it is implemented by everyone at the school. The staffing and resources devoted to RE are of the highest standard. Teaching is very good across the school with many examples of outstanding practice. Pupils are challenged to engage with the 'big questions' of the purpose and meaning of life throughout the curriculum. This could be seen particularly in those lessons where children were challenged to implement the gospel message in their own lives. Examples of this were seen in Key Stage 2 where the children were challenged to reflect upon the feelings of Mary when she heard that she was to become the mother of God and in the Early Years where the children displayed a developing knowledge of the Nativity story. Scripture is clearly known, understood and made relevant throughout the school. This was evident not only in the classrooms and in the high quality evidence files that the school provided, but also in discussions with the children. Overall the standards of attainment, progress and hence achievement, are outstanding. The school has introduced the new "Come and See" scheme, which is well supplemented by other RE resources so that as a result standards of learning are high. Work in RE is clearly as excellent as work in other subjects. However the school does need to further enhance the quality of marking in RE so that all children are provided with clear guidance as to how to improve their work. In all classrooms there is clear evidence of the centrality of prayer and worship in the children's lives and how this is linked to the RE curriculum.

THE QUALITY OF WELCOME IS OUTSTANDING

St Anne's is a school where everyone feels welcome. Parents were keen to express their views by saying "You get a real welcome with a staff member on the gate every morning", whilst another commented that "the staff treat every child as being special and never pre judge them" The importance of the dignity of the individual is clearly evident at all levels. This could be seen in the way that pupils and staff treated children special educational needs so that their self-esteem is raised and their needs met. The use of the programme 'Super Flex' and other social interventions ensure that the needs of all children are met. The quality of the outreach support provided by the school has enabled it to support those families who live in challenging circumstances. Parents are welcomed into school and are encouraged to engage in their child's learning. This could clearly be seen in the way that staff from the nursery and reception classes met parents at the start of the school day. Parents are kept informed and up to date about the curriculum and events in school through the use of the school newsletter and school website. The school also ensures that the voice of the children is heard and respected. Older children care for the younger ones. Pupil chaplains and RE ambassadors' work to ensure playtimes are fun and peaceful. During the course of the inspection the children's behaviour was outstanding.

THE QUALITY OF WELFARE IS OUTSTANDING

At St Anne's the welfare of each individual child and member of staff is of paramount importance. This was noticed throughout the inspection in the way that staff demonstrated a high level of respect, care and service to the children they worked with and the staff they worked alongside. Further evidence of this genuine care for the welfare of others was observed in the way that parents and carers were also treated with great sensitivity, so as to ensure that their dignity and value was maintained and appreciated. Pupils and staff feel safe and free to express their opinions and know that these will be valued. Importance and recognition is given

equally to all. Children during lessons listened respectfully to other pupils' ideas. Play partners and buddies look after and care for younger children. Calm support is offered by sensitive adults when children have difficulty remaining on task. Such role models ensure learning and good relationships develop. This work has been enhanced by the provision of separate nurture and social friendship groups. The school stresses the importance of reaching out beyond its own community so that children feel part of God's world. The charity work is a living example of this as children support CAFOD, St Joseph's Penny and many other charities in special circumstances chosen by the children. The school goes to great lengths to ensure as far as possible children are free from worry and a happy, calm atmosphere is the norm.

THE QUALITY OF THE WORSHIP COMMUNITY IS OUTSTANDING

The school provides a variety of worship opportunities for pupils throughout the school, prayer, reflection, liturgies, which are appropriate to their backgrounds and faith experiences. The development of opportunities for pupils to worship according to their intellectual and life experiences and stages of faith development, is clearly evident. This could be seen in the way that the "Oasis" and the Chaplaincy area was used for simple age appropriate acts of worship. All staff are confident and skilled in planning and leading prayer and worship which is pupil-centred, creative, inclusive and relevant. Staff development for prayer and worship is a priority. The school provides a wide range of reflective prayer opportunities. This could be seen not only in the different prayer services observed by the inspection team, but also evident in the classroom and hall displays. The parish priest regularly celebrates the Mass with the children in school. Key events are celebrated with special masses: the beginning of each school year, the parish and school feast day, Holy Days and at the end of the year. During Advent, Lent and the Easter season the school holds assemblies, liturgies, times of reflection and reconciliation. There is a daily act of collective worship. These take place in a variety of formats and are thought provoking, uplifting experiences, for example, those witnessed in the nursery and in the "Toast and Pray" session. Children pray with great reverence, respect and thought. Pupils are comfortable with their feelings and have a good and knowledgeable vocabulary. Each class has a special area of focus, whilst hymns, music and singing enhanced the quality and enjoyment of prayer in school.

THE QUALITY OF WITNESS IS OUTSTANDING

All staff act as excellent role models for the children and help them to recognise that God is with them in every aspect of school life. This could be seen across the whole school, where children are encouraged to ask themselves questions such as "What would Jesus do?" or "How can you behave like Jesus in the sand area?" Adults act as role models of the school's mission and values and as key promoters of the ethos of the school for the pupils and the school community's witness to the wider community. The staff and pupils feel confident and secure in their witness to Christ, the Gospel and the teachings of the Church. Examples of this work was seen in the way that the school not only supports a variety of different charities, but goes out of its way to support the marginalised, so as to provide support for the Common Good. An explicit Catholic culture permeates the whole of school and is clearly identifiable through relationships, decision-making and actions. The entire school community recognises that God is at the heart of the school in their actions and their relationships. All members of the school family meet God each day and strive to meet all the challenges involved in this witness.

AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- To ensure that a comprehensive and holistic Sex and Relationship Education is introduced across the school.
- To further develop the quality of marking in RE so as to ensure a more consistent approach is adopted across the school.

Thursday 9th December 2015

Dear Pupils,

Thank you for making our visit to St. Anne's so enjoyable when we came to inspect your school for the Bishop. We really enjoyed being with you. Thank you for looking after us so well and helping us to feel very welcome. St. Anne's is an outstanding Catholic school.

We enjoyed being part of your lessons and were sorry not to see everyone. Thank you for showing us so much of your work and activities. We could see that you are very proud of your school and all that you have achieved together. We were particularly impressed that you thought that the most important part of your learning and life together was that you *'felt connected to one another as all part of God's family'*. We know the Bishop will be delighted to hear this.

Your teachers are really helping you to learn very well and we were very impressed by your excellent relationships and behaviour. It was good to see so much of your mission statement coming through everything you are learning; your relationships and the special way you make everyone feel valued. It is wonderful to see a school made up of pupils and adults who get on so well together so that everyone is cared for as a member of God's family. This is a true reflection of being part of a Catholic community where everyone is welcome and has a place.

You continue to use the new RE programme very well, whilst your teachers have found many interesting and creative ways to enhance Religious Education. You are a very creative school and we were most impressed by the way you work together so co-operatively in your lessons. The prayer services we saw were very good and uplifting experiences. We have asked your teachers to improve the way they mark your work so that you know how to further improve your work and to also introduce a new policy so as to ensure you receive the very best education in personal relationships.

God bless you all and have a really happy Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A.J Sowerby
Mrs J Thorpe
(Section 48 Inspectors)

Summary Report to Parents

On Monday 7th December 2015 the school was inspected in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005. The full report has been made available to the school and can also be accessed via both the school website and the Education section of the website of the Diocese of Salford.

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