



Archdiocese of Birmingham

Section 48 Monitoring Visit

ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sydenham Drive, Sydenham, Leamington Spa CV31 1NJ

Inspection date 11th March 2015
Reporting Inspector Dominic Collins

Inspection carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	3-11 years
Number on roll	207
Appropriate authority	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors	Paul Hamilton
Telephone number	01926 428800
E-mail address	admin3544@welearn365.com
Date of previous inspection	October 2009
DFE School Number	937/3544
Unique Reference Number	125716

Headteacher Mrs Jane McSharry

Previous inspection: 1

This inspection: 1

DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE





23rd March 2015

Diocesan Education Service,
Don Bosco House,
Coventry Road,
Coleshill,
B46 3EA

Mrs J McSharry
Headteacher
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
Sydenham Drive
Sydenham
Leamington Spa
CV31 1NJ

Dear Mrs McSharry,

Section 48 Monitoring Inspection: 11th March 2015

Thank you for the welcome you, your staff and pupils gave to me when I inspected your school on 11th March and for the information you provided both before and during the inspection. I am grateful for the time given by all including the school Chaplain in speaking with me.

The inspection was a "light touch" monitoring inspection because your school was judged at the last section 48 inspection to be an outstanding school and because it is now five years or more since you last received a diocesan inspection.

The purpose of the inspection was to assess the quality of the school's self-evaluation and improvement planning for Catholic life and religious education. In order to make this judgement I read school documents, including a summative self-evaluation, interviewed senior leaders and the subject leader for RE, governor representatives and pupils, observed one full lesson and two part lessons with the headteacher, a whole school Mass and looked at a sample of pupils' written work. In addition, I gathered evidence of some of the outstanding practice in the school as part of a diocesan wide survey of good practice in Catholic life and religious education.

Catholic Life

There is overwhelming evidence to support the self evaluation judgement that the Catholic life and Religious Education of St. Anthony's school are outstanding. This judgement is reliably based upon a structured cycle of effective monitoring and evaluation processes that have been developed over time and consistently applied and embedded in the school culture. School self evaluation is rooted in a philosophy of Catholic education that is firmly centred around the school mission, that strives to provide the best possible outcomes for all pupils and underpins the high quality of its Catholic life and outstanding Catholic ethos. Monitoring processes are broadly based and carried out in a variety of ways; these are both formal and informal, including focussed learning walks, recorded observations, audits, discussions and reflection within meetings. Evidence of all monitoring and evaluation analysis is meticulously recorded in a comprehensive school RE profile, that is regularly reviewed to track the impact of actions taken. The views of pupils and parents are valued and encouraged and together they demonstrate a collaborative approach that serves to influence judgements about Catholic life. For example: through a cycle of pupil interviews and questionnaires, the school leadership is able to evaluate the extent pupils benefit from and participate in the continuing development of the Catholic life and mission of the school.



A recent survey of parents, whose children are preparing for their First Holy Communion, gave a very positive evaluation of their commitment and appreciation regarding the programme content and organisation.

Self evaluation and improvement planning are closely integrated. Crucially, outcomes are analysed by the senior leadership and subsequently shared with staff and governors. Agreed action plans, arising from evaluation outcomes are fed into the school learning improvement plan. These plans are sharply focussed and are formatted in the same, uniform profile in accordance with the overall curriculum planning for the school, stating actions to be taken, a practical timescale to achieve them and success criteria. Consequently, the school provides a rich variety of opportunities to fulfil the potential of each pupil and strives to prepare them to apply the Gospel values in their daily lives as maturing Christians in the community.

The extremely effective whole school approach to monitoring and evaluating the 'every child matters agenda' characterises the commitment of the school to addressing the principles of its mission and involves all staff and governors. As a consequence, St. Anthony's School successfully encourages its pupils to value and respect the dignity of each member of the school community, regardless of ethnic or cultural identify. It is clearly evident that this has significantly influenced the outstanding school ethos; where relationships are excellent at every level.

The school leadership is deeply committed to the church's mission in education and as a consequence of embedding a culture of self evaluation that permeates all aspects of the school's Catholic life, is extremely successful in promoting its continuing development. Governors are fully involved in all aspects of school life and make a significant contribution to the self evaluation process. In addition to frequent school visits, regular focussed learning walks and a detailed termly report from the headteacher, governors monitor all school policies to ensure that the Catholic nature of the school is implicit in its documentation. Governors are well organised and supportive of the school. They are kept fully informed through the excellent liaison of the RE link governor and school chaplain, with the senior leadership. Consequently, governors have a thorough understanding of how the school witnesses to Gospel teachings and are therefore able to fulfil their responsibilities in evaluating its Catholic life.

Monitoring of prayer and collective worship throughout the school is outstanding, because of the highly effective measures that are in place to evaluate its quality and impact. In addition to the diocesan resources for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of prayer and worship, the school has developed an excellent check-list. This has been brought about through agreed expectations and content in order to effect a monitoring process used by all staff that is focussed, reflective and practical. Opportunities are created for pupils to make a contribution to the evaluation and quality of prayer and reflections. For example: the school council carried out an audit of classroom prayer tables and identified areas for improvement. Outcomes for collective worship are judged by the school to be outstanding, a view reliably based on evidence observed during the inspection.

Religious Education

School evaluation is accurate and reliable in its judgement that pupil progress and attainment in RE are outstanding, a judgement based upon a variety of individual pupil tracking data derived from assessments that are monitored and analysed by the headteacher as subject leader. A comprehensive and well structured whole school programme of monitoring, analysis and challenge used to evaluate RE provision and outcomes, begins with a baseline assessment on entry. The systems give a clear insight into the quality of provision and the impact of teaching and learning. Outcomes are shared and discussed and appropriate actions are determined for those areas deemed in need of review



and development that are used to inform the school improvement plan. The headteacher monitors RE throughout the school in accordance with the monitoring schedule which embraces other key areas of learning.

Governors are kept fully informed of the evaluation outcomes through an effective and fruitful partnership which the RE link governor has established with the school leadership. They play an active part in monitoring standards in RE through learning walks, monitoring planning and reviewing the attainment and achievement of pupils by examining the quality and content of their work.

The systems used for monitoring and evaluating the quality and impact of teaching and learning in RE are well developed, based upon agreed areas of focus in relation to the overall school improvement plan. The quality of teaching is monitored by the senior leadership on an annual basis, in order to maintain the high standards expected and written feedback is given in a supportive and professional manner. Records of lesson observations show a consistent pattern of good and outstanding teaching across the school over time. Their reliability is confirmed by the excellent quality of teaching observed during the inspection. In the lessons observed, excellent questioning skills elicited thoughtful and eager responses from the pupils that help to assist in monitoring their progress in conjunction with the high quality feedback marking of their work. Pupils are encouraged to evaluate their own learning and readily ask for additional advice and guidance as required. The RE curriculum follows the Diocesan Strategy and is delivered by skilled practitioners who communicate their faith through their enthusiasm and sound subject knowledge.

The accuracy and reliability of school self evaluation of its Catholic life, collective worship and RE provision, provides high quality assurance. All staff and governors work as a team with a common purpose to ensure the best possible outcomes for the pupils. This characterises a hallmark of excellence that is mirrored in the overall effectiveness of St. Anthony's School.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Collins
Diocesan Inspector