



Archdiocese of Birmingham

INSPECTION REPORT

ST ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL STREETLY, WALSALL

Inspection dates 6th - 7th November 2013
Reporting Inspector Sister Susan 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	208 (R-Y6)
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governors	Mrs Patricia O'Kane
School address	Blackwood Road Streetly Sutton Coldfield B74 3PL
Telephone number	0121 353 5114
E-mail address	postbox@st-annes.walsall.sch.uk
Parish	St Anne, Streetly
Date of previous inspection	October 2008
DFE School number	335/3324
Unique Reference Number	104241
Headteacher	Mrs Maureen Robinson



Evidence

The inspection was carried out by one Diocesan Inspector. The focus of the inspection was on the effectiveness and use of the school's self evaluation of religious education (RE) and Catholic life. To validate the effectiveness of the school's self evaluation of teaching and learning, the inspector observed three RE lessons, one with the deputy and two with the headteacher. In addition, the inspector completed a work scrutiny and held a discussion with pupils to evaluate the impact of teaching on their learning over time. She held meetings with the chair of governors, staff and parish priest. She attended a whole school Mass, a prayer service with Year 5 pupils and the sixth form liturgy group from the local secondary school. A learning walk with the headteacher was undertaken to look at aspects of learning and teaching in RE, the presentation of the Catholic life of the school and pupils' behaviour. She looked at a range of evidence related to the school's self evaluation such as RAISEonline, the school development plan, teachers' planning, learning journals and assessment records. Alongside the validation of school self evaluation, the inspector gathered evidence about teaching and learning, evidence which will be shared with other diocesan schools.

Information about the school

St Anne's is an average sized Catholic primary school with a part-time nursery in the parish of St Anne, Streetly. Including the Nursery, there are 229 pupils on roll, 93% of whom are baptised Catholics. The proportion of disabled pupils and those with special educational needs supported by school action or school action plus, or with a statement of special needs, is well below the national average. The large majority of the children are of White British heritage with a small minority of other groups including Black African-Caribbean, Black African and Asian Indian. Children enter Reception with skills and knowledge at, or above, levels typical for their age.

Main Finding

In its self evaluation the school judges itself to be an outstanding Catholic school because staff constantly strive to meet the needs of all their pupils and are aware of areas where they can provide even better outcomes. High quality Catholic education is therefore provided for all pupils. The evidence gathered during the inspection confirms that the school's judgement is accurate and reliable. St Anne's is a fully inclusive school which provides a loving, caring atmosphere where relationships are excellent. Staff are dedicated, reflective practitioners who see teaching as a vocation and are committed to further develop the Catholic life and RE. The support and challenge from the governors is effective and with the inspiring leadership from the headteacher, the senior leaders and the subject leader, they all know the school well and work together to ensure that St Anne's school is outstanding and will continue to be so in the future. All pupils benefit from the Catholic life and make positive contributions to it. The school is correct in its judgement that this is outstanding. The school has acted upon the recommendations made at the last inspection.

School self evaluation

St Anne's self evaluation presents an accurate appraisal of the quality of both Catholic life and RE provision, correctly identifying areas of strength and those in need of review. The school is developing a formal framework for monitoring and evaluating its Catholic life. Staff have carried out an audit of their Catholic life using the Jesuit Institute information and from this have identified ways of continuing to move the school forward. They plan to simplify their mission statement so that all children can remember, understand and live it. The school also intends to further promote the spiritual development of the children through implementing RE inspire workshops. This initiative is in response to suggestions made by parents from their questionnaire.

The parish priest, who is also the RE link governor, carried out an ethos walk with the subject leader in July 2013. One of the recommendations from this monitoring was to reposition the symbols of the faith in the school entrance to give them more prominence so that visitors to the school are immediately aware that they are in a Catholic school. Parishioners have been surveyed for their views and now the deputy headteacher writes the school news section on the parish newsletter. Further evidence for the impact of the Catholic life of the school, and the children's contribution to it, is gathered from pupils' interviews and questionnaires.

The school has a very good range of self evaluation procedures to provide information on current practice in RE. Joint lesson observations are carried out annually by the deputy headteacher and the subject leader; in 2013 staff were monitored twice during the academic year. Book scrutinies, and interviews with the pupils support the evaluation of the teaching and learning. Review and feedback provide developmental advice to promote improvement and the proportion of outstanding lessons has increased over time.

Monitoring of the provision for, and quality of, collective worship correctly judges that these are outstanding. Monitoring is thorough, combining a range of formal and informal strategies and indicates that leadership is constantly seeking ways to improve and develop.

The school has a full complement of governors. They are well led and organised by a very experienced chair of governors who has extensive experience in education. They make a significant contribution to the Catholic life of the school. Governors monitor progress through first hand observation, headteacher's report to governors, and feedback from the subject leader who attends all the governors' ethos committee meetings. Consequently the governors are very well informed and provide appropriate support and challenge in their determination to secure further improvement. In view of the quality and accuracy of the self evaluation, the school is in a strong position to consolidate success and continue to sustain improvements both in Catholic life and RE.

Overall effectiveness of the school¹

Achievement and attainment in RE across the school is outstanding given the low starting points in the faith on entry to nursery. Children from all year groups make rapid and sustained progress and learn exceptionally well. Pupils with learning needs make very good progress through a creative approach to learning and meaningful support from teaching assistants. The children's enthusiasm and enjoyment of RE reflects the faith commitment of the staff and the teachers' passion for the subject. The environment is enhanced by high quality display which celebrates children's achievement. Pupils have significant knowledge and understanding of the Catholic religion including the sacraments, the liturgical year and the lives of the saints. They re-tell stories from the Old Testament and the life of Jesus in detail. The children are familiar with the traditional prayers of the Church. They are very aware of the needs of others and want to help those less fortunate through their charity fund raising events. Pupils from Years 2 to 6, working alongside the school council, take an active part in speaking to other pupils' in raising awareness of charity work they were organising. There are clear behavioural expectations which are linked to Jesus' teaching. Pupils are encouraged to respect one another and learn how to forgive others. On the basis of the evidence of their attitudes, values, relationships and commitment to the school, pupils' spiritual, moral and vocational development is very good.

The contribution of pupils to the Catholic life of the school and collective worship and the extent to which they benefit from them, are excellent. Collective worship is well planned and pupil response is very positive. The children sing with enthusiasm and feeling as witnessed during the whole school celebration of the Mass. They are attentive and reverent in prayer. Children are encouraged to write and share their own prayers with each other. Prayer friends are in place in Years 3 and 6 where the children support each other in their sacramental preparation.

¹ As the quality of the school self evaluation has been affirmed, the judgements in this section of the report conform to those of the school.

St Anne's is an outstanding Catholic School led by a headteacher who has a clear vision of Catholic education, who is well supported by her deputy and the subject leader and their working together has impacted on standards and progress. The staff are a committed team and every member of the school community is valued and respected. The school judges the leadership of religious education to be outstanding and this is fully supported by the evidence. The subject leader is keen to develop new initiatives and is responsible for the charity fundraising committee, the Rosary Club which Year 6 pupils lead during the months of October and May, and the links with the sixth form liturgy group form the local secondary school.

Provision for RE is outstanding. Teachers plan and teach lessons that are consistently good and often outstanding, promoting effective learning and enjoyment of RE. Planning is thorough and takes account of previous learning in setting lesson objectives. Assessment for learning is well embedded across the school. Marking is positive, supports and extends pupils' learning. Prayer is an integral part of lessons. Behaviour in RE lessons is excellent and pupils are fully engaged in their learning which is promoted through a range of differentiated activities based on the pupils' individual needs. Teaching assistants working with individual or small groups of children provide feedback to the teacher so that individual learning needs can be better met.

Assessment procedures have improved to provide for the close tracking of individual progress, with teachers' becoming more confident in assessing using the level indicators. However, the school has identified this as an area of further development in their RE action plan and school development plan. They want to focus on whole school moderation and create opportunities to moderate work with other local Catholic primary schools.

The RE curriculum is broad and balanced and based on the curriculum strategy and is accessible to all. The headteacher delivers the '*All that I Am*' programme to all children in Year 6. At all times the context is being a child of God and is based on the Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church. The school continues to build on its links with other faiths and the curriculum is enriched by visits to places of Catholic heritage and places of worship of other religions.

Provision for collective worship is outstanding and the celebration of the Mass is a central part of school life. Children respond enthusiastically and act with reverence and respect and participate with confidence. The children have expressed that they would like more opportunities to plan and lead worship. The school has strong links with the RE department from the local Catholic high school. The sixth form liturgy group works regularly with the children and a beautiful remembrance liturgy was observed during the inspection. IT is used effectively both in lessons and collective worship. The parish priest is a regular visitor to school and is well known by the children and their parents and provides excellent support for the whole community. Links with the parish and the involvement in parish life are a growing strength.

Recommendations

Provide increased opportunities for pupils of all ages to prepare and lead worship.

Develop assessment in RE through the introduction of moderation of work across other Catholic primary schools.



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

November 2013

Dear Parents and Carers

**Section 48 (Diocesan) Inspection of St Anne's Catholic Primary School, 6th and 7th
November 2013**

I am writing this letter to share with you the findings of the diocesan inspection of your children's school. Diocesan inspection now explores in detail the school's own view of itself as expressed in its self-evaluation. For this reason, much of the report is more technical than used to be the case. You are still entitled to have a copy of the full report should you want one and it will be available on the school website or by request from the school office.

St Anne's is an outstanding Catholic school. Your children benefit from the commitment and excellent leadership of the headteacher very well supported by her deputy and the subject leader for religious education. There is an excellent Catholic ethos where every member of the school community is valued and respected. The children's contribution to the Catholic life of the school, their spiritual and moral development and their participation in and response to collective worship are outstanding. Teaching is consistently good and often outstanding, promoting high achievement, effective learning, and enjoyment of RE.

The partnership between the school, the families and the parish is very strong and your children are encouraged to play an active part in the parish and the local community. They understand their responsibility to support others less fortunate than themselves in the wider world.

Through its thorough and accurate self evaluation, the leadership team has a very good understanding of the school's needs and is committed to continued improvement. I have recommended that in order for the school to develop further that the children should be given more opportunities to prepare and lead worship and for the staff to continue to develop assessment in RE.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Robinson, her staff and all the children for their welcome. It was a privilege and a pleasure to inspect your school. The children were keen to talk about their school and their learning. They are a credit, not only to St Anne's School, but also to you their parents and all those who care for them. I thank you, on behalf of the Diocese, for the ways you encourage your children in the development of their faith.

Yours sincerely

Sister Susan Collins
Diocesan Inspector