

**INSPECTION REPORT**

**St Anne's Roman Catholic Primary School**

Inspection date 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012  
 Reporting Inspector Mr J Graves, Mrs J Frazer  
 Inspection carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Type of School Primary School  
 URN 131884  
 Age range of pupils 3 -11  
 Number on roll 204  
 Appropriate authority The governing body  
 Chair of Governors Tracy Weedon  
 Headteacher Angela Shore  
 Religious Education Co-ordinator Jacqueline Greene  
 Date of previous inspection October 2006

<b>The Inspection judgements are:</b>	<b>Grade</b>	Explanation of the Grades  1 = Outstanding 2 = Good 3=Requires Improvement 4 = Inadequate
Overall effectiveness of the school	2	
The quality of Catholic Leadership	1	
The quality of the Word of God community	2	
The quality of the Welcome community	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 OF THE SCHOOL**

- St Anne's is a Voluntary Aided RC Primary school in the diocese of Salford.
- It serves the parish of St Anne's in Ancoats, Manchester.
- Pupils are arranged in single aged classes.
- The admissions number is 30
- The headteacher was appointed in September 2009.
- The Deputy Headteacher was appointed in September 2009.
- The school is situated close to the parish church.
- The socio-economic make up of the pupils is made from a diverse, inner-city community
- 75% of learners are baptised Catholics.
- Standards on entry to Reception are below average
- 46% of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals.
- 26% of pupils have been identified as having Special Educational Needs.
- 36% of children have English as an Additional Language
- Attendance is very good at 96.1% for the September 2012 – November 2012.

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL**

St Anne's is a GOOD Catholic School, with OUTSTANDING features, where all members of the school are welcomed. All know they are loved and their efforts are valued. The school is well led by the headteacher who is accurate when evaluating the quality of Catholic provision, and is effective at improving the school in areas that she feels do not give the children the best. The headteacher is well supported by the deputy headteacher and the senior leadership team. The deputy carries out rigorous monitoring of RE and her actions have a positive impact on the standards. The children hold each other in high regard and treat all with respect and dignity. The governors are well informed about the life of the school and play an active role in developing the school. The parents value the school. Some said, "The education in St Anne's is really good and the teachers support the children; the children are happy and they love one another." Parents accept their children for who they are, and value the school's provision to help the growth of the whole child. The school has fully met the improvements recommended by the previous Section 48 inspection.

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

- There is strong leadership of the Catholic school by the headteacher
- All are welcome in the school
- Children are very caring towards one another
- Gospel Values, including tolerance and dignity, can be seen throughout the school
- Children's welfare is paramount to all the staff

## **THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP**

The quality of Catholic Leadership is OUTSTANDING. The Headteacher, well supported by the Deputy Headteacher, have overcome considerable difficulties in the three years since their appointment, and the drive of the senior leaders has much improved the Catholic experience that the children receive. The Governing Body is well informed about Catholic life in the school: Governors seek the views of children, work with the children as Catechists, reviewed the RE Policy and the link Governor has a productive working relationship with the RE Co-ordinator. Governors highlight the partnership with other Catholic schools in the area, and projects between them. The headteacher has a clear vision for the school and the school's self-evaluation is an honest and accurate one. The hard working headteacher knows the strengths of the school, and is working on the areas to develop. The Deputy Headteacher shares the vision of the headteacher, and is aware of where the school needs to develop in RE. These areas are identified on the RE

Action Plan. Actions by the leadership team have a positive impact on the Catholic experience that the children receive and the headteacher continually looks for further ways to improve.

### **THE QUALITY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

The quality of Word in the school is GOOD. The standard of children's learning is good and is comparable to that of Literacy, and feedback to children is of good quality. Monitoring of the RE Curriculum is rigorous and includes lesson observations, planning, children's work and assessment records. This has allowed the RE Co-ordinator to have an accurate picture of the strengths of RE and the areas to develop. The RE Action Plan shows detail of how these issues are to be addressed. The knowledge of the Catholic Faith among the staff is strong and there is a good training and development to support staff in their role in a Catholic school. The RE Policy states that in teaching Religious Education it is "not just teaching a curriculum subject but also a living faith, which we are encouraging our children to share in," which was observed when children discussed injustices around the world. There are a number of displays around school that showed the Word of God, and they could be found in every classroom and in many other places. During the inspection, visitors from "Just Youth" provided a further dimension to the Word of God in the school. The school aims to provide, "a broad and challenging curriculum enriched with the spiritual truths of our Faith." The children's work showed that their spirituality has clearly grown as a result of the school's actions. Teaching in the school is well matched to children's needs. This is done in various ways, such as with puppets, artefacts, photographs, drama, thought tunnels discussion and biographies. Teaching observed facilitated learning, but could be more consistent across the school. The needs of some children who present with challenging behaviours are met well within the lessons; both teachers and children demonstrate an understanding of their needs whilst offering them measured support.

### **THE QUALITY OF THE WELCOME**

The quality of Welcome in the school is OUTSTANDING. Visitors to the school are given a warm welcome by staff and children. Children also welcome each other. There is a topic week near the beginning of the school year called Multi Faith Week to promote acceptance of all, and other events such as Diwali and the Chinese New Year reinforce this. The Mission Statement's aims include, "Valuing a close relationship with parents, the first teachers of our children," and this proved to be the case after feedback from parents. Children are confident about reaching out to all in the school community and they accept everyone within it, celebrating the diversity across the school community. Displays around school are centred on the Catholic Faith and the display that is called "Every Child, Every Chance" typifies how everyone is welcomed and valued at the school. Inspectors were warmly welcomed by the children, staff, governors and parents they met, and it became clear that children know that they are cared for at the school. Children feel a belonging to the school and with staff, are responsible for the hospitality shown towards all members of the community of the school. During a prayer and worship session, the children had prepared resources for each person including the inspector in this, inviting him to take part. Visitors are welcomed with love and respectful care. There are clear structures and procedures for welcoming visitors in a way which also ensures the safety of all pupils which are followed by all staff. Pupils and staff feel a sense of pride of their school community and sustain the school's sense of hospitality and life to the full, acknowledging Christ's presence in each other.

### **THE QUALITY OF THE WELFARE**

The quality of Welfare in the school is OUTSTANDING. The PSHE Policy states that St Anne's will "prepare children for the responsibilities and experiences of life," and this is shown with the great care and compassion shown to all children, including the most vulnerable ones. Staff work with parents in the interests of the child and treat all the community of the school as a family. Charities are well supported by the community of the school such as the Wood Street Mission and St Joseph's Penny. The children also visit elderly people before every Christmas at a local retirement home. Children are given posts of responsibility such as prefects and the school council. The School aims to "help pupils become independent, ambitious learners who can draw on a range of skills, values, positive attitudes and knowledge to enable them to achieve and be successful." Children lived up to this as they were responsible and mature in their treatment

of each other. The Mission Statement says that St Anne's ensures a "safe and caring learning environment" and this is clearly adopted by all. Staff were observed being very patient with children. An older child in a lesson was gently coaxed by his teacher into giving a valuable response, raising esteem. This was typical of the staff's endeavours to raise the esteem of pupils. Children are confident and show empathy to each other. It was observed in one instance that one of the very young children was not in school due to illness, and the child's peers asked the teacher to include her in the morning prayers. "Every child, every chance" is the mantra of the school, and the welfare of the children is paramount in achieving this.

### **THE QUALITY OF THE WORSHIP**

The quality of Worship in the school is **OUTSTANDING**. Assemblies are confidently led by pupils. The Prayer and Worship Policy states that, the school, "continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer," and this was in evidence during the inspection. Year 4, 5 and 6 plan and lead Collective Worship in class, and also lead their own Class Assemblies. Opportunities are provided throughout the day for reflection in addition to assemblies at the beginning and end of each week which allow children to reflect on faith. Topics from the Liturgical Year are used as a focus for reflection, such as the Year of Faith, the Rosary in October and Saints in November. There are a variety of opportunities to involve parents in worship and celebrations. School is an active part of the Parish Community and this is demonstrated by the whole school attending a weekly Mass in church. Each class has a quality area to promote Prayer and Worship. Children in the Early Years are given appropriate opportunities to pray. Worship opportunities that are throughout the school are appropriate to the children's background and faith experiences. Pupils are nurtured and developed in prayer so that they can grow closer to God. Prayer is at the heart of the school community, with older pupils and staff confident and skilled in planning and leading prayer and worship. Opportunities were observed to participate in worship in a meaningful manner, and at all times worship is given reverence.

### **THE QUALITY OF THE WITNESS**

The quality of Witness in the school is **OUTSTANDING**. The SRE Policy states that the children have a responsibility to others and that positive relationships are built on love and respect.

Throughout the inspection, observations showed that children treated each other with respect, care, patience, concern and with dignity. The Behaviour Policy says that there is a whole school approach in achieving high aspirations and expectations and there is an emphasis on creating a pleasant working environment throughout the school. The mission of the school is to give every child every chance, and the children showed in their interactions with others that they are very supportive of each other and all in their community. The senior leadership team indicated that for some children each day represents a fresh start whereas some children need to have a fresh start every ten minutes.

The SLT were able to talk about the very demanding aspiration of creating an atmosphere where the child is more evident than the challenge they present in school. They have worked hard with families to provide the much needed nurture in order to ensure that children are ready and able to engage in learning in a positive way when they come into school. They understand that their actions are a reflection of their love and compassion for their children. An explicit culture permeates throughout the school and is witnessed through relationships which have a significant impact on the life of the school.

### **AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- For teaching to be consistent across the school.
- To extend the work on the Mission Statement into forthcoming policy reviews.

28<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Dear Pupils,

Thank you for making our visit to St Anne's school so enjoyable when we came to inspect your school for the Bishop. Thank you for making us feel so welcome. We really enjoyed our time with you. Your school is a good Catholic school with some outstanding features.

We really enjoyed seeing your lessons and we were sorry we didn't see all the classes. It was lovely to see your activities; your work, your prayer and worship sessions, your very polite manners. Thank you. You have a very sensible attitude to life and to school, and we could see very strongly that you are proud of your school. We could see that you all believe that every child deserves every chance.

We were made to feel very welcome by all the children that we met. You treat each other with dignity and respect – you treat each other the way you wish to be treated, and it was great to see. Every child has a part to play at St Anne's.

Your teachers and headteacher work very hard and have brought the school a long way since the last time inspectors visited your school, six years ago. They have a high opinion of you and they care a great deal for every child in the school. It was a privilege for us to come into your school.

Your teachers help you to be the best you can be. From class to class, the teachers try to move you forward. They will try a few things in their lessons in a more similar way from class to class. You are super children who made us smile with the love you show for all in your school. Your teachers go far beyond what they are asked to do, because they believe in you so much.

God bless all in your school,

Mr J Graves and Mrs J Frazer

(Section 48 Inspectors)

## **St Anne's RC Primary School, Manchester**

### **Summary Report to Parents**

On 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012 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 on the website of the Diocese of Salford.

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