

**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 R.C. Primary School, Clarendon Road, Audenshaw M34 5QA**

Inspection date                      Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Reporting Inspectors                Fiona Robinson  
Anna Shanley

Type of school	Primary School
URN	106257
Age range of pupils	3-11
Number on roll	239
Appropriate authority	The Governing Board
Chair of Governors	Arthur Pownell
Headteacher	Eileen Gaffney
Religious Education Co-ordinator	Alicia Duffy
Date of previous inspection	November 2014

<b>The Inspection judgements are:</b>	<b>Grade</b>	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)	1	
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 Voluntary Aided RC Primary School in the Diocese of Salford. It serves the parish of St Anne's, Audenshaw. The school is situated on the borders of Tameside and Manchester local authorities. It serves a diverse community with children from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds; however, this is changing with a recent increase in new private properties being built in the area. It is currently a one form entry school with an admissions number of 30. 239 pupils are currently on roll. 95% of the children are of the Roman Catholic faith. 18.5 % of the children are eligible for Free School meals. 20% of the children have been identified as having Special Educational Needs and 14% have English as an additional language. The school has a before and after school club for working parents. The teaching staff are currently enrolled or have completed a variety of Diocesan training courses including the Middle Leadership and Catholic Leadership programmes. The headteacher has been in post since 2004.

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

- **The Welcome that all visitors, parents and pupils receive on entering the school.**
- **The Welfare that is provided to each family and in particular the most vulnerable in the community.**
- **The warm, friendly and respectful pupils who live the mission of the school and the church.**
- **Governors and parents who are extremely supportive of the school.**

## **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL**

St Anne's is a good Catholic school. The Welcome and Welfare of all pupils, families and staff is evident through all aspects of school life. All children are provided with a good Catholic education in a caring and supportive environment where their individual needs are well catered for. The pupils take great pride in their school and because of their care, outstanding behaviour and generosity to each other they are great ambassadors for the school. The Word of God is central to the life of the school and teaching and learning is consistent across all key stages. There are opportunities for prayer and worship and the newly trained GIFT team are developing in their role in enhancing the spiritual life of all pupils. A high priority is given to safeguard and protect all pupils and staff. The governors and parents are supportive and committed to their role in developing the catholic faith life of their children. Since the last Section 48 inspection the leadership team have worked alongside other Catholic schools in monitoring the quantity and quality of the work of Religious Education in order to raise the standards of work. They have also introduced a new scheme of work "Come and See" which they feel is having an impact on the quality of the teaching and learning in Religious Education.

## **THE QUALITY OF CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP IS GOOD**

The quality of leadership is good. The headteacher, supported by the senior leadership team, is deeply committed to the church's mission in education and the faith life of the school is seen as a priority. The headteacher recognises and values her role as a Catholic headteacher. Staff training is seen as vital in further developing the teachers in their role as Catholic educators and recent years has seen an increase in attendance by staff on Diocesan courses such as the Catholic Leadership Programmes and the NQT extended programme. The governors have worked with the leadership team on training on the 5Ws and especially on "Word" and they have observed the impact in school of the children's increased religious literacy at all key stages. Since the last inspection the leadership team have recognised the importance of moderating their Religious Education work with the work of other Catholic schools and the impact of this has been an increase in the quantity and quality of the Religious Education work. However the leadership team need to develop a more rigorous system for the monitoring and feedback of Religious Education teaching and learning to include classroom observations. This will further develop the skills of all teachers and move towards more outstanding practice across the school. The parish priest, is very supportive of the school and is a regular visitor. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is well developed across the curriculum.

### **THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL (incorporating Welcome, Welfare and Witness) IS OUTSTANDING**

The Catholic life of the school is outstanding. A warm, friendly welcome is extended to all visitors on entering St. Anne's school. The behaviour of the children is outstanding and they are excellent ambassadors of their faith. Parent partnership is strong, ensuring mutual support impacts very positively on every child's experience. Parents commented that they feel appreciated and involved in all that their children do. They are ably supported in their vocation to bring up their children in the faith through Masses, assemblies, welfare meetings and an open-door policy. There are clear safeguarding systems and children feel happy and safe in school. The school clearly fulfils its mission as a Catholic school by supporting all families, particularly those in need. Examples of this include work around special educational needs and providing staff to support those in extreme need. Children demonstrate a level of belonging to and ownership of the school. They understand that it is important to help others and show compassion for those less fortunate as they support many local and international charities. They spoke of their support for charities such as Caritas where they collect food and clothes for the homeless. They also support the Good Life Orphanage and hold regular fundraising events. All children are treated with dignity, for example, in lessons their work is celebrated by all. St. Anne's promotes an explicit values-based Catholic culture, which is clearly articulated and expressed by children, staff and parents.

### **THE QUALITY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (incorporating Word) IS GOOD**

The quality of Religious Education is good. Lessons observed across the school were good or outstanding. The standard of behaviour in all classes and around the school was excellent. Children were engaged, responsive and on task in all lessons. Learning objectives were clearly displayed and discussed and are also evident in the Religious Education books. In an outstanding Upper Key Stage 2 lesson on fairness and justice, children were really challenged to qualify their views and opinions and the pupils showed great skill at sharing their differing views. All work was referenced to the teachings of Jesus. Recent work on Gospel values and links to British values are displayed around the school hall. Displays in all classrooms reflect the work of the Religious Education curriculum or the liturgical year. Though teaching and learning observed across the school was good this could be greater enhanced by a more rigorous programme of monitoring. At present observations of teaching are taken though learning walks but staff, and particularly less experienced staff, would benefit from full lesson observations and whole staff and individual feedback from these. Quality of presentation and marking in some books need improvement and there needs to be evidence of challenging work for the more able. Sacred scripture formed part of lessons and the whole school assembly observed needed to be explained and made relevant to be fully to be understood by all the children. Parents were clear about the importance of Religious Education and stated that children come home and talk enthusiastically about what they have been learning in school. The teaching of world religions and other faiths is evident in the children's books and on the day of inspection a Lower Key Stage 2 class were fully engaged in a lesson learning about Hindu worship. The mission statement is known and lived across the school.

### **THE QUALITY OF WORSHIP IS GOOD**

Liturgical celebrations take place throughout the year during the seasons of Advent, Lent, Easter and key feast days. There are very strong links between the school and parish and class and school masses take place both in school and at the parish church. The sacramental programme is very well organised and parents and parishioners are proud of the strong links that there are between home, school and parish. Children on the programme have a sponsor from the parish who prays for them during their sacramental programme journey. Families and parishioners are welcomed into the school and the community assembly, on the day of inspection, was very well attended. The headteacher leads daily collective worship and Thursday's assembly is based on "Statements to Live by". The fully trained and commissioned GIFT team visit all classes after this assembly to discuss the topics and themes. The GIFT team are very enthusiastic about their role but need further opportunities to plan and lead class collective worship and to take part and lead whole school assemblies. The outdoor labyrinth is an effective prayer tool used by the school for collective worship and reflective sessions. It is used on many occasions during the school year to deepen the children's faith and so bring them closer to God. The pupils have a good knowledge of traditional prayers. The collective worship books from each class are evidence of the quality of some of the class collective worship sessions that have taken place during the year.

## **AGREED AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- **The leadership team need to develop a rigorous system for formal monitoring and feedback on the quality of teaching and learning in Religious Education.**
- **Sacred scripture, though displayed and referred to, needs to be clearly explained and understood by the children.**
- **The presentation of the pupil's work needs to be further developed to reflect the pride the children have in their faith.**
- **The GIFT team need to be given further opportunities to be fully included in all celebrations so that they can impact on the spiritual life of the school.**