

DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH

Inspection of Religious Education
Collective Worship
and
The Catholic Life of the School



School: St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

Address: Danepark Road, Hull

URN: 118047

Head of School: Mrs Elizabeth Harros

Chair: Mrs Mary Clark

Date: 26 & 27 February 2015

Inspector: Mr MJ Gallagher

Date & Grade of Last Inspection: Grade: 4 Nov 2012

Overall Grade for this Inspection: 2

A Report from:
The Diocese of Middlesbrough Schools' Service
Section 48 Inspection Team
50a The Avenue
Linthorpe
Middlesbrough TS5 6QT

INTRODUCTION

This inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

The report of the inspection is produced for the Bishop of Middlesbrough (Code of Canon Law 804 and 806) and for the governors of the school. The Inspection reviews, evaluates and plans further improvements in the school's witness to the Catholic faith and Curriculum Religious Education. This process begins with the school's own self-evaluation. The Inspection schedule follows criteria set by the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers.

What Inspection Grades mean

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	These features are highly effective. An outstanding Catholic school provides exceptionally well for its pupils' needs.
Grade 2	Good	These are very positive features of a Catholic school. A school that is good is serving its pupils well.
Grade 3	Requires Improvement	These features, though of adequate quality, require improvement to be good.
Grade 4	Inadequate	These features are not of an acceptable standard. An inadequate Catholic school needs to make significant improvement in order to meet the needs of its pupils.

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

▲ St Anthony's was formally known as Holy Name, the name change brought about in 2013 by school leaders to show that the primary school is an integral part of St Anthony's Parish. The school is geographically remote from the Parish Church; it is situated on the edge of the Orchard Park estate, an area of significant deprivation in contrast with the more affluent surrounding the Parish church. With a roll of 200 pupils St Anthony's is a smaller than average primary school but has a greater percentage of pupils supported by School Action Plus or with Statements than the National average. The number of children eligible for Free School Meals is well above the national average.

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▲ -The Head Teacher has been in post for four years and, despite the instability caused by a high turnover of staff, the absence of support from the Parish Priest because of his illness and an understrength Governing Body, she has now reached the point where she has a stable and efficient staff that have quickly impacted positively on standards throughout the school. Fifty percent of the teaching staff is Catholic and 31% of pupils. The number of Catholic pupils has risen since the previous inspection and is projected to rise even higher as more families from Eastern Europe settle in the area.

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE INSPECTION

- The Inspector observed 6 lessons and 3 Acts of Collective Worship
- Discussion were held with: the Headteacher; the Headteacher and religious Education subject leader (designate); the Parish Priest and Deacon; the Chaplain; two Governors, including the Chair; the pupils' Chaplaincy team; parents.
- A wide range of documentation was read including, the school's Self Evaluation document, monitoring, assessment and moderation records by Governors and Headteacher, Chaplaincy team minutes, pupils' workbooks and teachers' planning.

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Pupil Catchment:

Number of pupils on roll:	200	—————
Planned Admission Number of Pupils:	30	
Percentage of pupils baptised RC:	31%	
Percentage of pupils from other Christian Denominations:	28%	
Percentage of pupils from other World Faiths:	0	
Percentage of pupils with no religious affiliation:	41%	
Percentage of pupils with special needs:	11%	

Teaching Staff:

Full-time Teachers:	8
Part-time Teachers:	0
Percentage of Catholic Teachers:	50%

Support Staff:

Full-time Classroom Support Staff:	8
Part-time Classroom Support Staff:	0
Percentage of Catholic Classroom Support Staff:	25%
Percentage of teachers with CCRS:	12.5%

Percentage of learning time given to R.E:

10% in all year groups

Parishes served by the School:

1. OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

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MAIN FINDINGS

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School is a good Catholic school.

Every child is cherished and nurtured at St Anthony's and their welfare is at the heart of the school's work. School leaders have risen to the many challenges presented to them by the school's geographical position and have met them head on and are determined to give their pupils the best possible start in life. This is evident in the efforts made to produce a bright, exciting, tidy, learning environment inside and outside the building; pupils feel safe to learn and make mistakes knowing that their teachers are always there to guide them. Relationships between all groups are outstanding; this atmosphere of mutual respect emanates from the Mission Statement, 'Live, Learn and Serve'. This statement is prominently displayed in the hall and throughout the school and lived by the whole school community.

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Outcomes for all pupils are good. These have improved steadily over the past few years as school leaders and staff have engaged wholeheartedly with the Catholic nature of the school and have taken advantage of the expertise and guidance provided by the Diocesan Religious Education Adviser. Pupils are happy, proud of their school and have a positive attitude to learning brought about by the hard work of the dedicated and talented teaching staff. Cooperation and support among the staff, although in its early stages, is built on trust and an ambition to be the best. This collaboration in planning and delivery of the curriculum has had a positive impact on pupil outcomes.

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The school's Chaplaincy team is instrumental in ensuring provision for the Catholic Life of the school is good. Its work is fundamental in enabling the school to reach out to the local community. Communication with the Parish has been strengthened through the Parish Newsletter; not only does the school contribute articles but it distributes the newsletter to the parents and has plans to translate it into Polish.

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What the school needs to do to improve further:

- Consolidate and extend the good practice that has been so successful in raising the standards of both teaching and learning in Religious education throughout the school.
- Ensure there is a consistent approach in teaching by sharing lesson objectives with pupils at the beginning of each lesson.
- Collate the data collected through existing monitoring and evaluation procedures so that it can be used by both Governing body and Staff to measure the progress made and therefore identify areas of future development.
- Fill the vacant positions on the Governing Body.
- Continue to strengthen the relationships with the Parish.

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2. PUPILS

How good outcomes are for pupils, taking into account variations between groups.

St Anthony's School is the beacon Catholic presence in this area of Hull; the huge challenges presented by the locality along with its isolated geographical position have forced the school to be self-reliant. This is clearly evident in the way pupils conduct themselves. They are proud of their school and know that when they are there; they are safe and held in high regard by the staff. Their behaviour in class and around the school is outstanding. They are courteous, helpful, polite, uninhibited and happy. They benefit hugely from the Catholic Life of the school due, mainly to the preparatory work and planning by the Chaplaincy Team. Consisting of staff, governors and parish representatives this team arrange a schedule of events and liturgies, throughout the year, that allow children to experience prayer, reflection, service and fun. The team meet termly to evaluate and review their work and plan for the future. However their commitment to their pupils extends outside of the school. The inspector saw evidence of numerous occasions when the school, with support from St Anthony's Parish, helped families in need. Crucial to the success of this community support is work done by the school's Inclusion Manager; both in terms of child protection and practical support and advice, her efforts are boundless and have to be applauded.

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Pupils said they enjoyed their learning in religious education because their teachers made it so. When observed in class they listened well, were eager to answer questions and take part in discussions. Their books showed good quality work, both in quality and quantity. The huge improvement in the way their work is presented and, the obvious pride the pupils have in their work are the result of the school's response to its previous Ofsted inspection. All pupils made good progress, including those with disabilities or with learning needs because of the efficient support given by teaching assistants.

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The pupils have their own chaplaincy team. Although only commissioned the previous day, they take their role very seriously and were observed leading an assembly based on the school's Mission Statement, 'Live, Love and Learn. The school body were attentive and respectful. Pupils were much more involved in Collective Worship when held in their own classrooms; they could organise the focal point and artefacts listen attentively and –sat quietly reflecting on the Word. They asked questions and their answers showed they had a good knowledge of scripture and that they could make links to prior learning.

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• The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school	2
• How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	2
• How well do pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship	2

3. PROVISION

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How effective the provision is for Catholic education

▲ The quality of teaching in St Anthony's is judged to be good overall and there were instances of outstanding teaching observed. Lessons were well planned, organised and delivered in an exciting manner that engaged all pupils and allowed them to make progress. Assessment procedures are good; the efficient use of the 'I Can Statements' inform pupils of the next steps to take in their learning but the feedback they receive from teachers when marking their books is key to them making consistent progress. A good example of this was observed in the Year 5 class when, after marking the work, the class teacher realised that not all pupils had worked at the targeted level. She addressed this issue at the beginning of the lesson observed by beginning with an activity, based on the previous lesson aimed at consolidating that Learning Objective ensuring pupils were in a position to move forward in their learning that day. Very effective use of ICT and the 'Come and See' resources were observed, throughout the school, supporting the teaching of Religious Education.

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▲ Newly qualified teachers and recently qualified teachers, new to Catholic Education, are well supported by the school; the Headteacher has taken advantage of the Diocesan Religious Education Adviser to provide training. However, the support received from the Headteacher, the Chaplain and the Religious Education Coordinator designate give the teachers the confidence to have a go and be innovative in their delivery. The collaborative approach to planning and delivery of the curriculum along with the monitoring of teaching and learning and book scrutinies by the Headteacher have been instrumental in raising the standard of teaching and learning throughout the school.

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▲ The Religious Education curriculum is rooted in the 'Come and See' programme but it is enhanced and enriched by the comprehensive programme of events provided by the Chaplaincy team. These events, ranging from the Travelling Crib during Advent to innovative fund raising schemes to support the work of CAFOD, promote discussion between adults and pupils in school and at home. An example of this was observed during the inspection when purple ribbons were made by a member of the team to remind pupils and adults of their Lenten promise. Monies raised from their sale went to CAFOD.

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▲ The quality of provision for Collective Worship is good. Pupils respond respectfully and reverently in whole school settings. During the end of week assembly that celebrated pupil achievement, attended by over 40 parents and governors, a wide range of pupils' achievement was celebrated but the underlying message delivered, by the Headteacher, was an encouragement for all pupils to achieve the highest standards in every area of school life.

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The Catholic Life of the school is good: classrooms have bright and imaginative displays of a distinctive Catholic nature. Each has a sacred space, maintained and evaluated by the pupils' Chaplaincy team. The Mission Statement, 'Live, Love and Learn', prominently displayed in the main hall and familiar to all the children, is the basis of the school's work

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• The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education	2
• The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum promotes pupils' learning	2
• The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school	2
• The quality of provision for the Catholic life of the school	2

4. LEADERS, MANAGERS AND GOVERNORS

How effective leaders, managers and governors are in developing the Catholic life of the school

School leaders are deeply committed to the success of St Anthony's as a Catholic school. They have managed to lead the school from the low point after their previous inspection, through periods of uncertainty caused by mobility in staffing, the absence of a parish Priest (on account of his prolonged illness) and a tragedy among the pupils. These setbacks have strengthened the resolve of all; headteacher, governors, Chaplaincy, parish representatives and school staff to fulfil the Church's mission in education by providing their children with a curriculum that has spiritual and moral development at its heart.

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The quality of provision has steadily improved, but the recent re-organisation of staffing has accelerated this improvement, directly impacting on the outcomes for all pupils. Acts of worship are integral to the work of the school and all children benefit from them but especially, those who have had no prior experience of Church. The Catholic Life of the school enables the pupils to reach out into the community and give practical support to those in needs as well as enabling the local community and parish to experience life within the school building. The Chaplaincy team are crucial to the success of this aspect of school life.

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School governors monitor and evaluate both the quality of learning and the quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school. Good records are kept and findings reported to the full Governing Body. The Headteacher regularly monitors and evaluates the quality of teaching and learning and takes appropriate action to address any weaknesses. School leaders are now well placed to use the information gathered to assess the school's strengths and highlight the weaknesses to inform the school's Self Evaluation Document and move the school forward in its next stage of development

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The Headteacher has successfully led St Anthony's through a turbulent time. She has taken advantage of the support offered by the Diocesan Religious Education adviser and raised the standards of both teaching and learning throughout the school. She has also benefited from working with an Educational Consultant, who has enabled her to gauge St Anthony's position in the 'bigger picture of education' by visiting schools classed as outstanding, in similar social settings as her own. The school's capacity to improve further is good.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well leaders, managers and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life of the school, including collective worship, and plan improvement to outcomes for pupils 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well leaders, managers and governors monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan for improvement to outcomes for pupils 	2