



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

Name of School: St Anne Line Catholic Junior School

LA: Essex URN: 115156

Inspection Dates: 19th March 2010

Reporting Inspectors: Mr Anthony Castle and Ms Colette Dawson

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

Type of School: Junior
School Category: Voluntary Aided
Age range of pupils: 7 - 11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 263
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous Inspection: October 2006

School Address:
Wickhay
Basildon, Essex, SS15 5AF
Tel. No. 01268 470444
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Chair of Governors: Mrs. Tracy Robson
Headteacher: Mr. Martin Larrett

Introduction:

The Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education (Schools) Act 2005 by inspectors appointed by the Diocesan Bishop at the request of the Governing Body of the School.

The Inspectors acknowledge and are appreciative of the full support, co-operation and courtesy they enjoyed from Governors, Headteacher, Staff and Pupils of the School both before and during the Inspection. The Inspectors wish to express their gratitude to all concerned.

The focus of the Section 48 Inspection was:

- Classroom Religious Education
- The Catholic nature of the School through;
 1. Worship
 2. Links with the Catholic and wider community
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

The Section 48 Report

**St Anne Line Catholic Junior School,
Wickhay
Basildon
Essex,
SS15 5AF**

Head Teacher: Mr. Martin Larrett

Date of Inspection: 19th March 2010

Description of the School:

St Anne Line Junior School is a voluntary aided Catholic school located on the western side of Basildon in the County of Essex and in the Diocese of Brentwood. It is a larger than average two-form entry school, located close to the parish church of The Most Holy Trinity. Almost a third of pupils come from minority ethnic backgrounds. The school holds many awards including the Sports Activemark, Basic Skills Chartermark IV, Investors in People, the Healthy School Award and most recently the NACE award.

Record of Evidence Base:

Two Inspectors were in the School for the equivalent of two inspection days.

- The study of pre-inspection documentation including the Self-Evaluation Form/ Denominational Provision (SEF/DP).
- The observation of lessons.
- Scrutiny of pupils' work.
- Participation in a whole school Reconciliation Service and two Meditation sessions.
- Meetings with the Head Teacher and his Deputy, the Chair of Governors and two Foundation Governors, a Priest member of the Basildon Team Ministry, the R.E. Co-ordinator, two Governors, and some pupils who are creating a R.E. website.
- Observations of outstanding R.E. Displays around the school.

What the School does well:

St Anne Line continues to be an outstanding Catholic School which displays numerous significant strengths. It is firmly committed to developing its Catholic identity under the inspirational and outstanding leadership of its Head teacher who is very well supported by his Leadership team, committed Governors, highly motivated Staff, Pupils their Parents/Carers and the Basildon Team Ministry.

Religious Education (R.E.) is an area of high focus in the school. The **'Here I Am'** programme, recommended by the Bishop of the Diocese, is fully implemented. The 'Before You Begin' element of the process is securely embedded at the beginning of each topic and led by the R.E. Co-ordinator. The staff clearly understand the **'Here I Am'** process and use it effectively to provide a high quality, stimulating and challenging curriculum. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is used effectively to enhance the quality of lessons. Interactive White Boards are installed in every classroom and provided with appropriate resources.

The overall quality of teaching and learning in Religious Education (R.E.) is outstanding. Lessons are well planned and learning objectives are stated, explained and revisited. A variety of teaching strategies and techniques are used to appeal to a wide range of learners. There is evidence of R.E. being taught through art, drama, music and literacy. In all of the lessons observed, pupils were on task, engaged, highly motivated, challenged and enjoying their R.E. Behaviour is outstanding. The children were enthusiastic and purposeful and worked well together. Class Management and relationships are outstanding.

Assessment in R.E. is consistent in all year groups. It is systematic, rigorous and informative. There is a clear assessment focus for each of the **'Here I Am'** topics which gives excellent evidence of **'Relate'** knowledge and understanding. Positive feedback is given to pupils and this enables them to make significant progress. The marking of pupils' work is outstanding.

The leadership and management of R.E. by the R.E. Co-ordinator are outstanding. She is very supportive of all staff, teachers and teacher assistants. Her line of management ensures that there are good links between R.E. and the liturgical life of the school. R.E. is well funded and extremely well resourced.

The School meets both the national and diocesan requirements for the allocation of curriculum time for taught R.E.

All the staff are confident in their teaching of other Faiths. This emphasis has led to the children having a secure knowledge and understanding of other Faiths.

Collective Worship, liturgical celebrations include the celebration of major Saints' feast days, the feast of St Anne Line and Penitential services during Advent and Lent. These and the school's links with the Basildon Team Ministry are all strengths of St Anne Line Junior School. There are excellent Chaplaincy links with the Chaplaincy Co-ordinator at De La Salle School. The Reconciliation Service attended by one of the inspectors was outstanding. The participation by the children was inspirational.

St Anne Line Junior School promotes an outstanding and tangible Catholic ethos. This is subscribed to by all the stakeholders – Governors, the Head Teacher and his Leadership Team, Staff, Pupils and their Parents/Carers. The School, from the moment a visitor steps into it, projects an atmosphere of quality. In an exemplary way the school's very accessible Mission Statement is displayed in the classrooms and around the school. The school follows 'The Anne Line Way' which is displayed the school hall.

The School provides outstanding opportunities for the pupils to develop a strong sense of community through activities which engender feelings of loyalty and belonging. The School continues to develop strong links with other schools in the Deanery and beyond which includes a Farm school in the West Country and a school in Washington D.C. The emphasis on community is an outstanding strength of the school. St Anne Line Junior School is an outstanding exemplar of community cohesion.

Displays, the Prayer focus in every classroom and artefacts in R.E., in the classrooms and around the School, are outstanding.

St Anne Line Junior School values links with parents/carers with every effort being made to improve and maintain communication with them as their children progress through the school. There is a weekly newsletter and the school distributes 'Wednesday Word' to all families. The governors of the school are very dedicated, hardworking and supportive of everything the school does. They are regular visitors to the school.

Pupils are given every opportunity to become responsible citizens. This is evident in their concern for each other and for those who are in need. They are enthusiastic participants in the Annual Diocesan Citizenship Awards which takes place each summer term. This is particularly evidenced by the work and role of the School Council and the generous fundraising for the charities that the School supports which include the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society and CAFOD. Many of the Year 6 pupils act as play leaders for the younger children, organising games for them at lunchtime.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is another outstanding strength of the school. This was recognised by its latest Ofsted report 'For some time the school's ethos has been such that the pupils feel extremely safe and highly valued leading to outstanding personal development and extremely positive attitudes and behaviour. Excellent spiritual, moral, social development closely reflects the school's ethos and principles.' (May 2009). The Section 48 Inspectors endorse these judgements wholeheartedly.

What needs to be improved:

There are no specific areas requiring improvement other than ensuring that the areas highlighted by the Section 48 Self Evaluation Form continue to be addressed.

Overall, St Anne Line Junior School continues to be an outstanding Catholic School in all areas. It prepares its pupils so that they transfer to their Secondary Schools as happy, well-adjusted young people who are a credit to themselves, their parents/carers and their school. The school owes much of its success to the strong and committed leadership of the Headteacher, his Deputy and his Leadership Team and to the valued support and expertise of his staff and governors.