
**The Diocese of
Hallam
Section 48 Report**

**The Catholic Life of
the School and
Religious Education**

Diocese of Hallam



SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

School URN	107152
Name of Chair of Governors	Mr Michael O'Brien
Name of Head teacher	Sarah Eady
Date of inspection	Monday 7 th October 2013
Section 48 Inspector	Mr P Davison

" An enthusiasm for the things of God"

Introduction

The Inspection of St Ann's Catholic Primary School has been carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, and in accordance with the Diocese of Hallam Framework and Schedule for Section 48 Inspections as approved by the Bishop of Hallam. The process of inspection in the Diocese of Hallam has been developed as an activity of the Church to support schools in further deepening the quality of Catholic education provided.

Description of the School

St Ann's Catholic Primary School is a smaller than average school, serving the Parishes of St Ann's, Stocksbridge and St Mary's, Penistone. Most pupils are of white British heritage, with a very small proportion of children of other ethnic groups. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and those entitled to free school meals are broadly average. The school employs a head teacher, three full-time and three part-time teachers. Three teachers are Catholics with one holding the CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies). The school is organised into four classes. 39% of the children are Baptised Catholics and 61% of Christian background. The school is investigating Catholic Voluntary Academy conversion with a proposed conversion date, 1st December 2013.

Type of School	Primary
Age profile of students	4 to 11
Number on roll	95
Number of students on Special Needs and Disabilities Register	24
Number of students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs	1
Number of Catholics on roll	37
Number of Other Christian Denominations	58
Number of other Faiths	8
No religious affiliation	
School Address	McIntyre Road Stocksbridge Sheffield S35 1DG
Telephone Number	0114 2884281
Fax Number	
Email	admin@st-anns.sheffield.sch.uk
School Website	www.st-anns.schnet.org

SUMMARY JUDGEMENTS

OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS

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THE PROVISION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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LEADERS AND MANAGERS

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OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS:

3

How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education

The overall effectiveness judgement is based on all the evidence available.

- Outcomes for pupils,
- The provision for Catholic Education
- Leaders and Managers

Inspection Grades: 1 is Outstanding, 2 is Good, 3 requires improvement in order to be good, 4 is Inadequate

OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS

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

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school.	3
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.	3
How well pupils respond to and participate in the schools' Collective Worship	3

A strength of the school is that pupils are taught effectively to respect and care for each other through Religious Education, worship and assemblies. Pupil behaviour is good and the school is friendly and welcoming. The children take part in a range of fund raising activities with great interest and enjoyment. Their moral, spiritual, social and cultural development is sound resulting in a harmonious and cohesive atmosphere.

The majority of pupils at St Ann's make satisfactory progress. They increasingly enjoy their well-planned Religious Education lessons and are motivated and eager to learn; they appreciate the range of activities offered to them and are able to work both independently and collaboratively with respect for each other's point of view. Pupils would benefit from a clearer understanding of how to raise their level of performance in Religious Education informed by the national levels of attainment. The new 'Come and See' programme of study with its clearly defined structure should help improve pupil outcomes.

A range of opportunities is offered for pupils to take part in Collective Worship and liturgical celebrations held both in school and in church. Presently pupils' involvement does not extend to planning and preparing Acts of Worship. Though able to compose prayers, they rely heavily on adult prepared liturgies and so need development in leading prayer.

Throughout the liturgical year pupils engage in and play a part in Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter celebrations. Parents and parishioners speak highly of these and they value the active involvement of the Parish Priest and Deacon in the day to day life of the school. Each classroom has a focus for spiritual reflection that is relevant to the topics being covered in the curriculum. Parents are informed through letters and newsletters about the Religious Education themes that are being studied each term and how they can get involved. The 'Rainbows' support group is a great support to pupils and their families affected by bereavement, separation or other significant loss.

PROVISION

How effective the provision is for Catholic Education

The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education.	2
The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum promotes pupils' learning.	3
The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school.	3

Lessons observed show that recent developments in improving the quality of teaching in Religious Education are having a positive effect. During the inspection teachers showed good subject knowledge and delivered lessons that inspired and challenged pupils. Good and imaginative use was made of resources, role play, drama, and computer software to maximise learning. Lessons were planned well ensuring most pupils made good progress and effective support from teaching assistants helped pupils in their learning.

- The Religious Education curriculum meets pupils' needs to a satisfactory extent. Pupils are provided with a range of opportunities to enrich their spiritual and moral development. After a recent survey taken of the children's views, steps have been made to address their concerns. These include being given more of an active role in assemblies, writing their own prayers, doing more drama, being given more time to reflect on big questions regarding faith and lessons being made more fun. Improvements planned in developing assessment procedures to inform future planning should impact on pupils' learning, progress and standards. The school needs to strengthen systems in assessment further by increasing teachers' confidence in using the levels of attainment so that pupils are accurately assessed and their progress tracked. Marking and feedback to pupils needs to be consistent, supportive and positive giving guidance on how they can improve their work and take the next step in their learning.
- A whole school liturgy was observed, led by Deacon John, exhibiting many good aspects of collective worship. The children showed reverence in how they joined in the celebration through involvement in prayer and reflection. Drama, visual presentations and lively inspirational music all enhanced the shared experience witnessed by all members of the school community. The school should continue to further develop strategies to enable pupils to take more responsibility in planning, leading and developing the prayer life of the school and establish a framework to support progression of achievement and engagement. The spiritual life of the school would be greatly enriched by ensuring there are opportunities for pupils to have a higher level of active participation in an age and stage appropriate manner.

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

How effective the provision is for Catholic education

How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.	3
How well leaders, governors and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan and implement for improvement to outcomes for pupils.	3

The leadership and management of the school are well placed to make the necessary changes to ensure the provision for Catholic education is further improved. The leadership team has a deep commitment to the Church's mission in education and personal development and high quality care are paramount. The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher, who is the Religious Education Co-ordinator, have an accurate picture of the school's strengths and areas for development. These initiatives are beginning to have a positive impact on standards in the school.

Monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning in Religious Education is improving. Assessment and tracking systems are being developed for monitoring pupil progress and outcomes. These systems are new and not fully embedded but there is some evidence that they are having a positive impact on pupil progress. Clear steps for ongoing improvement are identified in both the subject leader's action plan and the school improvement plan. The Religious Education Co-ordinator is committed, efficient and effective. She keeps the staff informed and has a clear view of how to secure improvement.

The governing body is very supportive of the school and committed to its Catholic life. They know the strengths of the school and areas for development. They have a sound grasp of the challenges faced by the school and are involved in setting appropriate priorities for improvement. Governors understand the school's performance in Religious Education and know what needs to be done to raise standards. They have positive relationships with staff, pupils and their families, are supportive of leaders and confident in their role as a 'critical friend'.

This final section draws together all the evidence and judgements made in the preceding sections.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

How effective the school is in providing Catholic Education	3
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St Ann’s is an improving Catholic school. The recently appointed headteacher provides effective leadership. She is strongly supported by her deputy, staff and governors who all share her determination for continuous improvement and to further develop the Catholic identity of the school.

Prayer and worship have a central role in the school’s life. Relationships within the school are generally good and reflect Christian respect and concern for others. The pupils’ spiritual and moral development is sound and this is reflected in their good behaviour and positive attitudes. One pupil explained: “I feel safe, comfortable and ready to learn each day.” Another stated: “Staff are friendly and make lessons fun – not just writing all the time.”

- Through the various measures planned and recently put in place, St Ann’s is well placed to make the necessary improvements to ensure the overall effectiveness of provision is greatly enhanced. A starting point could be a review the present Mission Statement to give all members of the school community the opportunity to reflect on the vision of Catholic education at St Ann’s School.