



# DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY

## DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION REPORT:

### **THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

School: St Anthony's Catholic Primary School  
Address: Dunkery Road  
Woodhouse Park  
Wythenshawe  
M22 0NT

Tel No: 0161 437 3029

URN: 139458

Headteacher: Mr P Johnson

Chair of Governors: Mrs Z Kwiatkowska

Date of Inspection: 27 June 2022

Inspectors: Mrs R Moores  
Mrs C Morgan  
Mrs J Johnson  
Mrs M Jackson  
Mrs S Ralph (shadow)

# ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St Anthony said,  
"Let your words teach and your actions speak".

At St Anthony's we stand together following Christ in all that we do. We love life, have fun, forgive and celebrate as a Catholic family. We give all of ourselves, and always accept a challenge.

Lord, help us to shine like stars and share the good news of Jesus.

"Journeying together with Jesus Christ,  
we learn to love and love to learn."

Guide us St Anthony  
Dirige Sancte Antoni.

**SCHOOL: St Anthony's Catholic Primary School**

**DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**JUDGEMENT FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION: Outstanding**

**AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION**

- To further develop differentiation within the Religious Education curriculum
- To ensure the Religious Education action plan contains strategic actions with well-defined time scales.

**PROGRESS MADE WITH AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM THE PREVIOUS INSPECTION**

Religious Education planning now shows clear differentiation with opportunities for children to be challenged. Diocesan guidance has been followed with the use of 'Driver Words' to help extend pupil learning.

Religious Education Action Plans now contain strategic actions and include timescales.

**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS:** how effective is the school in providing Catholic Education.

1

**This is an outstanding Catholic school**

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*The above judgement on overall effectiveness is based on all the available evidence following the evaluation of:*

**CATHOLIC LIFE**

1

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

1

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

1

**Summary of key findings:**

- St Anthony's is an outstanding Catholic Primary School inspired and driven by its Mission Statement: "Let your words teach and your actions speak."
- All members of staff are excellent role models and there is a strong sense of teamwork and a commitment to the mission of the school
- Pupils are fully engaged in the Catholic Life of the school; they understand the nature of service and the importance of equity – as one pupil said, it is important: '...to help others have all the rights that we have'
- The exemplary behaviour of pupils is underpinned by the importance of reconciliation and pupils value and practise the 'Five steps to forgiveness' in managing conflict
- St Anthony's makes excellent provision for the vulnerable within its nurturing, supportive, affirming environment
- Enrichment is provided for all pupils through a coherent and creative curriculum, and a wide range of extra-curricular activities, and pupils make at least good progress from their starting points
- Leaders and governors know the school well and leadership and governance at all levels are very effective; governors are well informed and knowledgeable and work very effectively in partnership with the leadership of the school
- There are strong links between school, parish, and home and all are focused on maintaining outstanding provision for the pupils.

## What the school needs to do to improve further

- Review the Mission Statement to ensure all within the school community are able to contribute to its evaluation and development
- Ensure consistency of teaching and learning across the school, so that all pupils are actively engaged in all lessons
- Review the Prayer and Liturgy Policy so that there is clarity throughout the school, in relation to expectations and end points in pupil led liturgical prayer.

## Information about the Inspection

The Inspection of St Anthony's Catholic Primary School was carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, and in accordance with the Shrewsbury Diocesan Framework and Schedule for Denominational Inspections approved by the Bishop of Shrewsbury. The inspection reviews and evaluates how effective the school is in providing Catholic education. This process begins with the school's own self-evaluation and the inspection schedule follows the criteria set by the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (NBRIA 2017).

The inspector reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school
- The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education
- The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education
- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship
- The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school
- How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education, Collective Worship and the Catholic Life of the school.

The inspection was carried out by four inspectors over one day, with one Shadow Inspector in attendance, as agreed with the school:

- Two Gospel Assemblies and three examples of Liturgical Prayer were observed
- The Inspectors observed teaching and learning in most year groups
- Discussions were held with the Executive Head Teacher, Head of School, Religious Education Lead, RSHE and PSHE Leads, Governors and Academy Trust members, a member of the Parish Clergy and representative groups of staff and pupils
- General conversations were conducted with staff and pupils throughout the day
- A representative sample of pupils' Religious Education books and class Liturgical Prayer books was scrutinised
- Catholic Life, Religious Education files and evidence of Liturgical Prayer provision were made available and scrutinised

- The school's website was reviewed
- A wide range of documents was made available including the Diocesan School Evaluation Form, School Improvement Plan, monitoring evidence, timetables, assessment and tracking information, parent, staff and pupil questionnaires, Governors' and Academy Trust information and Minutes and other relevant documents
- Displays around the school and classroom displays were noted.

### **Information about this school**

- St Anthony's Voluntary Academy, Wythenshawe is in the parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace in St Bonaventure's Deanery
- St Anthony's is a much larger than average-sized primary school with over 730 children
- Though most pupils are of White British heritage, the community has become increasingly diverse in the last 5 years with 13 out of the 17 ethnic groups represented in the school; about a quarter of children speak English as an additional language
- The proportion of disabled pupils or those with special educational needs and the proportion of disadvantaged pupils is above the national average, with around a third of children supported with PP
- There are 33 full-time teachers, 3 part-time teachers: total full-time equivalent 34.5, and 30 Teaching/Support Assistants
- 24 teachers teach Religious Education
- 5 teachers hold CCRS qualifications with a further 1 undertaking CCRS, and a number of staff have gained accreditation through the Catholic Leadership and Catholic Middle Leadership Programmes
- The school holds the International Schools' Award
- St Anthony's Catholic Primary School converted to become an academy on 4 April 2013. It is part of the Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust
- Since the last inspection there have been two changes of headship and significant changes to teaching staff and the governing body.

## Full report – inspection judgments

### CATHOLIC LIFE

**The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding**

**1**

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school	1
The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision of the Catholic Life of the school	1

- St. Anthony's is an outstanding Catholic Primary School with Christ at the centre of all that the school does
- Pupils, and all within the school's community, have an excellent understanding of their Mission Statement and School Charter – there is clear evidence of the centrality of both within the school's affirming, nurturing environment
- The school's energetic and inspirational leadership team is deeply committed to the Church's mission and is focused on the development of the Catholic Life of the school
- The Catholic Life of the school is prioritised by Leaders and Governors in all aspects of strategic planning, with appropriate focus on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and monitoring and evaluation processes
- Pupils are proud to participate fully in the school's Catholic Life and to contribute to the common good within the school and the wider community; they understand that they are: 'Called to serve'; they recognise the importance of fundraising and: 'Helping people who really need it' by supporting the local Foodbank, contributing to CAFOD, visiting a local Care Home and distributing cards and parcels to parishioners during the recent pandemic
- Pupils enthusiastically take on positions of responsibility such as being Prayer and Liturgy Leaders, Prayer Angels, Eco Warriors, Reception Buddies, Playground Leaders or being members of the Mini Vinnies; they are fully committed to these roles and are outstanding ambassadors for the school
- Pupils show a deep respect for themselves and others and the behaviour of almost all pupils is exemplary; they fully appreciate the importance of reconciliation and know that if they make a mistake then there will always be: '...a new day and a fresh start'
- Pupils feel they are listened to, cared for and that their voice is valued, they also appreciate: '...that the school gives us time to reflect on our mistakes'
- Pupils enjoy the varied opportunities they are given to pray together and do so with appropriate reverence and respect
- The school has clear policies and structures in place which ensure that pupils receive a high level of pastoral care and parents are particularly appreciative of the excellent guidance and support given at the height of the pandemic
- Pupils take full advantage of the many opportunities provided for their personal support and development, including nurture provision through the Oasis Team, a wide range of residential visits, retreats and a bespoke curriculum for the most vulnerable pupils
- All staff are fully committed to the Catholic Life of the school: 'We strive, on a daily basis, to live our Mission through our relationships with children, parents and each other' and

enthusiastically participate in staff prayer, retreats, CPD and activities such as the school's recent Mission Week

- Staff are well-supported, and they report that the school is a community where people work collaboratively, with very good relationships between and among staff, pupils, and parents
- Parents appreciate the school's strong, traditional, Catholic values and the family atmosphere that permeates the school, and report that they are given many opportunities to engage in the Catholic Life of the school
- Governors are deeply committed to the Catholic Life of the school and ensure that objectives relating to it are prioritised within staff development
- Following consultations with parents, and CPD for all staff, Leaders and Governors have implemented the scheme 'Life to the Full' for teaching Relationships and Sex Education
- The school is enthusiastic in its response to diocesan policies and actively promotes the Bishop's vision for the Diocese throughout the school.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Religious Education is outstanding

1
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How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	1
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education	1

- Pupils really enjoy their Religious Education lessons and appreciate how much effort their teachers make to enthuse and inspire them: 'The teachers always put effort into planning interesting lessons'
- Almost all pupils make at least good progress from their varied starting points, and secure assessment and tracking procedures ensure pupils are challenged and extended in their learning: "I love learning about more complex things in RE and learning deeper into the word of God"
- Generally, pupils concentrate well, engage with their learning and work with great motivation, especially when lessons are creative and fast-paced
- Behaviour in lessons is outstanding and a positive, affirming learning environment helps pupils to make good progress: '... it is a great school to learn in, the environment is great to learn in...'
- Pupils are supported in seeing how Religious Education links to and complements other subjects within the curriculum
- Work in pupils' books is of a high standard and pupils take great care with presentation and are proud of their achievements; they particularly enjoy sharing their work at the regular Tea Parties organised by senior leaders
- Pupils feel supported by their teachers, recognising the high expectations their teachers have of them but knowing also that they will be supported to be the best they can be, they say teachers: '... give us an honest opinion of our work'
- Teachers have excellent subject knowledge; they generally plan high quality, creative lessons, clearly linked to prior learning which takes account of various learning styles and a wide range of abilities
- In the best teaching observed teachers use a good mix of 'teacher talk' and 'child-led learning' to inspire pupils to make the best progress possible
- Excellent resources, including knowledge organisers, the use of other adults in the room, and effective classroom displays, support learning and encourage pupils to work with confidence and independence
- Assessment procedures are secure and well embedded across all phases and take place termly, in line with Diocesan requirements; scrutiny and moderation of work in the pupils' Religious Education books takes place regularly across the Wythenshawe Cluster of Catholic schools
- The school's very effective Marking Policy ensures pupils are involved in the process and challenged and extended in their learning

- Teachers avail of the many opportunities provided to them for continuing professional development and they feel extremely well supported by all leaders and governors, both spiritually and professionally
- The Religious Education Leadership team is very effective and rigorous monitoring and evaluation procedures ensure appropriate priority is given to the ongoing development of Religious Education
- Governors are fully involved in monitoring and evaluation processes, they meet regularly with the leadership team and receive reports of all developments
- Governors and leaders are rigorous in checking that all requirements relating to curriculum time and resourcing are fully met; Religious Education is given full parity as a core subject
- Governors and leaders fully embrace all diocesan requirements and are firmly committed to improving provision for all within the community.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

**Collective Worship is outstanding**

1

How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship	1
The quality of provision for Collective Worship	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship	1

- Prayer, liturgy, and liturgical prayer are central to the life of St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, and pupils and staff value the daily experience of gathering together as a joyful, praying community
- Liturgical prayer generally has a clear purpose, message and direction, and provision has been enhanced by including the teaching of virtues alongside the themes selected, such as the virtue of charity for the theme of Lent
- There is a genuine enthusiasm for all opportunities for prayer and liturgy, and this is reflected in the quality of singing, reflection, and reverence during communal prayer
- Pupils enjoy preparing liturgical prayer and readily and confidently take the initiative both in leading and evaluating such acts
- Pupils are confident in incorporating a variety of scripture, religious artefacts, and music within liturgical prayer, and priority is given to the provision of a wide range of good quality resources
- Scrutiny of planning documents and class rotas show that school ensures sufficient, quality time is given to pupils to allow them to plan liturgical prayer, and pupils appreciate this: 'I really enjoy how we can take time to prepare for things like liturgical prayer'; time has also been set aside for 'Faith in Action' reflection time after gospel assemblies and the recent Mission Week was an opportunity for pupils and staff to experience 'mission in action' through service and charity
- Pupils are very knowledgeable about the Church's liturgical seasons and are supported in this by beautiful classroom displays and attractive and well cared for prayer focus areas
- Pupils' spiritual development is enhanced by the experience of a variety of forms of prayer: traditional prayer, contemporary prayer and extempore (spontaneous) prayer and the sharing of weekly prayer intentions in the school newsletter
- The school uses its many excellent resources on-site, such as the Chapel, Prayer Gardens, and other 'Sacred Spaces,' and off-site centres such as the Marist Centre and Styal Woods to enrich times of prayer
- The school's class books for liturgical prayer which record the weekly liturgical prayer sessions are exceptional and demonstrate the high priority given to prayer and liturgical prayer
- During school closure, priority was given to promoting opportunities for sharing liturgy and liturgical prayer with online Masses and assemblies shared across the Catholic cluster of schools
- Staff are skilled in helping pupils to prepare opportunities to gather in prayer and have been supported to do so by focused professional development

- Staff have an excellent knowledge of the Church's liturgical year, seasons and feasts and are focused on improving provision for all their pupils
- The deeply committed Religious Education Leadership team are visible as leaders of liturgical prayer in the school, and they are knowledgeable and supportive of all colleagues
- School and parish work together very effectively to enrich provision for pupils and their families, and the parish is very appreciative of all that the school does
- All leaders and governors have very high expectations for the provision for liturgical prayer within the school and regularly review the school's performance, including recently developing a new Prayer and Liturgy policy
- The committed Link Governor for Religious Education visits school regularly and participates in meetings to discuss the liturgical prayer planned for the school
- Leaders and the Link Governor report regularly to the Governing Body on the quality and provision for liturgical prayer, either through verbal feedback or more formal reports
- Governors and parents are proud of the school's provision for liturgical prayer, recognising its centrality to the Catholic Life and mission of the school, and are focused on resuming opportunities to once more engage with parents through Stay and Pray sessions and other opportunities for communal prayer