



SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT

Canonical Inspection under Canon 806 on behalf of the
Archbishop of Southwark and Inspection of
Denominational Education under Section 48
of the Education Act 2005

URN 101654

**St. Anthony's RC Primary School
Genoa Road
Anerley
SE20 8ES**

Inspection date: 08 November 2016

Chair of Governors:	Miss Pat Tyler
Headteacher:	Mrs. Lorna White
Inspectors:	Mr. Tom Cahill Mr. Mark Scully

EDUCATION COMMISSION

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DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Introduction

Description of the school

St Anthony's is a one form entry voluntary aided school, situated in the Bromley Deanery of the Archdiocese of Southwark. It is currently maintained by Bromley Local Authority. The principal parish, which the school serves is St Anthony of Padua, Anerley. The proportion of pupils who are baptised Catholics is 63%. The average weekly proportion of curriculum time given to Religious Education is 10% in Key Stages 1 and 2.

This increasingly popular school takes pupils from 4 to 11. The number of pupils currently on roll is 184. The attainment of pupils on entering the school is below average. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is above average. Around 15% of the pupils receive extra support in class although there are no pupils in the school with an Educational Health Care Plan or Statement of Special Educational Needs. The majority of pupils come from a wide range of minority ethnic groups with the largest group being of Black African heritage. The proportion of pupils from homes where English is an Additional Language is above average.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding	Grade 3	Requires improvement
Grade 2	Good	Grade 4	Inadequate

The mission of the school, “Working, learning and caring together in God’s love,” is reflected in everything the school does each day. Since the last inspection in 2012, St Anthony’s has made significant improvements and is now an outstanding Catholic school where Gospel Values permeate every aspect of school life. The Headteacher provides outstanding Catholic leadership and has a clear vision for the school, which is shared by all members of the school community. Staff morale is very high and they are loyal and committed to the school and its distinct Catholic ethos. The school has successfully addressed the key recommendations outlined in the previous inspection report. It has also had a focus on improving the behaviour of the pupils by applying the clear behaviour policy in a consistent way, ensuring fairness and justice. The behaviour of the pupils is outstanding and it makes a significant contribution to the learning environment and learning outcomes of the pupils. The behaviour of the pupils throughout the inspection was exemplary. All pupils displayed respect for each other, teachers and visitors and were at all times excellent ambassadors for the school.

Parents’ views expressed through the questionnaire and at meetings with the Inspector were overwhelmingly positive and supportive. They are kept well informed through regular newsletters and the school website. They appreciated the efforts made by the staff and governors, which have led to the significant improvements made at the school in recent years. These improvements were recognised in the recent Ofsted inspection report. As a result, parents had no hesitation in recommending the school to others. They highlighted the openness of staff to meet with parents, their keenness to address concerns and how parents were encouraged to become involved in the school as a way of supporting their children.

The parents made clear that they felt St Anthony’s was a safe, caring and highly inclusive school with a strong Catholic ethos which was important to them when choosing which school to send their children to. As one parent wrote “I could not have sent my children to a better school.” Another parent described the school as “a real family” and praised the partnership between school, home and parish. Parents also welcomed the opportunities given to them to attend events at the school as well as school and parish events such as the monthly Sunday Family Mass which is organised by the school.

The school has a highly effective Governing Body that works closely with senior leaders. They know the school well and are frequent visitors to the school. Once a year they have a ‘Governors Day’ when they spend a day at the school, attending classes and meeting pupils and parents. Governors act in a way, which is both supportive and challenging, holding senior leaders to account when appropriate.

The school is very fortunate to be located adjacent to St Anthony of Padua, the parish church, and has developed a strong and enduring relationship between the school and the parish. The Parish Priest is very supportive of the school. He is also a member of the Governing Body and a frequent visitor to the school. The school has daily access to the church and the parish also makes use of the school’s facilities. The school has recently benefitted from a significant capital funding grant to improve the main building as well as outdoor play areas.

What steps need to be taken to improve further?

Governors, Headteacher and staff should:

- Ensure the School Development Plan incorporates key aspects of the development of the Catholic life of the school so that governors can monitor developments and hold the school to account.
- Continue to integrate the teaching of other world religions into the Religious Education curriculum.

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school

Pupils derive huge benefit from attending St Anthony's. They make good progress as a result of the consistently good teaching they receive and the high expectations placed on them by their teachers. As a relatively small school, all pupils are well known and supported in a caring atmosphere based on love and respect for one another. Senior leaders and teachers are outstanding role models for the pupils.

Pupils are able to contribute to the Catholic life of the school in many ways. Retreats to Aylesford Priory take place in Year 3 and Year 6. The Year 6 retreat is an opportunity to reflect on their time at St Anthony's and to prepare for the transition to secondary school. The school provides financial support for these retreats to ensure all pupils are able to take part.

During a meeting with the School Council, pupils made clear to the inspector how proud they were of their school. They felt very safe and well cared for by their teachers and other adults and were encouraged to look out for each other through the 'Play Buddy' scheme. Pupils were confident that if there was a problem, they could approach an adult and the matter would be dealt with both sensitively and fairly.

Pupils have a range of opportunities to take on responsibility and to help those less fortunate than themselves. The school has raised significant funds for a number of charities such as the 'Molo Street Project' in Kenya, 'Marie Curie' and the annual 'Poppy Appeal'. Pupils are involved in a number of local activities such as visiting a local home for the elderly, the 'Junior Citizen' scheme and a number of prestigious singing competitions.

As a highly inclusive school, the pupils enjoy the annual 'Cultural Day' held at the school which celebrates the many different cultures of pupils and staff. Governors and parents are invited to participate in this event. As a result, the diverse nature of the school community is a strength of the school.

The school employs a Family Liaison Officer who provides significant support to vulnerable families. She organises regular coffee mornings for parents as well as education and training sessions. Parents particularly valued support given to them at the time of secondary transfer.

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education.

Pupils clearly enjoy their learning in Religious Education. They particularly enjoyed lessons where they are encouraged to be creative through drama and role play. Pupils told inspectors that the teachers really encouraged them to do well in Religious Education lessons and that they enjoyed being challenged to think more deeply about their beliefs. They also appreciated the fact that the teachers made sure tasks set matched the needs of individual pupils.

As a result, pupils make excellent progress taking into account their attainment on entry to the school. Levels achieved in Religious Education at the end of KS2 are in line with the English results of the pupils, which are above the local and national average.

How well pupils respond to and participate in Collective Worship

Prayer and worship are central to the life of the school. Each day begins with some form of prayer within the class or an assembly. Pupils are encouraged to write their own prayers to read to the class and to pray for their own special intentions. They particularly enjoy the weekly singing assembly. A number of pupils are Altar Servers at School Masses as well as the monthly Family Mass held at St Anthony's church. The Year of Mercy has been a focus for the school and an impressive 'Door of Mercy' made by a member of the site staff dominates the stage. The door invites all to enter and receive God's mercy and share it with others. Close by is the 'Prayer Tree' where pupils, staff and visitors are encouraged to write short prayers and intentions.

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

Leaders and governors clearly know the strengths and weaknesses of the school as evidenced by their accurate self-evaluation of the work of the school and the priorities highlighted in the School Development Plan. The Headteacher provides outstanding leadership in all areas of school life and she is ably supported by her senior management team. A significant emphasis has been placed on improving student outcomes in English and Maths and this has had a positive impact on the outcomes in all subjects including Religious Education. The school development plan reflects this focus leading to the Catholic life of the school having a less prominent focus within the plan. To ensure the Catholic life of the school continues to flourish and be further enhanced, governors and senior leaders should work together to agree targets and timelines for the Catholic life of the school so governors are fully informed and can monitor the progress of the school towards the agreed targets.

Governors and senior leaders have ensured a high level of resources are allocated in order to enhance the Catholic life of the school and the Religious Education curriculum. The hiring of an external artist to use calligraphy and artwork around the school are examples of their commitment to this, as is the development of a 'Prayer Garden'.

How well leaders, governors and managers monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education and plan and implement for improvement to outcomes for pupils

The Religious Education Coordinator, who is also the Deputy Headteacher, has recently been appointed to this role. She works in close partnership with the Headteacher to ensure provision for Religious Education is developed and monitored on a regular basis. She provides clear and outstanding leadership to the teachers and has a clear vision of what action needs to be taken to further develop the subject. She ensures, along with other senior leaders, that the quality of teaching is monitored through lesson observations and provides detailed schemes of work to ensure the effective delivery of the subject. Assessments take place on a regular basis and the data is analysed with action taken to ensure all pupils make good progress in Religious Education.

The school provides comprehensive support to non-Catholic teachers, which contributes to the consistently good and effective teaching of the subject.

There is a link governor for Religious Education.

The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in Religious Education

The quality of teaching has significantly improved since the previous inspection and is consistently good and often outstanding. Teaching is strongest in Early Years and in Year 6. Lessons are well planned and take into account the needs of individuals with differentiated tasks to ensure both rigour and challenge to all pupils including the more able. In a very good Early Years lesson seen during the inspection, the pupils showed high levels of engagement and enjoyment during a role play about St Nicholas and the theme of helping others. By using teaching assistants effectively, all pupils were able to participate and make progress in the lesson.

Religious Education lessons are well resourced and generally have good pace. On occasions there are missed opportunities for pupils to be challenged to think more deeply or link ideas expressed by the pupils to stories and themes found in the Bible.

Pupil books seen during lessons showed high quality marking which was detailed and informed pupils of how they could further improve. The pupils appreciated the efforts of their teachers in ensuring their work was always marked.

The extent to which the Religious Education curriculum promotes pupils' learning

The Religious Education curriculum is outstanding overall and is based on 'The Way, The Truth and the Life.' The school has made significant investment in providing resources to support the teaching of the programme. The school allocates at least 10% of curriculum time for the teaching of Religious Education and therefore meets the requirements of the Bishop's Conference.

Since the previous inspection, the school has taught world religions during 'Other Faiths Week.' However, school leaders recognise that other world faiths need to be taught in a more integrated way throughout the school year to reflect the diverse nature of the school community and to fit into the timing of celebrations of other faiths where possible.

St Anthony's has developed good links with the Diocesan Advisers for Religious Education and it uses its links within the local Deanery to share good practice and to moderate assessments.

The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school

The quality of Collective Worship at the school is also outstanding. Every classroom has a focus for prayer including a candle and a range of religious artefacts. A particular strength of Collective Worship at the school is the singing of the pupils. In an assembly seen by inspectors, the pupils sang beautifully with joy and gusto. The pupils responded very

positively and respectfully during prayers and period of silent reflection. Their behaviour throughout the assembly was exemplary. The quality of Collective Worship is further enhanced by the use of St Anthony's church which connects to the school buildings enabling the school to gather as a whole school community for Feast Day Masses and special services in the community church.