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DIOCESAN BOARD FOR INSPECTIONS

**CANON LAW 806
FINAL INSPECTION REPORT
INCORPORATING
SECTION 48**

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
High Busy Lane, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD181HD

School URN

107348

Date of Inspection and OE
grade

26/27 November 2015
Grade: 2 Good

E-mail address

head@stas.bradford.sch.uk

Chair of Governors

Ms. J. Weston-Beyer

Headteacher

Mr. S. Gallacher

RE Subject Leader

Mr. R. Gaul

Date and grade of last S48
inspection

29/30 September 2010
Grade: 1 Outstanding

Section 48 Inspector

Mr. D. G. Gott

INSPECTION JUDGEMENTS

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

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

2

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

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

OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS

2

THE PROVISION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

2

LEADERS AND MANAGERS

2

Summary of key findings:

This is a good Catholic school.

- The dedicated headteacher and governors lead by example and provide strong leadership and a clear vision for the school's future.
- School self-evaluation gradings in RE are very accurate.
- St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School has a welcoming Catholic ethos and a strong family feeling of belonging.
- The Parish Priest and school are proactive in promoting good home/ school / parish links.
- Staff, governors and pupil morale is high.
- RE teaching is mainly good, some is outstanding but none is inadequate. The school should share best practice more widely across the school.
- Collective Worship (CW) plays a central part in the daily life of the school. Existing best practice should be shared more widely across the school.
- Pupils join the school with generally below average RE knowledge and understanding. By the time they reach the end of Year 6, they are mostly attaining above average standards in RE. Individuals and groups of pupils make at least good progress in RE and some make outstanding progress with nothing that is inadequate.
- Pupils are polite and well behaved. They enjoy their RE lessons and willingly contribute to the Catholic Life of the School.
- Parents and carers report that their children are happy at St. Anthony's and have made many good friends.
- The school has established strong partnership links with other schools which benefit the pupils and staff of St. Anthony's School.
- Key issues raised in the last S48 RE inspection have been addressed.
- All canonical and statutory requirements are met.

What the school needs to do to improve further.

- Increase the percentage of outstanding RE teaching across the school by
a) Sharing existing outstanding practice and b) providing staff training in use of the RE Creative Curriculum.
- Empower more pupils, subject to their age and ability, to appropriately plan, prepare and lead CW in a variety of settings by
a) Sharing existing outstanding practice and b) building teachers' knowledge and confidence by providing relevant staff training.
- The shared aspirations contained within the school's mission motto: "Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day" should, as simply as possible, be revised to more explicitly reflect that it is rooted in the Gospel values of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Information about this inspection

The Inspection of St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Shipley was carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, and in accordance with the Leeds Diocesan Framework and Schedule for Section 48 Inspections approved by the Diocesan Administrator of Leeds. 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 2012).

The inspector reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- The extent to which the key issues for action identified in the previous S48 RE Inspection have been addressed.
- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school.
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in RE.
- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's CW.
- The quality of teaching and how purposeful learning is in RE.
- The extent to which the RE Curriculum promotes pupils' learning.
- The quality of CW provided by the school.
- The accuracy of the school's self-evaluation system.
- How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate provision and plan improvement to outcomes.
- The school's partnership activities-including home / school / parish links.

The inspection was carried out by 1 inspector over a 1 ½ day period. A sample of 5 RE lessons and 5 CW were observed covering all classes and all key stages. In addition a whole school CW led by the HT was observed. Meetings were held with the Headteacher, RE Subject Leader and staff; the Chair of Governors, governor with responsibility for RE (Parish Priest) and a Foundation Governor. Meetings were also held with parents (including parent governor) and pupils. A comprehensive range of school RE documentation was scrutinised, including governors' minutes, RE moderated portfolios, and pupil RE workbooks. The school RE displays, website and newsletters were also sampled. The school's RE data tracking and pupil progress system was demonstrated.

Information about this school

- St. Anthony’s Catholic Primary School, Shipley is one of two local Catholic primary schools that serve the needs of the Catholic families of the reconfigured parish of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.
- Baptismal figures show a rising trend, as do the numbers of children presenting for Sacramental Preparation.
- The school is smaller than average with a published admission number (PAN) of 18 pupils per year. The school is regularly oversubscribed.
- Currently there are 125 pupils on roll, of whom 64% are baptised Catholics. Pupils are taught in 5 classes, 4 of which are of mixed age groups. Reception is taught as a single age group. There is no nursery provision. The school operates a before school club and a wide range of after school curriculum activities.
- There are 8 full time equivalent (fte) teachers, of whom 3 are of the Catholic faith. Two teachers hold the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies (CCRS) or equivalent.
- A number of teaching and support staff have successfully completed the “Catholic Foundation Stones” course.
- Since the last S48 RE inspection (2010) a number of significant changes have taken place at the school. A new headteacher has been appointed (2012); a new Chair of Governors elected (2015) and a new parish priest (governor with responsibility for RE) appointed (2015). A number of other teaching and support staff appointments have also been made since the last inspection.
- The school is a member of the Shipley Learning Partnership network of local schools and is also a key partner of the Catholic Schools Partnership.
- St. Anthony’s maintains good transition links with St. Bede’s and St. Joseph’s Catholic College, Bradford, to which the majority of year 6 pupils transfer for their secondary education.
- St. Anthony’s is currently working towards achievement of the Bradford “School of Sanctuary” Award.

Full report - inspection judgements

Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils are Good

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 pupils respond to and participate in the school’s Collective Worship.	2

- Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils at St. Anthony’s are good.
- Pupils are knowledgeable about their school’s patron saint and they willingly take on responsibilities for developing the Catholic Life of the school in their day to day classroom life. It would assist pupils further in this task if the shared aspirations of the whole school community contained within the school mission motto: “Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day” could more explicitly be rooted in the gospel values of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Pupils have a good understanding of right and wrong and a keen sense of fairness. They are polite and well behaved. They take a pride in their school and say that they enjoy school life.

- They are considerate and caring towards others. The older pupils particularly enjoy being “buddies” to Reception class children –especially over lunchtime periods. There is a strong family feeling of “belonging” at the school.
- Pupils are also active within the local community. For example, the school choir visits local care homes and hospitals. A large colourful wall display in the main school hall (“When I Needed a Neighbour, Were You There?”) gives testimony that pupils are also very active in responding to the many needs of others beyond the school at local, national and international levels. For example, pupils plan a wide variety of often self-initiated charitable fund raising activities in support of CAFOD, Catholic Care, Bradford City Burns Unit, The Samaritans and numerous other good causes. Pupils comment on how much they value these activities, *“I like it when we give our 20p on Tuesdays to Gambia and later on someone comes back to tell us and show us pictures of how we have helped. Last time we helped people in Gambia to repair a broken down school; our money helped to make a new school library. The children looked so happy to have it but it made me feel sad that we have so much and they have so little.”*
- Pupils achieve well and enjoy their learning in RE. The school’s RE pupil tracking system indicates that children join the Foundation Stage (FS) with a baseline knowledge and understanding of RE that is generally below age related expectations. By the time pupils reach the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) standards pupils achieve in RE are mostly above average in knowledge and understanding of religion (Attainment Target 1) and the ability to reflect on meaning (AT2).
- The school’s RE planning and assessment systems mirror the same academic rigour as given to other core curriculum areas, with pupil progress in RE being tracked on a half termly basis. Most individuals and groups of pupils make at least good progress in RE and some make outstanding progress, with nothing that is inadequate.
- Pupils are interested in and enthusiastic about their learning in RE. They are keen to do well, generally apply themselves diligently, and work at a good pace. Scrutiny of pupils’ RE books evidence that most pupils seek to produce their best work, and take pride in the content, presentation and handwriting of their RE work. Pupils very much enjoy being at St. Anthony’s. Typical comments to the inspector included:
 “You certainly get a lot of education here.”
 “Teachers always care for you.”
 “We have fun at St. Anthony’s.”
 “I like doing the chilli challenges in RE.”
 “I like it when we act out the Bible readings –sometimes I’m the narrator.”
- Prayer is central to the everyday life of St. Anthony’s School and CW takes many forms. Pupils appreciate what is taking place, act with reverence and demonstrate a keen willingness to participate-especially when singing hymns they enjoy.
- Relative to their age and ability, pupils are becoming more adept at preparing and leading worship within their own classroom setting. They do so with increasing confidence and enthusiasm. Pupils are actively encouraged to pause and reflect upon the meaning of scripture. They have a good understanding of the Church’s main seasonal celebrations and are becoming skilled in the use of appropriate scripture and religious symbols to support their prayer.
- Pupils’ high quality artistic display work appropriately reflects the RE topic being covered and is suitably complemented by appropriate religious artefacts, reflecting the particular liturgical season of the Church’s year.

The provision for Catholic Education is Good

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 RE teaching is mainly good, some is outstanding but none is inadequate. In the most effective RE lessons, teachers have a strong subject knowledge which inspires and challenges most pupils and contributes towards their overall enjoyment of the lesson and good progress. Prominent use and explanation of RE topic “driver words” help promote the religious literacy of pupils.
- Clear evidence of appropriate differentiation was witnessed in RE lesson planning to ensure that the needs of individuals and groups of pupils were met. Teachers and support staff appropriately challenge pupils to achieve their best. Good interactive questioning and lively discussion to aid learning was evidenced in classrooms.
- The most effective teachers make good use of a range of teaching styles and resources (including ICT) to engage and motivate pupils. RE lessons have strong cross-curricular links to literacy and art. Pupils particularly enjoy and value creating their own individual Prayer Journals. The school should share highly effective classroom expertise more widely across the school in order to raise RE teaching standards.
- Teachers follow the school’s approved RE programme of study “The Way, the Truth and the Light” (WTL), but supplement it with additional RE resources from CAFOD and “RE Today”. The majority of RE teaching enables pupils to make good progress as learners.
- Teachers and other adults know their pupils very well. With the support of the RE subject leader, the school follows the diocesan RE planning and assessment guidelines. Class teachers and support staff plan RE topics together very effectively.
- The school publishes regular RE newsletters to families to keep parents and carers fully informed of the RE work their children are currently undertaking and suggesting ways in which they may wish to help reinforce school RE teaching.
- Teachers apply the school’s marking policy to RE lessons, providing pupils with written and verbal feedback so that they understand how well they have done and what else they need to do in order to sustain good progress. RE achievement and effort are highlighted in the regular Friday whole school Celebration Awards Assembly. Parents and carers are invited to attend and do so in good numbers. They say how much they look forward to and enjoy these assemblies. RE Award work is prominently displayed in public areas of the school.
- At St. Anthony’s the RE curriculum is fundamental to the spiritual, moral development and vocational understanding of the pupil and Church’s mission. The school meets the Bishop’s Conference (RE Curriculum Directory 2012) requirements and is fully responsive to Diocese of Leeds requirements. At least 10% of curriculum time is allocated to RE and all pupils are taught RE. The school has revised its Education for Personal Relationships (EPR) Policy and programme of study in line with diocesan guidelines.
- The school actively draws on the wide range of partnership working it has established with other educational institutions –most notably the Diocese of Leeds and the Keighley and Bradford Catholic Schools Partnership.

- Staff (teaching and support) say how valuable they have found the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) RE courses arranged by the diocesan RE co-ordinator and the Catholic School's Partnership, particularly RE courses on "The Creative RE Curriculum" and "The Way, the Truth and the Light" RE topic days.
- The school's RE curriculum has been further enhanced by visitors to school and by the increased knowledge and understanding gained by pupils from these school visits - particularly in the teaching of other faith customs and beliefs. Pupils from St. Anthony's also make visits to Leeds Cathedral, where they are shown around by the diocesan archivist and invited to ask questions.
- Staff confidence in RE monitoring and assessment has been considerably improved through joint moderation opportunities of standardised RE assessments, facilitated through the school's RE Subject Leader and the Catholic Schools Partnership. School Moderated RE Portfolios help induct those teachers new to RE assessment in a Catholic School.
- Through the schools RE budget, all classes have been provided with appropriate prayer resources including class Bibles. Year 6 school leavers are presented with their own personal Bible.
- The school RE curriculum helps to further promote closer home, school, and parish links. Whole school and class masses together with seasonal liturgical celebrations are held during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, both at school and in the parish settings. Parents and parishioners are always invited and are attending in increasing numbers.
- "Travelling Cribs" and Rosary packs are circulated at appropriate times and are a very popular addition to the RE curriculum.
- Acts of CW are at the heart of everyday life of St. Anthony's School Shipley. Each classroom has an attractive and well-resourced RE focal area set aside for worship which reflects the school's Catholic ethos. Staff and pupils are at ease when praying together on a regular basis. Pupils experience a wide range of formal and informal opportunities for daily prayer. Themes selected for CW are consistent with the Catholic character of the school and are responsive to the religious diversity. A liturgical calendar for the whole school year is devised in consultation with the Parish Priest and published in school / parish newsletters.
- Good quality RE resources, including appropriate religious artefacts are provided for all classrooms. "The Wednesday Word" and Family Prayer Cards encourage closer home, school, parish, prayer links.
- Staff seek to ensure that relative to their age and ability, pupils are skilled and equipped to lead worship. The school follows diocesan CW planning guidelines and pupils are becoming increasingly confident in planning, preparing RE resources (including ICT) and delivering worship. This is an aspect of school life which should be further developed using existing expertise within the school.

The Leadership and Management are Good

<p>How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Catholic Education and plan and implement improvement to outcomes for pupils.</p>	<p>2</p>
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- The dedicated Headteacher, governors and senior management team (which includes the RE subject leader) have a clear vision for the future of the school and are all deeply committed to the Church's mission in education.

- The Parish Priest (RE governor) is a frequent and very welcome visitor to the school. He helps to plan out class and whole school masses and seasonal liturgies with the RE Subject Leader and pupils. He actively supports the RE, Worship and Catholic Life of the school and initiates stronger home, school, parish links. Parents, carers and parishioners are always invited to join in school celebrations.
- RE is the core subject within which the wider school curriculum is set and as such, the School Improvement Plan gives priority to promoting and securing the spiritual and moral development of the pupils.
- The governing body has been reconstituted and long standing vacancies have successfully been filled. There is now a very comprehensive skill set across the governing body. An external evaluation report on school governance was commissioned by the governors and key recommendations have diligently been implemented.
- Evidence from governors minutes verify that the governing body fulfils its function of being a “critical friend” to the school by holding the headteacher and senior leaders to account.
- Key issues identified in the previous Section 48 RE inspection (2010) have also been addressed.
- The school’s Performance Management system incorporates developmental aspects promoting the RE, Worship, Catholic Life of the school.
- The majority of RE teaching is good or better and none is inadequate.
- Leaders, governors and managers conduct a range of systematic monitoring activities relating to provision and outcomes in RE. Their analysis provides a firm basis for accurate diagnosis of the school’s strengths and areas for development which lead to significant improvement to outcomes for pupils. In order to further raise standards in RE, Worship and Catholic Life, leadership and management must ensure that staff have access to sharing the school’s existing outstanding classroom practice and relevant CPD training.
- Leadership is well informed of current developments in RE. The RE subject leader attends regular diocesan partnership meetings and keeps staff well informed through regular staff meetings on RE issues such as assessment and moderation. The school also subscribes to the “RE Today” publication.
- One of the 5 designated staff training days is always allocated to RE.
- The headteacher provides a regular written report to full governor meetings which contains a standing section on RE and Catholic Life of the school.
- The governors have established a Curriculum and Catholic Life Committee which meets on a half termly basis to monitor standards in RE and plan future developments.
- The school has formed a range of very effective partnerships with other educational institutions- particularly the Catholic Schools Partnership and the Shipley Learning Partnership. Transition links have also been enhanced with St. Bede’s and St. Joseph’s College.
- Governors approved an RE budget which is in line with other core curriculum areas.
- Staff, governors and pupil moral is high at St. Anthony’s.
- The school has had no exclusions or records of racist incidents over the last academic year.
- A wide range of charitable fund raising events support local and global communities in need.
- School leaders have ensured that symbols and Icons of the Catholic faith (for example religious pictures, crucifixes and statues) are prominently and sensitively displayed throughout the school premises, helping the whole school community and visitors experience the sacredness of St. Anthony’s learning environment.

- Governors have ensured that the school building provides a safe and secure learning environment for pupils and staff. The site manager and cleaner keep a diligent watch for health and safety issues and maintain the premises in a clean and attractive state.
- The school surveys parental satisfaction over a wide range of school issues. Results are published in the school newsletter with a school response to the particular findings.
- The governors have ensured that all canonical and statutory responsibilities are fulfilled by the school.