



Archdiocese of Birmingham

INSPECTION REPORT

ST ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Part of the Holy Spirit Multi-Academy Company

Camp Hill Drive, Camp Hill, Nuneaton, CV10 0JX

Inspection dates	30 th September-1 st October 2015
Reporting Inspector	Sister Susan Collins

Diocesan Inspection carried out with the framework used for s48 inspections

Type of School	Academy
Age range of pupils	3 -11 years
Number on roll	212 including nursery
Appropriate authority	The Board of Directors
Chair of Academy Committee	Mr Michael Casey
Telephone number	02476 392877
E-mail address	admin3583@welearn365.com
Date of previous inspection	September 2012
DFE School Number	937/3583
Unique Reference Number	125725

Headteacher	Mrs Anne Goodeve
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Previous inspection:	4
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This inspection:	3
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DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE



Evidence

- The inspection was carried out by one Diocesan Inspector.
- The focus of the inspection was on the effectiveness and use of the school's self evaluation of religious education (RE) and Catholic life.
- To validate the effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation of teaching and learning, the inspector observed three full RE lessons with the headteacher.
- The inspector completed a work scrutiny and held two discussions with pupils to evaluate the impact of teaching on their learning over time.
- Meetings were held with the chair of the academy committee and the headteacher, who is also the subject leader.
- The inspector attended a whole school Mass and undertook a learning walk to look at aspects of learning and teaching in RE, the presentation of the Catholic life of the school and pupils' behaviour.
- Other documents such as RAISEonline, the development plan, teachers' planning, and learning journals were read alongside the self-evaluation.

Information about the school

- St Anne's is an average sized Catholic primary school serving the parish of St Anne in Nuneaton.
- The school is situated in a mixed area of council and private housing.
- The number of Catholic pupils is currently 28%.
- The proportion of ethnic minority pupils is 19%.
- The number of pupils eligible for free school meals is 29% with 17% of pupils receiving support for their special needs
- Attainment on entry is below the national average overall.

Main Findings

- St Anne's is an improving school in which Catholic life, the provision for collective worship and RE are now at a satisfactory level and require continuing improvement to be good. Pupils' response to Catholic life and their participation in collective worship is good. These judgements concur with the school's own views.
- The school's headteacher is deeply committed to the Church's mission in education and she has steered the school through a difficult, uncertain few years. The Catholic life of the school has improved since the last inspection and is more secure.
- Members of staff are united with the headteacher in bringing about the improvements that are required to become a good or better Catholic school.
- Judgements about religious education and Catholic life are accurate, but not yet reliably rooted in formal monitoring procedures. There is some evidence of monitoring and evaluation of religious education, but this is limited and very recent. The school has plans to extend the range of monitoring activities it carries out.
- Improvement planning in some areas is marked by clear priorities, success criteria and reviewed at appropriate intervals. This way of working needs to be developed in relation to Catholic life and RE.

School self evaluation

Catholic life and Collective Worship

- Catholic life is being promoted in the school through the witness of the headteacher, support from the diocese and collaboration with the schools in the academy and Sacred Heart School in Coventry. In every classroom there are boards which focus on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. These boards include child friendly definitions of each aspect in the form of photographs, post-its or writing. Vocational development is to be added to these boards in the near future.
- The school is beginning to evaluate and monitor the quality of the Catholic life. At an inset day for the academy in January 2015, the staff started to look at a Catholic ethos questionnaire; in future they need to ensure that procedures are followed through and agree actions for future development.
- A spiritual audit was also completed with staff devising suggestions for improvement; these included purchasing a large crucifix for the hall and giving staff the opportunity of reading at Mass.
- The school has evaluated its mission and thought about ways of making it more understandable by all pupils in the school. The mission statement is now in all classrooms, although in some rooms it is not easily seen. Opportunities for reflecting on the mission will be offered to the children so that they know what their mission is and understand its importance.
- Improvement planning is detailed in some subjects but not yet in Catholic life and RE; the outcomes from evaluation will need to link with improvement planning.
- Pupils contribute to evaluation through discussion with senior staff. They feel that their views are important and their suggestions acted upon. Pupils asked to be involved in worship times.
- Senior leaders report regularly to the local academy committee focusing on the impact of their work and how this improves the outcomes for all pupils.
- Collective worship is now being led by all members of staff. A worship group has been established recently and, although this is still in the very early stages of development, the school plans to give more prominence to this group and devise ways of monitoring collective worship, in order that it can be further enhanced.

Governance

- The school became part of the Holy Spirit Multi Academy in March 2015. The academy committee is newly formed and, although the chair of the committee is very knowledgeable about the strengths and areas for development of the school, other committee members are new to their role.
- The chair appreciates the work of the headteacher over the last two years in raising standards and keeping everyone focused in a period of great uncertainty about the future of the school and is aware that she is still undertaking several significant roles within the school.
- The academy committee has recently undertaken some training from the diocese and the chair is confident that the committee will be able to support the school as they continue to improve standards. They will appoint a person to have the specific responsibility for overseeing Catholic life and RE.

- The academy committee knows that the school is providing the time required by the Bishop's Conference for classroom RE.

Religious Education

- Systems are being put into place for monitoring RE and they provide support for members of staff. These systems will be developed further to include a more extensive range of monitoring activities including observing RE lessons.
- Learning walks and work scrutiny have taken place recently with feedback to staff. Recommendations from the feedback have been actioned by teachers, for example displaying the key vocabulary for the unit they are teaching.
- The quantity of written work in RE has increased since the last inspection and the work is securely based on the diocesan curriculum strategy.
- Marking in RE has improved over the last academic year and is now more effective; giving the children feedback on their work. The school plans to ensure that best practice is consistent across the school and will encourage more self and peer assessment.
- Assessment procedures have improved and staff are more confident in assessing work in line with diocesan procedures.
- Planning will be updated so that the level statements are on the weekly planning sheets so that staff can see clearly that they are providing good coverage. This will then impact on the quality of work that is being provided. The use of previous assessment will be used to inform planning.
- Pupils say that they enjoy their RE lessons. They particularly like choosing religious artefacts to place on the RE table and enjoy hearing stories from the Bible.
- The school environment is rich in artefacts, displays and symbols of the faith which all help to support the Catholic life of the school.
- Positive relationships are evident across the school. The behaviour of the children is very good and they are encouraged to support others in their faith and to live out their own faith.

Overall effectiveness of the school

- Attainment in RE is very low on entry to school. Progress is satisfactory and improving across the school and the school is aware that they can do more to increase the rates of progress and they are confident that this will happen.
- Standards are being raised across the school and are moving towards being in line with diocesan expectations.
- The quality of the teaching is improving across the school. Senior staff have been involved in generic improvements in teaching and learning. The majority of the teaching is satisfactory with some elements of good teaching. This is because staff confidence has risen due to the support they have been given from the headteacher and members of staff from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Coventry.
- During the inspection some good teaching was observed. This was because the RE scene is being set at the start of the lesson so that the children know that it is an RE lesson and respond accordingly. The purpose of the learning is made clear at the start of the lesson and steps to success identified.
- Children with additional needs are supported very well throughout the lesson and questioning is effective; making links to everyday life.

- Staff require ongoing support to ensure that their subject knowledge is further developed.
- The RE curriculum is broad and balanced and based on the curriculum strategy, *Learning and Growing as the People of God*, and is accessible to all. The school has committed the correct allocation of time to teaching RE.
- As part of the curriculum, children are given opportunities to gain knowledge about other faiths and have the opportunity to listen to invited speakers and visit different places of worship.
- During the RE week held at the start of the academic year each class, except for one, studied one of the multi academy saints in detail. This has been very effective. Children could talk confidently about their class saint and Year 6 pupils were also reflecting on the saint of the day. This way of working needs to be developed for other key elements of the faith.
- Pupils' response to collective worship is good. They are regularly involved in Mass taking on responsibility for leading the readings and prayers.
- Links with the parish community have been strengthened. Parishioners regularly praise the singing at Mass and the behaviour and attitudes of all the children.
- The school is in a more secure position to continue to strengthen the teaching of RE and support the staff in deepening their understanding of the distinctive nature of a Catholic school.
- The positive relationships and good behaviour exhibited throughout the school shows that the children thrive in the Catholic ethos which is evident throughout the school.

Recommendations

- Undertake formal monitoring and evaluation of Catholic life of the school by using the materials developed by the Diocesan Education Service.
- Schedule an extended range of monitoring activities in RE so that teaching in the subject is observed over time and improvement occurs more rapidly as a consequence.
- Provide further professional development for members of staff to extend their knowledge of the faith and support them in the teaching of RE.
- Provide opportunities for pupils of all ages to prepare and lead worship.



October 2015

Diocesan Education Service,
Don Bosco House,
Coventry Road,
Coleshill,
B46 3EA

Dear Parents and Carers

Section 48 (Diocesan) Inspection of St Anne's Catholic Primary School, October 2015

I am writing this letter to share with you the findings of the diocesan inspection of your children's school. Diocesan inspection now explores in detail the school's own view of itself as expressed in its self-evaluation. For this reason, much of the report is more technical than used to be the case. You are still entitled to have a copy of the full report should you want one and it will be available on the school website or by request from the school office.

St Anne's is an improving Catholic school. When it was last inspected, Catholic life and RE were unsatisfactory, but both are now in a much more secure and stable position although they require further improvement to be good. Your children benefit from the strong commitment of the headteacher to the school's Catholicity and to bringing about improvement. In this she is well supported by all members of staff, the Holy Spirit Multi-Academy Company, and a teaching school in Coventry.

Pupils' respond very well to the Catholic ethos and their participation in collective worship is good. Teaching in religious education at the time of the last inspection was limited in its effect, but is now mainly satisfactory with some aspects that are good. Staff confidence in teaching the subject has risen through the efforts of the headteacher and the work of staff from the teaching school. I have recommended that the school should continue to ensure that all members of staff are given the support they need to teach the faith through good quality professional development. Systems need to be put into place to formally monitor the Catholic life of the school and the range of monitoring activities in RE needs to be extended. Your children have asked to be more involved in preparing and leading worship.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Goodeve, her staff and all the children for their welcome. It was a privilege and a pleasure to inspect your school. Positive relationships were evident throughout the school. The children were keen to talk about their school and their learning. They behave well and are a credit, not only to St Anne's School, but also to you their parents and all those who care for them.

Yours sincerely,

Sister Susan Collins
Diocesan Inspector