

# DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH VALIDATION REPORT



## St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School

Primate Road, Titchfield Common, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 4RP.

URN: 137403

Date of previous validation 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012 and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Date of this validation 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### Overall effectiveness

Previous validation: Good

**This validation: Good**

The school community:	Outstanding	Attainment and progress in RE:	Good
The wider community:	Outstanding	Quality of teaching in RE:	Good
Spiritual development:	Outstanding	Leadership and management of RE:	Good
Moral development:	Outstanding	Leadership and management:	Good

### This is a good school with outstanding features

- St. Anthony's is a strong example of a Catholic school community. Excellent relationships between adults and pupils lead to a loving and trusting environment.
- The school maintains strong links with the local parish, Catholic schools and the diocese.
- The children in the school exhibit very good behaviour and Christian attitudes. They value the many opportunities to "Be friends and show that we care for each other."
- A very large majority of parents are positive about all aspects of school life and are fully supportive of the school.
- The quality of teaching and standards of achievement in religious education (RE) are predominantly good.
- Spiritual and moral development are outstanding.
- The parish priest offers exceptional support to staff, pupils and governors.
- The leadership of the headteacher has ensured the Catholic nature of the school is enhanced by the welcoming, inclusive, calm and purposeful environment, which is acknowledged by parents and visitors to the school.
- Staff and children act as witnesses to their faith, through their respect for each other and their support for local, national and international charities.
- The school is proud of its Catholic heritage and regularly gives a visible Christian witness, through its charitable works and its religious celebrations.
- Children are confident in saying that they feel safe at St. Anthony's, that the adults are fair and that they can trust all at the school to do the best for the pupils.

### What does the school need to do to improve further?

In order to continue to move forward, the school should consider the following:

- Review planning to ensure assessment and diocesan documents inform learning intentions and assessment criteria and that this is applied consistently across the school.
- Develop a robust, systematic and more frequent process to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and achievement in RE, so that timely actions can be taken to ensure pupils are making at least good progress and achieving high standards.
- Ensure RE is celebrated overtly throughout the school, with increased visual prominence, including enhanced displays.
- Build on the examples of outstanding practice seen to ensure worship is inspirational, engaging, joyful and celebrates the person of Christ.

## Full Report

### The school as a Catholic community

The school community:  
The wider community:

**Outstanding**  
**Outstanding**

- St. Anthony's is a school that knows its community well and successfully nurtures and supports its members, having significant impact. For example, two members of staff have been inspired recently to complete RCIA programmes.
- Strong relationships are evident amongst all members of the school community, with children responding openly and with confidence.
- There is a warmth of welcome from the moment you step over the threshold
- The school has a visible presence within St. Margaret Mary's Parish, through shared Masses, liturgies and celebrations in school and in Church, encouraging parishioner and parental involvement as well as the children's.
- The parish priest offers an exceptional level of support and encouragement and places great importance on the work of the school and the relationship between parish, home and school.
- The headteacher offers excellent support to the Primary Catholic Partnership SCITT and shows a passion for encouraging and nurturing new and future Catholic teachers.
- As part of their strong support for Catholic education, the headteacher and parish priest have been relentless in nurturing links with Catholic secondary schools and in encouraging parents to choose this option at transition from Year 6 to Year 7.
- Parents are very supportive of the school, with a very large majority being positive about all aspects of school life.
- Children are proactive in demonstrating strong support for a number of charitable events and charities, responding with empathy. An example is growing and cutting their hair, donating it to cancer charities for wigs for children.

### Curriculum religious education

Attainment and progress:  
Quality of teaching:  
Leadership and management of RE:

**Good**  
**Good**  
**Good**

- Pupils in the school value RE and recognise that it can help them in their daily lives. In the lessons observed pupils demonstrated a positive attitude to learning and behaviour was good. Learning is supported by well-presented and organised environments, a variety of resources and support from learning assistants.
- Planning has improved since the last validation, but needs refining further (medium term and weekly) to secure impact. Clearly identified, focussed learning intentions and assessment criteria should be applied consistently across the school to embed high quality, effective provision, using Assessment for Learning (AfL) to move forward learning for all pupils.
- The school needs to embed effective, consistent and sustained differentiation for all pupils, through the use of key driver words and challenging questions.
- RE displays could be enhanced further through increased visual prominence and by being used as working walls that include key questions, vocabulary and pupil responses.
- Teachers work hard to ensure there are examples of children's work for every RE topic. However, they need to ensure that the work evidences the learning intentions and that marking and questioning encourages 'next steps'.
- During the validation, 5 lessons were observed. In the best lessons the following was observed:

- Good levels of children's engagement because of the appropriateness of the tasks, resulting in joyful learning.
- Secure subject knowledge along with good questioning, which ensures pupils are enthusiastic and well-motivated.
- Positive relationships, which enhance the learning opportunities available.
- The newly-appointed RE subject leader is developing a secure understanding of the strengths and areas for development in the subject, working with the headteacher. Additional, valued, support is provided by the parish priest, who is the recently appointed RE governor.
- The RE subject leader, headteacher and governors are aware of the importance of robust and rigorous procedures of self-review. In curriculum RE these could be enhanced by more systematic and frequent monitoring and evaluation of pupil outcomes. This could include the establishment of a regular schedule to monitor and evaluate standards, through work sampling and moderation at school, cluster and diocesan level, as well as seeking children's views to help drive and secure improvements. Outcomes should be reported to governors on a termly basis so that they can carry out their strategic role and hold senior leaders to account.

## **Spiritual and moral development**

Spiritual development:

Moral development:

**Outstanding**

**Outstanding**

- The parish priest works closely with the school to ensure liturgical celebrations provide opportunities for the spiritual development of the whole community. His enthusiastic support and commitment contributes significantly to pupils' outstanding spiritual development.
- Prayer and worship are integral to the daily life of St. Anthony's. The school offers a wide range of worship, which allows individual and collective members of the school community to express their relationship with one another and with God.
- The school seeks opportunities to nurture spirituality and give Christian witness; these include:
  - The reinforcement of Gospel values and their application in helping children make the right choice.
  - Involvement of pupils in the liturgical life of the school, although this could be extended further.
  - Religious processions, for example, for the Marian celebration.
- Children's attitudes to worship and spirituality are outstanding, as evidenced in acts of worship observed. For example, children in the Reception Year showed great enjoyment and reverence in taking a leading role in their class worship.
- Children demonstrate very good behaviour and Christian attitudes in their relationships.
- Pupils take on key responsibilities throughout the school, including being peer mediators, house captains and prefects and organising their own fund-raising activities.
- Pupils are justly proud of their school. They describe the school as: "Very friendly, very fair and very sociable where there is always something you can look forward to and where everyone is looked after, helped and is safe."

**Leadership and management:**

**Good**

- The headteacher, RE subject leader, parish priest and governors share a common Catholic Christian vision and, through example, inspire a strong sense of purpose, vision and mission.
- Governors are eager to promote the school's Catholic ethos and are committed to improving outcomes in RE, by seeking regular reports on the quality of teaching and standards in RE from the school leadership team.

- Progress has been made on the issues identified for improvement in the last validation, particularly the approach to planning, although this still needs some refining.
- The school is committed to valuing and nurturing all in their community.

### School details

<b>Name of school:</b>	St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School
<b>Age range of pupils:</b>	4 - 11
<b>Gender of pupils:</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on roll:</b>	218
<b>Chair of Governors:</b>	Esther Planner
<b>Headteacher:</b>	Roxy Ashworth

St. Anthony's is a Catholic Primary Academy within the parish of St. Margaret Mary, situated on an attractive site. The large majority of pupils come from white British backgrounds. The school is a one form entry primary school, but also offers provision for children aged from 2 years 9 months to 4 years + in a pre-school and day nursery.

At present 81% of its pupils are Catholic and 66% of the staff are Catholic (teaching staff 70%, support staff 66%). The percentage of children on the SEN register (9%) is below average. The percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals (2%) is well below average, whilst the percentage of pupils eligible for pupil premium is 14%. The percentage of children from British service families is 5%. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups, including those who speak English as an additional language, is below the national average.

### Information about this validation

This report to the Bishop of the Diocese under Canon 806 of the Code of Canon Law is also the report to the governors of the school on religious education. For Catholic maintained schools, the report also fulfils the requirements of Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

### Validation Team

Tony Murray Lead validator

Nuala Oster Assistant validator

### Activities carried out as part of the validation

- Ethos and learning walk.
- Discussion on the school's self-evaluation sheets.
- Discussions with various members of the school community, including pupils.
- Observations of class worship.
- Observations of teaching and learning in RE, including joint observations with the headteacher and RE subject leader.
- Pupil work scrutiny.
- Feedback of key findings to the headteacher, RE subject leader, parish priest, pastoral assistant and chair of governors.

### Conclusion

The validators would like to thank the headteacher, RE subject leader, staff, governors, the parish priest, parents and pupils of St Anthony's Catholic Primary School for their preparatory work for the validation, which forms part of the school's regular self-review cycle. They would also like to express their appreciation for the warmth of welcome they received and the support given during the validation process.