



## **DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**

### **Denominational (S48) Inspection Report**

**Name of School:** St Antony's Catholic Primary School  
**Local Authority:** Redbridge  
**Inspection Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
**Reporting Inspector:** Pamela Brannigan

This Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 and 2011.

**Type of School:** Primary with Nursery  
**School Category:** VA  
**Age range of pupils:** 3 – 11  
**Gender of pupils:** Mixed  
**Number on roll:** 460  
**Appropriate Authority:** The Governing Body  
**Date of previous inspection:** October 2013

**School Address:**  
Mornington Road  
Woodford Green  
Essex  
IG8 0TX

**Tel. No.** 0208 5044706  
**Headteacher:** Ms Chantal Pampellonne  
**Chair of Governors:** Mrs Norma Collicott

## Information about the school

St Antony's Catholic Primary School is two form entry with nursery situated in the Local Authority of Redbridge and part of the Diocese of Brentwood. The school serves the parishes of St Thomas of Canterbury and St Anne Line with a few pupils coming from further afield. There are currently 419 pupils aged 3 - 11 on roll as well as 41 in the nursery on a part time basis. The majority of pupils are from White British backgrounds with around 19% speaking English as an additional language. Almost 100% of pupils are Catholics with one pupil coming from another Christian denomination. 80% of the teachers are Catholics and eight have the CCRS or similar qualification. One teacher has just completed an MA in Catholic Leadership. The proportion of pupils with special needs is around the national average. The school provides a wide range of extra-curricular activities including after school clubs. The school is a member of Redbridge Education Partnership and works closely with teacher training organisations.

## Key grades for inspection

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

## OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## Grade 1

St Antony's is an outstanding Catholic school. Strong and effective leadership gives a clear sense of purpose and direction to the Catholic life of the school. Prayer and Collective Worship are an integral part of the school's daily life and central to the spiritual and moral development of pupils who are given regular opportunities to attend parish Mass with their year groups. Outcomes for pupils are good and improving, with provision for all abilities and needs. Members of the senior leadership team offer very good support to new and less experienced teachers. The subject leadership team, along with the new Headteacher, monitor teaching and learning leading to good and improving standards of attainment. The parent body offers very good support through fund raising and involvement in the wider life of the school. Parents praise the good standard of education and the way the school communicates with them. Many attend morning prayer held in the playground before the start of the school day. Pupils say they enjoy school and appreciate the opportunities given to be involved in its life.

The school has an excellent capacity for sustained improvement. The last inspection in 2013 identified areas linked to sharing best practice, increasing expectation of pupils' involvement and refining the system for assessment and tracking. These areas have been well addressed and are constantly under review. The new Headteacher is deeply committed to the Church's mission in education and shares her vision with the whole community. Along with the subject leader, she has put in place a Religious Education action plan which also includes Catholic life and Collective Worship. The school's mission statement: 'God is at the heart of our school. With the help of our community, we will strive to learn, love and achieve' was recently reviewed with all stakeholders contributing to the process.

## What the school should do to improve further:

- Review the marking policy to ensure consistency across the school and enable pupils to understand how to improve their work.
- Continue to develop the assessment system to ensure accuracy and consistency.
- Continue to give pupils additional opportunities to plan and lead Collective Worship.

At St Antony's, pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life of the school to a very great extent. They have a good understanding of the mission statement which is included in daily prayers. They are given many opportunities to take on responsibilities to develop the Catholic character of the school through membership of the school council, as play leaders and as prefects. Pupils spoken to had a strong sense of belonging to a Catholic community and value the ethos of the school and the many opportunities they have to contribute to its Catholic life through service to the school, including running lunchtime clubs. They understand that all pupils share responsibility for caring for each other and can link this to Christ's command to 'Love one another as I have loved you'. Pupils are also given opportunities to help the wider community through raising money for charities which have included the local food bank and Cafod. Pupils, staff and parents are members of The East London Citizenship organisation which campaigns for fair rights in the local community. Recently, a pupil presented a speech on the cost of housing in the local area to an assembly of over 100 people.

Provision for the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. The school's values, the 'Be-attitudes' underpin the behaviour of all members of the school community. A wide range of assemblies and Collective Worship are part of the school's provision as well as morning prayer in the playground. Many parents join their children on these occasions, giving a strong sense of home, school, parish community links. Pupils also visit the local church to learn about the Sacraments, statues and aspects of Catholic worship. All staff promote high standards of behaviour and are excellent role models for pupils. Pastoral care includes meeting the needs of staff as well as pupils and aims to promote the Catholic life of the school. A range of staff members spoken to said they were well supported in their work and offered very good induction when appointed as well as additional training when appropriate. They said they were included in all aspects of the Catholic life of the school and communication is very good. Parish links are excellent with school and parish coming together for celebrations and fund-raising activities. The Religious Education curriculum is delivered through the 'Come and See' programme and is enhanced by the 'Journey in Love' scheme. A counsellor from Brentwood Catholic Children's Services provides support for pupils and families dealing with stressful situations including bereavement and emotional difficulties. In addition, a 'reflection room' has been provided for pupils who need an opportunity to reflect on their behaviour.

Leaders and governors are most effective in promoting the Catholic life of the school. This is demonstrated by the way self-evaluation and the school improvement plan are explicitly focused on Catholic life and aim to enhance current provision. Leaders monitor and evaluate provision and outcomes in order to plan future improvements. Continuing professional development is offered to all staff and is engaging, well planned and effective. Subject leaders attend diocesan courses linked to the new Religious Education framework and assessment. Leaders provide models of good practice by demonstration lessons and support in planning and assessment. Governors make a highly significant contribution to Catholic life by their commitment and involvement in school activities. In addition to regular meetings, they attend two 'Governor Days' each year which are spent in school engaging with staff, pupils and subject leaders. They attend Collective Worship and whole school services. The link governor for Religious Education observes a range of activities and her report is shared with the school community.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION****Grade 2**

Religious Education at St Antony's is good and improving. Almost all pupils achieve well and enjoy their lessons. They make good progress and behaviour for learning is excellent. Pupils are given a good foundation in Early Years which is built upon as they progress through the school. In lessons pupils are actively engaged and keen to contribute to discussions. They enjoy a range of activities including art, drama, music and discussions and say they like Religious Education. They are religiously literate and can think ethically and theologically through referring to Jesus' message when considering how they should act. They have an understanding of what it means to be a Christian, as well as knowledge of

other faiths, enhanced by visits to a local synagogue. Workbooks are well presented and show coverage of the curriculum and a range of activities. By the end of Key Stage 2, standards in Religious Education meet and often exceed diocesan expectations.

The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education is good. Teachers have good subject knowledge and adapt their teaching style to meet the needs of their classes. This ensures all pupils are fully engaged. Lessons observed during the inspection were at least good, some with outstanding features. Tasks are differentiated to enable all pupils to achieve well. There are strong cross-curricular links particularly between English and Religious Education. Good quality resources including class sets of bibles are used effectively to engage interest and enable pupils to become familiar with Scripture. The best marking points the way to further improvement and this should be extended across the school. Teachers new to Catholic education are well supported and encouraged to undertake further training. Teaching assistants are used well to support individuals and groups of pupils. The Headteacher and subject leaders are currently revising the assessment process in line with diocesan guidelines. They are also working to develop moderation of pupils' work across the deanery to ensure consistency in judgements.

School leaders and governors are strongly committed to Religious Education and ensure the curriculum meets the requirements of the Bishops' Conference with at least 10% of curriculum time devoted to the subject. The Headteacher along with senior leadership ensure that Religious Education and the Catholic ethos of the school are central to self-evaluation. Religious Education has full parity with other core curriculum subjects, including provision for professional development and resourcing. The subject leaders have a clear vision for teaching and learning and have put in place a rigorous system for monitoring and evaluation which is leading to good outcomes for all groups of pupils. Governors visit frequently and the new link governor ensures the whole governing body is aware of developments in Religious Education. Parents are kept informed of the content of the curriculum through a termly newsletter which outlines the topics for the term including religious events and Holy Days of Obligation. The weekly newsletter written by different senior leaders each week highlights the Gospel reading for Sunday as well as details of charitable fund-raising.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **Grade 1**

Pupils enjoy many opportunities to participate in Collective Worship at St Antony's whether at Mass, in class or during assemblies. Collective Worship occurs regularly through the week from the Monday morning 'Gospel Assembly' led by the Headteacher, through class-based liturgies which include pupils' own prayers and a Friday celebration assembly. Pupils are given opportunities to participate at Mass by singing, reading, drama and offertory celebrations. bidding prayers and acting as altar servers. The Church's liturgical year is celebrated through whole school acts of worship which includes the wider community in Advent, Lent, Holy Week, the Crowning of Mary and First Holy Communion. Pupils are familiar with traditional devotions including the 'Stations of the Cross' during Lent. There are plans to introduce the Angelus during the month of May as well as a lunch time Rosary prayer group. Pupils are reflective and act with reverence during Collective Worship. 'Liturgy Leaders' have recently been introduced to assist in Collective Worship. However, pupils in general would benefit from additional opportunities to plan and lead Collective Worship in their classrooms.

Collective Worship at St Antony's is central to the life of the school and prayer is included in every celebration. Morning prayer before school, which many parents attend, is valued by families, many of whom attended when they were pupils. Staff have a good understanding of the Church's liturgical year which is reflected in assemblies and in classroom prayer tables. They are confident in leading morning prayer and key stage assemblies. During the inspection, the Headteacher assisted by two pupils, led a powerful whole school assembly linked to Jesus' injunction to the rich young man, 'Go sell everything you have and give to the poor.' With the pupils she explored aspects of their lives which had true value, ranging from possessions to relationships. Responses showed pupils had a clear understanding of the relevance to their own lives. They showed interest and concentration and their singing was excellent.

Parents are kept informed of Collective Worship and the Catholic life of the school through weekly newsletters where key messages of Sunday's Gospel and their relevance to the school community are explored. Parents are frequently invited to Masses and other celebrations. Services of Reconciliation are part of Collective Worship during Lent.

Leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship by giving a high priority to the planning of quality liturgies and assemblies. They ensure all staff are given guidance on liturgical formation and the delivery of Collective Worship. Most governors are active parishioners who hold key roles in the life of the Church and are known to pupils. Leaders are visible and committed role models for the whole school community and have an extensive understanding of the Church's liturgical year with its seasons and feasts. School leaders and governors, including the local parish priest, regularly review Collective Worship as part of their self-evaluation processes.