

St Antony's Catholic Primary School

URN: 148025

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Brentwood

02–03 July 2025

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

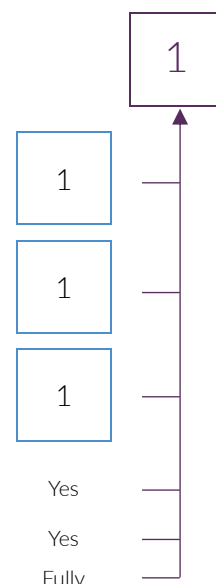
Collective worship (p.7)

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference

The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection



Compliance statement

- St Antony's Catholic Primary School is fully compliant in relation to the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference.
- St Antony's Catholic Primary School is fully compliant in relation to any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop.
- St Antony's Catholic Primary School has responded fully to previous areas for improvement.

What the school does well

- Pupils have a deep understanding of Catholic social teaching and how this relates to school virtues; Catholic social teaching is embedded in religious education and throughout the wider curriculum.
- Leaders ensure pupils, including the most vulnerable, have opportunities to avail themselves of high-quality enrichment activities which enable them to flourish and develop their talents.
- St Antony's Catholic Primary School celebrates the richness of its diverse community and embraces other faith traditions.
- Pupils are religiously literate, and enjoy and value lessons in the subject regarded as central to the school's mission by all stakeholders.
- A wide range of rich experiences of prayer and liturgy are offered to pupils; pupils are proud to take on leadership roles in class-based liturgies and in assemblies.

What the school needs to improve

- To grow leadership capacity that nurtures and sustains the inspirational vision of religious education leaders, ensuring their impact continues to shape the Catholic life of the school.
- To secure consistently strong practice in religious education, leaders should continue to share best practice and actively model high-quality teaching across the school.

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

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

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school



Pupils at St Antony's proudly embrace their mission, quoting St Antony: 'Let your words teach and your actions speak.' In a joyful assembly, pupils sang, enacted scripture with reverence, and were accompanied by a choir and liturgical dancers. The energy of praise they generated was powerful, giving way to stillness and reflection as the headteacher invited everyone to welcome the Holy Spirit into their lives. As a result, pupils are inspired to live out their mission in many ways. All pupils, including those with additional needs, are supported to participate fully. They feel happy, secure, and valued, knowing they are made in God's image. Pupils confidently articulate their school's mission and are proud to be part of St Antony's community. They recognise that they are tomorrow's leaders and flourish within the loving, aspirational environment of St Antony's. Pupils grow in virtue. They live out Gospel values through care for others and our common home. They skilfully reference scripture and apply it across the curriculum. Catholic social teaching is embedded in all they do, shaping learning in projects on subjects such as Windrush and the NHS. Pupils lead with maturity, whether at breakfast club or volunteering to distribute lost property.

St Antony's mission statement is not only visible but also lived daily and shapes the life of the school in powerful ways. Staff consistently go above and beyond to serve their community. They actively promote the Living Wage, support families in crisis, and provide a range of therapies through their bespoke centre. The school building is a true community hub, with weekend access offered freely to local groups. A deep partnership with the parish is evident. Staff attend Sunday Mass, where pupils sing regularly in the choir. School performances enhance parish liturgies at Christmas and during Holy Week, strengthening the shared sense of faith. Throughout the school, there is a tangible atmosphere of welcome and belonging, especially for the most

vulnerable. All pupils can access extra-curricular activities, including choir, dance, and performing arts, free of charge, with only a small cost for costumes. The on-site two-year-olds' provision has been thoughtfully designed to meet local needs, reflecting the school's ongoing commitment to the wider community. Diversity is celebrated, and pupils of all backgrounds are supported to live out their beliefs with dignity and integrity. They are empowered to become advocates for justice, creating raps and music videos to campaign for the Living Wage and show support for the NHS.

Leaders and governors wholeheartedly champion the Church's mission in education, ensuring that Christ remains at the heart of all they do. The curriculum is thoughtfully designed, with Catholic social teaching woven through topics that are meaningful to the school community. This approach helps pupils develop a Catholic worldview rooted in justice, compassion, and service. Leaders nurture aspiration and encourage pupils to become changemakers who actively contribute to society. Pupils regularly engage with the wider community, advocating for causes and demonstrating the Gospel in action. Parents are deeply supportive of the school's mission. One shared that 'The headteacher is a positive role model and excellent leader who empowers children, staff, and parents to believe they can achieve greatness.' Staff wellbeing is prioritised, with strong pastoral care that ensures every team member, regardless of faith background, feels valued and supported. Governors lead with passion, integrity, and a clear sense of purpose. Their commitment to the school's Catholic identity drives continuous, mission-led improvement. Self-evaluation is both rigorous and honest, prompting purposeful action that reflects Gospel values. New staff are welcomed and quickly become part of the vibrant Catholic life of the school. To sustain and build on this success, St Antony's leaders need to grow leadership capacity in a way that nurtures and expands their inspirational vision.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

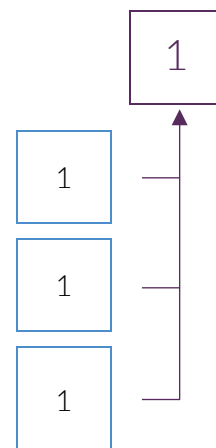
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for religious education



Pupils make excellent progress in religious education and demonstrate a deep, thoughtful understanding of their learning. They confidently use religious vocabulary and ask insightful, challenging questions that show maturity and curiosity. Pupils are independent and creative thinkers who clearly enjoy their learning. Their work is of a high standard, well-presented, carefully considered, and inspiring to others. They regularly reflect on modelled examples to improve their own work and articulate how they can develop further by including scripture and applying their 'habits of mind'. This helps them make meaningful connections between their learning and their own lives. Even the youngest pupils talk confidently about how their teachers support them by helping them remember prior learning. In the Early Years, children explained that 'a saint is a person who chose to live a life like Jesus' and recalled detailed facts about St Peter, showing excellent retention and understanding. Pupils across the school are reflective, engaged, and eager to grow both in knowledge and faith. In a Key Stage 1 lesson, pupils explored religious art to understand how faith is represented visually. They made impressive connections between the artwork and Gospel stories, demonstrating scriptural understanding. Behaviour throughout is exemplary, and pupils show a genuine love of learning in religious education.

Teachers demonstrate strong subject knowledge, underpinned by high-quality professional development that deepens their expertise and confidence in teaching religious education. Their skilful questioning encourages pupils to think deeply and articulate thoughtful, well-reasoned responses. Classroom discussions reflect a high level of religious literacy, with pupils confidently exploring theological ideas and applying them to real-life contexts. In a Key Stage 2 lesson, for example, the teacher's probing questions around the parable of the Prodigal Son enabled pupils to explore the concept of human dignity, making clear connections to Catholic social teaching. Pupils' books reflect their pride in their learning, with creative tasks that allow for both personal

expression and theological depth. Teaching is carefully adapted to ensure all pupils can access the curriculum and thrive, including those with additional needs, who benefit from targeted and compassionate support. Feedback is constructive and timely, helping pupils engage with their learning and make sustained progress. Teachers also provide space for meaningful reflection, enabling pupils to grow spiritually and morally as well as academically. Across the school, teaching in religious education is dynamic, inclusive, and rooted in Gospel values, helping pupils to develop as thoughtful, faith-filled individuals.

Leaders ensure that religious education is fully aligned with the *Religious Education Directory* and is delivered in a creative, engaging manner. A particular strength is the use of art to enhance learning; pupils take great enjoyment in interpreting religious imagery, deepening their understanding of scripture and theology through visual expression. Religious education holds equal status with other core subjects, receiving appropriate time, resources, and high expectations for pupil achievement. Ongoing, high-quality professional development ensures that teaching is both confident and well-informed. To sustain and further strengthen this excellent provision, leaders are encouraged to continue modelling and sharing the most effective teaching practices across the school. The religious education leadership is both inspirational and outward facing, offering support and influence beyond the immediate school community. The religious education curriculum is thoughtfully sequenced, inclusive, and carefully designed to build on pupils' prior knowledge, fostering progression in both academic understanding and spiritual development. Evaluation is robust and reflective, informing strategic actions that lead to sustained improvement. Governors play an active and effective role, offering support and challenge in equal measure. They are deeply committed to their responsibilities as critical friends, helping to ensure that the school's mission and Catholic identity remain at the heart of its ongoing development.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

1

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

1

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

1

1

Pupils engage in prayer and liturgy with a profound sense of reverence, joy, and participation. They embrace music, song, and movement as integral elements of liturgy, confidently leading and contributing to rich prayerful experiences. Pupils are familiar with a wide repertoire of liturgical dances and use scripture as the foundation for creative, meaningful liturgies that captivate even the youngest children. During a Key Stage 2 pupil-led liturgy, pupils followed the school format and focused on the virtue of the week and scripture. They then posed reflective questions to one another, deepening understanding of the Gospel message and their shared mission. To enhance this further, pupils are encouraged to incorporate more musical expression into classroom worship and to create deliberate space for silence and stillness, fostering awe and wonder. Pupils know and use a broad range of Catholic prayers, supported by a clear progression in the teaching of traditional prayers. They are equally at ease with spontaneous prayer, meditation, and periods of personal reflection. Pupil-led prayer and liturgy is heartfelt. Pupils plan and lead liturgy with confidence, drawing on scripture. Pupils speak with maturity about how prayer shapes their choices, actions, and the wider life of the school.

Staff are confident, authentic role models of faith, leading prayer with sincerity and enthusiasm. Dedicated prayer spaces are respected and well-used, offering pupils a quiet sanctuary for reflection and spiritual growth. Families and the parish play an active role in the school's prayer life, enriching the community's shared faith journey. One parent noted, "My child teaches our family all the prayers from school," while another remarked, "There are so many opportunities for spiritual growth." Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the parish church offers pupils a profound and reverent encounter with Christ. In Key Stage 2, the use of Taizé chants helps create a meditative atmosphere, supporting intentional gathering and reflection. Pupils recognise the monstrance, understand exposition, and respond with sincere, spontaneous

prayer. Prayer is at the heart of school life and is woven into the daily rhythm of the community in creative and meaningful ways. Staff help pupils express their faith through a rich variety of forms including music, drama, dance, and song, making prayer both joyful and deeply personal. Moments of silent reflection following more exuberant celebrations provide balance and offer space to contemplate scripture and the presence of God. Liturgical seasons and scripture are central to all liturgy, giving each experience depth, structure, and relevance.

Prayer and liturgy leaders build pupils' confidence and competence in prayer and liturgy throughout their time at the school, ensuring a strong foundation that develops year on year. The liturgical life of the school is carefully structured, with the calendar including regular celebrations of Mass and key moments in the Church's year. This helps pupils to grow in understanding and deepen their connection to the Catholic faith. Leaders have a deep understanding of Church liturgy and thoughtfully adapt it to the school community, making prayer and liturgy accessible, inclusive, and relevant for all. Prayer and liturgy are regularly reviewed, with contributions from pupils, staff, and families helping to shape its continued development. Staff benefit from inspiring professional development focused on prayer and liturgy and liturgical formation, equipping them to lead with confidence, creativity, and reverence. A parent shared that "The Sunday 10am Mass is elevated by St Antony's school choir and musicians. The hymns taught and enjoyed in school assemblies are sung with such joy and gusto that they ignite a love of God in everyone who hears them." Thanks to the vision of the prayer and liturgy leaders, prayer and liturgy are joyful, inclusive, and meaningful. Time and resources are well prioritised, ensuring prayer and liturgy remains a vibrant and central part of school life.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Antony's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	148025
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3163511
Full postal address of the school	St Antony's Catholic Primary School, Upton Avenue, Forest Gate, London, E7 9PN
School phone number	02085523670
Headteacher	Angela Moore
Chair of local governing body	Francis Lo
School Website	www.stantonyscatholicprimary.co.uk
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	Our Lady Of Grace Catholic Academy Trust
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Academy
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	2-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	June 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	1

The inspection team

Evelyn Ward	Lead
Angela O'Hara	Team
Dermot O'Neill	Team

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement