



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION REPORT:

**THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

School: St Anne's Catholic Primary School
Address: Wellington Road
Nantwich
CW5 7DA

Tel No: 01270 260783

URN: 111347

Headteacher: Mrs N Ferguson

Chair of Governors: Mrs D Penny

Date of Inspection: 28 September 2021

Inspectors: Mrs C Morgan
Mrs L Kelly

"CHRIST AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO"

At St Anne's we learn about God, ourselves, our church and how to pray.

We try to be a good friend, have fun, love each other and be kind to each other.

We want to let every child in our school have the same chance as everyone else.

When we make mistakes we are forgiven, and each day is a new beginning.

We want everyone in our school to feel safe and happy.



SCHOOL: St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Nantwich

DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: 20th March 2015

JUDGEMENT FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION: Outstanding

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION

No areas for development were identified in the previous inspection.

Although there were no areas identified for improvement at the last inspection, the school leadership team has continued to identify in the Religious Education Action Plan and the School Development Plan (SDP) areas they wish to address each year including:

- To continue to develop and refine assessment, monitoring and moderation throughout the school.
- To develop further the questioning skills of teachers and support staff, to enable higher order thinking skills to be developed by all children.
- To embed teaching of the new editions of 'The Way, The Truth, The Life' books.

PROGRESS MADE WITH AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM THE PREVIOUS INSPECTION

- Up to date moderation documents and assessment documents from the Diocese are used by the school
- Samples of work are collated (6 children once a term 2019-2020)
- Action plan and SDP identify assessment and monitoring as a priority
- Learning walks and book scrutinies have been timetabled and carried out
- Governor involvement and monitoring taking place

Training from the Diocese

- Responding to marking – photocopy the next steps/examples of marking
- Resources with examples of question work (Lat Blaylock).
- Teachers confident with changes in the RE curriculum following staff meetings and support with planning.

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

1

This is an outstanding Catholic school

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

CATHOLIC LIFE

1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

1

Summary of key findings:

- St Anne's is an outstanding Catholic School where pupils fully appreciate, value and actively participate in the Catholic life and mission of the school
- All members of the community speak highly of the school and its outstanding provision and feel supported in their Catholic faith
- Relationships are a real strength of the school and the sense of belonging to a family and community is evident throughout
- The school works in close partnership with the Parish of St Anne's and is very well supported by members of the local clergy
- The school's leaders and governors are deeply committed to, and passionate about, the Church's mission in education and are rigorous in monitoring their school improvement plans
- The recently appointed Head Teacher, experienced Religious Education Coordinator and Senior Leadership Team, through witness to their personal faith, provide outstanding leadership
- Pupils are supported to be their very best and they make at least good progress from their starting points with many making outstanding progress
- Collective Worship is central to the life of the school and Acts of Collective Worship are reflective and inspiring
- St Anne's has developed an excellent set of resources to support and enhance the Catholic Life of the school, Religious Education and Collective Worship

What the school needs to do to improve further

- Review and plan for increased creativity in the teaching of RE, embedding a wide range of teaching strategies across all year groups
- Ensure that, across the school, there is understanding of how the provision of a high-quality prayer focus helps support pupils' spiritual development
- Undertake and disseminate further Professional Development to engage with the new Prayer and Liturgy Directory

Information about the Inspection

The Inspection of St Anne's Catholic Primary School was carried out under the requirements of the Education Act 2005, and in accordance with the Shrewsbury Diocesan Framework and Schedule for Denominational Inspections approved by the Bishop of Shrewsbury. 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 2017).

The inspector reviewed in detail the following aspects:

- The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school
- The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school
- How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education
- The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education
- How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship
- The quality of Collective Worship provided by the school
- How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education, Collective Worship and the Catholic Life of the school

The inspection was carried out by two inspectors over one day:

- The inspectors observed teaching and learning in seven classes
- Two Acts of Collective Worship were observed: Collective Worship in the Reception Class and Collective Worship in the Hall for Years 3 and 4, led by the Headteacher. Y6 pupils led an Act of Collective Worship in their classroom and this was then discussed with an inspector
- Discussions were held with the Headteacher, the RE Coordinator, the Parish Priest, who is also an associate governor, the Chair of Governors, and the Vice Chair of Governors, all of whom are RE link governors, a group of pupils, and two members of staff

- A sample of pupils' RE workbooks was scrutinised from every class along with the floor books evidencing Collective Worship, liturgies and Masses, and pupils' individual Prayer Journals
- RE Coordinator's files and the Headteacher's and the RE Coordinator's reports to governors were also scrutinised
- Pupil, parent and staff questionnaires were reviewed
- A range of documents was made available and scrutinised including the Diocesan Self Evaluation Form (DSEF), the RE Action Plan, the School Improvement Plan, school policies, and minutes of governing body/committee meetings
- The school's website was checked for further evidence
- The monitoring and evaluation of lessons and Collective Worship was discussed with the Headteacher, the RE Coordinator and the governing body representatives.
- Displays around the school and in classrooms were also noted.

Information about this school

- St Anne's is a small Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school, catering for pupils from 4-11 years old. The school has an annual admission number of 30, and there are currently 204 pupils on roll, 53% of whom are baptised Catholics. The school is organised into seven single age classes
- The school serves the parish of St Anne's in Nantwich
- The Headteacher has been in post since March 2021, was previously Acting Head from September 2020 and prior to this, the Deputy Headteacher. A new Deputy Headteacher was appointed from September 2021. The Religious Education Coordinator has been in post since 2009. There has been some change in staffing and governing body membership since the last inspection
- Staffing includes a full time equivalent of 8.2 teachers and 14 support staff. 56% of teachers are Catholic. 3 teachers hold the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies (CCRS).

Full report – inspection judgments

CATHOLIC LIFE

The Catholic Life of the school is outstanding

1

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school	1
The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision of the Catholic Life of the school	1

- The school’s motto, “*Christ at the heart of all we do*”, is central to everything that the school does and is understood and lived by all members of the community. It is reviewed regularly and all involved renew their commitment to improving how the whole school community lives out its vision and values
- The proactive Headteacher, very experienced Religious Education Coordinator, Senior Leadership Team, Parish Priest, Deacons and Governors are deeply committed to the Catholic Life of the school and give daily witness through their welcome and support for all involved with the school
- Almost all pupils understand and appreciate the Catholic Life of the school and the opportunities they are offered to develop their personal faith, both within the school and in the wider community. The well-planned Prayer Garden provides an additional space where pupils can pray alone or together
- School Leaders and Governors meet regularly to review the progress and impact of their plans for developing the Catholic Life of the school. Their commitment to this area is evident in the way in which they continue to seek new and interesting opportunities to reach the school community. During the recent pandemic they continued to interact with pupils and families through their use of online assemblies, RE lessons, and social media, including updating the school website, to share prayers, reflections and ideas for activities such as prayer spaces at home
- The behaviour of pupils is exemplary; pupils report that almost all pupils behave well, reflecting the school’s commitment to its Catholic ethos
- Pupils show deep respect, love and care for each other and they are quick to recognise and celebrate each other’s efforts and abilities
- Pupils appreciate and embrace membership of the school community; they understand, from an early age, that love and forgiveness are essential parts of their school life. One pupil said, ‘I really enjoy how we can learn about God’s Kingdom and learn that we can trust him.’
- Pupil voice drives improvement in whole school initiatives and members of the school community are supported in living out their faith through their actions
- Almost all pupils recognise that helping others, especially those who are less fortunate than themselves, is a vital part of the mission of the school and the Church. Older pupils are enthusiastic prayer leaders and members of Mini Vinnies and Faith in Action groups. Pupils raise funds for charities including CAFOD and Mission Together, as well as regularly contributing to local and global needs

- Pupils enjoy taking leading roles in chaplaincy activities which promote the school's Catholic Life, both within the school and in the wider community. They enjoy their times of prayer and celebration together
- During the recent pandemic when most pupils had to remain at home, the school ensured that daily online RE lessons and Acts of Worship took place, something that was appreciated by many families
- The school provides outstanding pastoral support, including training to support pupils' emotional literacy. It is a Dementia Friendly school and staff and pupils appreciate and take advantage of the many ways in which they are encouraged to develop their personal skills and attributes to become happy, confident members of the community
- Most pupils value and respect the Catholic tradition of the school. They have links with other local, Catholic schools. Sacramental preparation is held within the parish. The Parish Priest and Deacons visit school regularly and usually Mass is celebrated in school and in church over the school year. During the pandemic the Parish Priest has been proactive in celebrating Mass in the school grounds. They are exemplary in supporting the Catholic Life of the school
- Parents and parishioners are invited to key celebrations within school and at church and these are well attended
- School Leaders ensure that Diocesan policies and initiatives are implemented, and that new staff are supported in developing the Catholic Life of the school
- Leaders and Governors attend relevant Diocesan events and CPD as well as engaging with and representing Diocesan and local groups
- Following consultations with parents, and CPD for all staff, Leaders and Governors have implemented the scheme '*Life to the Full*' for teaching Relationships and Sex Education
- Pupils have responded well to the RSE planned by the school and, appropriate to their age and ability, have a good understanding of loving relationships within a Christian context
- The Governors play a very full part in the Catholic Life of the school and the wider parish community, their roles are frequently intertwined. They are knowledgeable and involved with the school's RE Action Plan and Denominational Inspection Self Evaluation Form. They know their school extremely well and plan strategically. They evaluate their effectiveness and seek to find new ways to improve all aspects of the school. They are regularly in school supporting and encouraging all developments
- Parents feel welcome in school and are integral to the success of St Anne's as a community of faith.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education is outstanding

1

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education	1
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in Religious Education	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Religious Education	1

- Almost all pupils make good and outstanding progress and this is reflected in the high standards they display in discussions and in their workbooks. Pupils with additional needs are well supported, including by the Teaching Assistants, and they are given appropriate support and challenge to help them develop and achieve in their lessons
- Pupils are enthusiastic about how their lessons help them to understand their faith and inform the way they think and make decisions about their actions. They know that their involvement in such things as Mini Vinnies and the support they offer the wider community make a real difference
- In all the lessons observed, children show very good prior learning. They are knowledgeable about their work, confidently expressing their opinions and discussing how this could inform their thinking. The pupils see that the actions they take in everyday life are an extension of their faith
- Teaching is effective and in all the lessons observed, teaching was at least good and some was outstanding. In the best lessons, pupils were fully engaged in a variety of activities that supported them and encouraged them in extending their thinking
- During the pandemic when some groups of pupils were in school and many learning online at home, the school ensured that there was a high quality daily RE lesson for all pupils
- Prior to the pandemic, teachers made very good use of Assessment for Learning. In the past eighteen months some parts of the RE scheme of work were not taught. The RE Coordinator has supported staff in identifying gaps in pupils' learning and in planning work to address this during the current academic year
- Teachers speak highly of the support they receive from the Senior Leadership Team and internal training opportunities, as well as the support they receive from Diocesan training courses
- The high standards achieved by the pupils are reflected in the scrutiny of pupils' work, where a variety of tasks and challenges were observed. The pride they take in their work was outstanding. The additional books kept by all classes are an impressive way of recording different aspects of class discussions and activities in RE
- All Senior Leaders and Governors are skilled in their roles and, together with the enthusiastic leadership of the Headteacher, continue to strive for improvements in the provision for RE at St Anne's
- Discussions with Governors and Senior Leaders reflect the depth of commitment and understanding they all have. The development of the school's creative curriculum is one of the teaching strategies in the RE provided by the school. This now needs to be embedded throughout the school
- The school has a well-developed approach to the teaching of RSE and, after consultation, is using *Life to the Full* as their scheme. This has been very well

received by staff, parents and pupils. The RSE Coordinator is fully committed to ensuring that RSE is taught in line with the Catholic faith. Link Governors oversee this area, again demonstrating their commitment to ensuring *'Christ at the heart'* of all the school does

- Pupil behaviour throughout the inspection was outstanding and a credit to all within this vibrant community
- The pupils showed an impressive commitment to seeing their faith as a living and prayerful reality. They embraced the opportunities offered to them through their work as Mini Vinnies and other activities that seek to support those in need
- The Parish Priest offers considerable and effective pastoral and liturgical support for the school. During COVID-19 restrictions liturgies and Masses have sometimes been outdoors for small groups of pupils. The parish and school communities are supportive of each other and the school has helped with fundraising for the parish community hub soon to be built in the school grounds
- On entering Key Stage 2 each pupil receives a Bible, paid for by the parish and which they are taught to use for reference and as a source of God's Word. On leaving the school, each pupil takes their Bible with them so that it can remain a wonderful resource for them in life
- Leaders and Governors fully comply with the Bishops' Conference Requirements and RE is very well resourced to support the high priority given to it. At least 10% is clearly identified in the timetable dedicated to specific Religious Education teaching in all key stages
- As one parent commented: *'St Anne's is a very caring school with a strong moral ethos'*. Parents are confident that the school provides a high quality RE curriculum which engages the pupils and promotes high standards.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship is outstanding

1

How well pupils respond to and participate in the school's Collective Worship	1
The quality of provision for Collective Worship	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for Collective Worship	1

- The quality of Collective Worship at all levels is outstanding. Collective Worship is central to the life of the school for pupils and staff
- Over the year the school promotes a variety of Collective Worship experiences, including whole school worship, class group worship and Key Stage worship. Whole school and Key Stage worship have been limited during the past eighteen months because of the pandemic but the school has worked hard to ensure daily, high quality Collective Worship was available for all pupils, both in school and at home
- Pupils are encouraged to develop a good understanding of the Church's Liturgical Year, seasons and feast days and this was evident in many displays in classrooms, around the school and on the school website
- The deeply committed Headteacher, along with the committed and very experienced Religious Education Coordinator, supports staff through modelling and through CPD. This in turn helps staff to support older pupils to deliver quality Acts of Collective Worship
- From the earliest years, pupils are involved in preparing for Collective Worship. They are encouraged to choose appropriate religious artefacts for their prayer focus and as they grow, to choose readings and music as well
- Pupils experience daily prayer, relative to their age and ability, either individually or collectively. The use of Prayer Journals, started in the Reception Class and continued throughout their time at the school, is valued by many of the pupils as they leave the school
- Almost all pupils are confident when praying traditional and more contemporary prayers. They sometimes offer their own ex tempore (spontaneous) prayers during Class Collective Worship
- During the two Acts of Collective Worship observed, pupils' behaviour was excellent. This enables all involved to participate reverently, inspiring their thoughtful and prayerful responses
- During the inspection, pupils discussed their planning and leadership of Collective Worship with confidence and were able to make links between Scripture and how, as Catholics, they are asked to live out the Gospel message in their daily lives
- Parental responses show appreciation for the opportunities offered by the school for parents' involvement in pupil led Acts of Collective Worship. Parents welcomed the online daily Collective Worship provided by the school during the pandemic, including some by the Parish Priest, and welcomed the opportunities it gave them to pray together as a family
- St Anne's ensures that pupils are offered a wide range of experiences which help them to deepen their faith. For example, in prayer and worship during Masses in school and in church, during liturgies and retreat days

- Inspectors observed thoughtful displays throughout the school which encouraged pupils to reflect on the Gospel values and their school Mission Statement
- Pupils and staff have access to good quality resources and these are used to excellent effect across the school. However, some classrooms could be further enhanced by ensuring the prayer focus is of a high quality, and that a relevant crucifix or cross is displayed
- The committed Link Governors for Religious Education visit school regularly and participate in meetings to discuss the Collective Worship planned for the school. Along with the Headteacher and Religious Education Coordinator, Link Governors report regularly to Governors on the quality and provision for Collective Worship either through verbal feedback or more formal reports
- Governors and parents are proud of the high standard of Collective Worship offered by the school and appreciate it as a firm foundation for the school's mission in celebrating its Catholic faith.