

INSPECTION Diocese of Wrexham

in North Wales



REPORT

**St Anne's Catholic Primary School
Wrexham.LL13 8TH**

Head Teacher: Mrs. S Daltrey

Chair of Governors: Mr. C Corcoran

Date of Inspection: January 2013

Inspectors: Mrs K Ranson

Mrs. S Williams

Canonical Inspection under Canon 806 on behalf of the Bishop of Wrexham and inspection of Denominational Education under Section 50 of the Education Act 2005

BACKGROUND TO THE SECTION 50 INSPECTION.

During each inspection, the inspectors follow the diocesan framework for inspection agreed by the Bishop of Wrexham and held by the Diocese of Wrexham. The inspection looks at the school as a Catholic school required to fulfill its statutory requirements under Section 50 of the School's Inspections Act, 2005 and the school's inspection requirements held under the authority of the Bishop of the Diocese, (Code of Canon Law, Book III: 806).

During each inspection the inspectors will aim to focus on three main questions of the school, as a Catholic school.

Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?

Key Question 2: How good is provision?

Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?

Inspectors will provide an overall judgment on the school's current performance and on its prospects for improvement.

The inspectors will use a four-point scale and judgment.

What the judgment means

Excellent

Many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice

Good

Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement

Adequate

Strengths outweigh areas for improvement

Unsatisfactory

Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths

Introduction

The inspection of the school was carried out by two Diocesan Inspectors. They visited all religious education lessons and held meetings with the head teacher, the chair of governors, the subject leader and the parish priest. They observed the school's work and provision, including prayer and collective worship. They looked at a range of evidence, including key documentation such as the school's self evaluation, school development plan and pupils' work.

Context of the School

St. Anne's School is a Catholic primary school situated in Wrexham which serves the parish of St Anne's, Wrexham. Currently, the school has 191 pupils on roll aged between 3 and 11 years with 65% of children who are baptised Catholic. 47% of pupils are entitled to free school meals, 35% have English as an additional language and 18% traveller pupils. 43% of pupils are on SEN register. The school celebrates its multi-cultural diversity in assemblies and liturgy and is proud of its varied and diverse population.

Summary of the inspection findings.

St Anne's school is good overall in providing Catholic Education. It is a welcoming and inclusive school and its strong Catholic ethos ensures that every pupil is valued and fully integrated into the school community. Gospel values are reflected in the school's happy and caring environment with the aim to help all children enjoy their learning and achieve their full potential.

St Anne's has a Mission Statement Christ's Light Shines Through Our Learning. The ethos of the school is well established. It is a happy and positive Catholic school with an emphasis on care and respect for all within its diverse community. This shows in the behaviour and attitude of the pupils who enjoy their learning and behave well.

Outcomes for pupils in religious education are good. Outcomes for pupils with additional or special needs are also good.

Provision for religious education is good. Teaching is good with pupils making positive progress from their starting point. The standards of written work across the school are at least average and although assessment is in place across the school this needs further development.

The Head teacher has created a hard working Senior Management Team in this Catholic school.

The school's self-evaluation document needs more attention in order to help the school have a clear picture of its work and progress. It also needs to be more evaluative and to reflect the views of the governors, staff, pupils and the school community.

The school has good links with outside agencies and the parish community. Parents speak well of the school and warmly acknowledge the care and encouragement their children receive. Pupils enjoy coming to school, feel safe and know what to do if they are worried about anything. They like their teachers and know the staff care about them.

Overall the school has good capacity for sustained improvement.

Recommendations

In order to make progress, the school needs to:

R1

Develop further and embed the self evaluation process within the school to clearly show the involvement of all in order to raise standards further and to take full account of the school as a Catholic school, its needs, priorities and responsibilities.

R2. Raise the standards of attainment in Religious Education further by:

- using the language of the level descriptors when planning and differentiating for groups of children;
- ensuring differentiation is by both task and outcome;
- ensuring that there is sufficient progression and challenge
- whole school use of driver words in 'next steps' when marking to inform pupils learning.

R3. Further develop the work being done in assessment, monitoring and tracking of children's progress by:

- improving consistency and rigour of moderation across year groups;
- making more use of information gleaned through analysis of assessment data to inform planning and track pupil progress.

What happens next?

St Anne's School will create an action plan which shows how it is going to address the recommendations. The Diocese of Wrexham Education Service will support and monitor the school's progress.

Key Question 1. How good outcomes are for individuals and groups of pupils

Most groups of pupils at the school make good progress however standards reached in religious education at the end of the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 are broadly average. Pupils demonstrate positive progression taking into account the high percentage of EAL pupils within the school and the transient nature of the school population. The standard of pupils' work recorded in religious education books is adequate overall though written tasks need more variety and challenge,

Pupils are keen to do well and are enthusiastic about their learning. They are reflective and inquiring. Behaviour of the pupils is excellent. The school is providing good support for children with special learning needs.

The school's provision for Collective Worship is now planned and recorded. The school collective worship was observed to be good. Whilst there was some evidence to show the involvement of pupils in the planning and leading of collective worship, this needs further development across the school.

Focal points and display boards are evident in each classroom and central areas. The pupils show interest in the religious life of others and care and respect for religious objects in the school. They are considerate to others and show an understanding of other beliefs and cultures. The pupils demonstrate that they are able to reflect in silence and join in community prayers. They are at ease when praying with their school community and appreciate what is taking place.

Key Question 2. The quality of the school's work in providing Catholic education

Teaching is good across the school and teaching assistants are employed effectively across the school to support the delivery of the curriculum.

However, there needs to be a more consistent approach when setting objectives using the language of the level descriptors and 'driver words' when planning.

Evidence suggests that there is an over reliance on differentiation by outcome rather than task and this needs to be addressed to create greater depth and challenge especially for the more able pupils.

Teachers provide opportunities for pupils to work independently, in pairs and collaboratively, in small groups. In the best lessons, good use is made of time and resources e.g. Interactive Whiteboard, focus areas, God's and Church's

Story, audio and visual media etc. Pupils are keen to learn, they concentrate well and enjoy their work. Pupils' work is generally well presented but a consistent system of marking work and informing pupils of their next steps in learning has not yet been established across the school.

Whilst there are established assessment systems in place, the assessment, recording and monitoring of religious education needs to be more rigorous. Formal assessment tasks are undertaken in line with Diocesan guidance. The school makes clear that religious education is at the heart of the curriculum. It follows the 'Come and See' programme and meets the requirements of the Curriculum Directory for Religious Education and the Bishops' Conference requirement of curriculum time. There is a consistent approach across the school so that every child receives their entitlement and with appropriate levels of the programme followed in different classes. This has had a positive impact on the pupils enjoyment of learning as well as ensuring that they are taught the knowledge and skills which they need.

The Collective Worship provided is good in reflecting the Catholic character of the school and takes into account the variety of faith backgrounds among the pupils. Children are enabled to pray formally and informally.

The parish priest is invited into school and pupils attend Mass in St Anne's Church several times throughout the year. The school is keen to further develop the relationship with the priest in order to support the pupils' religious development through regular visits to school. The school is well supported by members of the parish community who visit school to inform pupils of their roles within the parish as part of the work undertaken in the 'Come and See' scheme of work

Key Question 3. How effective leaders and managers are in developing the Catholic life of the school

Leaders respect difference, value, diversity and ensure equal opportunities for all. Pupils from different backgrounds are given opportunities to work together. The Head teacher has created a hard working Senior Management Team in this Catholic school. The subject leader is very good in guiding religious education. She shows a real commitment to the Church's mission.

Whilst there is a clear commitment to St Anne's as a Catholic school, there is not sufficient focus on the ways that take the school forward. The school's self evaluation document needs further development in order to accurately identify its priorities for development and evaluate the impact of strategies introduced. Currently there is little input by the Governors to the self evaluation document and they do not currently sufficiently monitor the standards in religious education. It needs also to be more evaluative and to reflect the views of the governors, staff, pupils and school community. The governing body needs next to establish a Mission & Purpose committee whose task is to look at the Catholic life of the school. The school has good links with outside agencies and the parish community.

It raises money in support of CAFOD. Mission Together and other charities throughout the year.

Through the study of the Universal Church and Other Faiths topics pupils across the school are able to recognise other people's beliefs and needs and develop a sense of the wider world.