



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

Name of School: St. Antony's Catholic Primary School

Unique Reference Number: 102844

Inspection Date: October 11, 2013

**Reporting Inspectors: Dr. Michael Sutherland-Harper
and Mr. Patrick Moloney**

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

**Type of School: Primary
School Category: Voluntary Aided
Age range of pupils: 3-11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 423
Appropriate Authority: The governing body
Date of previous inspection:**

**School Address: Mornington Road
Woodford Green
IG8 0TX.
Tel. No. 020 8504 4706
Fax No. 020 8559 2824
Chair of Governors: Teresa Harper
Headteacher: Chris Curtis**

Introduction:

The Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education (Schools) Act 2005 by two inspectors appointed by the Diocesan Bishop at the request of the Governing Body of the School.

The Inspectors acknowledge and are appreciative of the full support, co-operation and courtesy they enjoyed from the Governors, Headteacher, Staff and Pupils of the School both before and during the Inspection. The Inspectors wish to express their gratitude to all concerned.

The focus of the Section 48 Inspection was:

- Classroom Religious Education
- The Catholic nature of the School through:
 1. Worship
 2. Links with the Catholic and wider community
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

The Section 48 Report

**St. Antony's Catholic Primary School
Mornington Road
Woodford Green
IG8 0TX**

Head Teacher: Chris Curtis

Date of Inspection: October 11, 2013

Description of the School:

St. Antony's Catholic Primary School is a voluntary aided Catholic primary school situated in Woodford Green in the London borough of Redbridge and in the diocese of Brentwood. The school is much larger than the average-sized primary school. The school serves the Catholic parishes of St. Thomas of Canterbury and St. Anne Line.

Record of Evidence Base:

Two Diocesan Inspectors were in the school for the equivalent of two inspection days.

- The study of pre-inspection documentation including the Self-Evaluation Form/ Denominational Provision (SEF/DP).
- The observation of 14 lessons.
- Participation in an assembly and collective worship in classrooms.
- Scrutiny of pupils' written work.
- Meetings with the Headteacher, the Head of Religious Education (R.E.), the Vice-chair of Governors, the School Council and the Justice and Peace group and one of the priests from the adjacent friary.
- Observations of R.E. displays in the classrooms and around the school.

What the School does well:

St. Antony's Catholic Primary School is a good Catholic school. Its many strengths are a strong indication that the capacity to improve further is good.

The school lives up to its mission statement to be a caring school which helps to create happy, confident learners who have a strong relationship with their community. Pupils have a very good understanding of the mission statement because they see how it applies to them. Pupils are respectful of each other, articulate and proud of their school, as could be seen in the inspection meeting with the enthusiastic school council. Pupils know that they are expected to help and forgive each other and they accept this responsibility willingly. Parents are very supportive of the school and provided a good response to the parent survey conducted just prior to the diocesan inspection.

The headteacher offers outstanding and clear-sighted leadership, aided by her deputy and the senior leadership team. The recently appointed Head of Religious Education (R.E.) has plans in place to develop the subject, including through further sharing of best practice across the school, to ensure consistency and the highest expectations in approaches. Governors visit the school regularly and now have increased access to data and a better understanding of progress in R.E. so that they can work to move attainment to the highest levels. Standards and provision are being well monitored as the school aims to adapt the new scheme of work to ensure these high quality outcomes. At present, some of the action plans lack interim review dates which would enable the school to further refine its efforts and more swiftly target those areas where attainment needs to be raised.

The majority of the teaching seen during the inspection was good. Teachers have good subject knowledge, use electronic technology and questions well to take learning forward and mark work regularly. Books show neat presentation and evidence of pupils' responses to marking is increasingly to be seen. Although pupils' books have target levels, these are inconsistently filled in. Best practice, of which the school has many examples, is at an early stage of being shared across the school. Sometimes, in lessons,

teachers take too long before passing over to the pupils for them to do independent work thereby limiting some opportunities for full extension. The use of teaching assistants varies from lesson to lesson.

The R.E. curriculum is based on the 'Come and See' Religious Education programme of study, recommended by the Bishop of the Diocese, and is fully implemented. The school meets both the national and diocesan requirements for the allocation of curriculum time for taught R.E. The curriculum as delivered helps both to promote pupils' learning and to reinforce the strong spiritual, moral, social and cultural development across the school.

Behaviour is outstanding and is recognized as such by members of the local community, governors and priests associated with the school. The school has very close links with the local community and churches. The school has a long-standing reputation for contributing to others and setting high personal standards. As a result, the extent to which pupils contribute to, and benefit from, the Catholic life of the school is outstanding.

Pupils' response to, and participation in collective worship is outstanding. They have reverential attitudes. Work done in class is incorporated very well into assemblies and worship. A careful blend of mime, readings, prayer and song helps to create a prayerful atmosphere of high quality linked to clear expectations that pupils will be involved. An example of the innovative ways in which pupils can develop their spirituality in conjunction with their families is seen in the impressive start to the day in playground prayers.

Pupils achieve well and enjoy lessons, especially at the top end of the school. They are ready to learn in all lessons. The school is working hard to implement the new 'Come and See' scheme of work. It has now reached the stage of reviewing how to best modify the resources and teaching approaches to fully meet the needs of the different age groups in the school. The school takes care to link Religious Education to preparation for life and to the development of literacy skills. Improving assessment procedures mean that both the school and pupils have a clearer idea of how well pupils are doing in Religious Education (R.E.). Staff are beginning to focus more on adding the extra challenge in lessons, particularly through 'green pen' marking where pupils are expected to amend their work in order to progress well. As a result, as the school says in its self-evaluation, understanding and skills in R.E. are generally in line with or above pupils' stage of development.

What needs to be improved?

- **Continue work on the introduction of 'Come and See', including the preparation of further pupil-friendly resources**
- **Share best practice in teaching skills across the school**
- **Increase expectations of pupils' contributions in classes to a consistently high level**
- **Refine assessment, tracking and review procedures in Religious Education.**

The Inspectors endorse the areas identified by the school for improvement in the Section 48 Self-Evaluation Form.