



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

Name of School: St Anne Line Catholic Infant School

**LEA: Essex
URN. 115160**

Inspection Date: 21st October 2008

Reporting Inspectors: Ms Colette Dawson and Mr Anthony Castle

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

Type of School: Infant
School Category: Voluntary Aided
Age range of pupils: 4 - 7
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 180
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous Inspection: February 2004

School Address:
Wickhay
Basildon Essex SS15 5AF
Tel. No. 01268 524263
Fax No. 01268 242512
Chair of Governors: Mr Paul Hill
Headteacher: Mrs Angela Russell

Introduction:

The Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education (Schools) Act 2005 by 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 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 Anne Line Catholic Infant School
Wickhay
Basildon
Essex
SS15 5AF

Head Teacher: **Mrs Angela Russell**

Date of Inspection: **21st October 2008**

Description of the School:

St Anne Line Infant School is a voluntary aided Catholic school situated in the County of Essex, close to Basildon Town Centre and is located in the Parish of The Most Holy Trinity. The school was opened in 1968 to serve the two parishes of Holy Trinity, Basildon and St Therese, Laindon. It is a small two-form entry school. St Anne Line is an oversubscribed and very popular school.

Record of Evidence Base:

Two 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 complete lessons.
- Scrutiny of pupils' written work.
- Participation in an Assembly.
- Meetings with the Head teacher, the R.E. Co-ordinator, the Chair of Governors, a member of the Basildon Catholic Team Ministry and the School Council.
- Observations of R.E. Displays in the Class rooms and around the school.

What the School does well:

St Anne Line is an outstanding Catholic School which displays many strengths. It is firmly committed to developing its Catholic identity under the inspirational leadership of its Head teacher who is very well supported by her Deputy and her Leadership team, committed Governors, highly motivated Staff, Pupils and the Basildon Team Ministry.

Religious Education (R.E.) is an area of high focus in the school. The **'Here I Am'** programme, recommended by the Bishop of the Diocese, is fully implemented. The 'Before You Begin' element of the process is securely embedded at the beginning of each topic. Staff plan in Year Groups and share ideas about the topics informally. They clearly understand the **'Here I Am'** process and use it effectively to provide a high quality and stimulating curriculum. Excellent use is made of role play. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is used effectively to enhance the quality of lessons.

The overall quality of teaching and learning in R.E. ranges from good to outstanding. Lessons are well planned and learning objectives are stated, explained and revisited. In all of the lessons observed, pupils were on task, engaged, highly motivated, challenged and enjoying their R.E. Behaviour is outstanding. Pupils are enthusiastic and purposeful and work well together. The school uses its **Mission Statement 'We are all one family in God's eyes.'** as a model for everything the school does. Relationships and class management are recognised strengths of the school. St Anne Line School is an extremely caring school.

Assessment in R.E. is consistent in all year groups. It is systematic, rigorous and informative. There are focussed assessment opportunities for the end of each of the **'Here I Am'** topics which gives excellent evidence of **'Relate'** knowledge and understanding and termly topic evaluations that assess the overall learning intention. Positive feedback is given to the pupils and this enables them to make progress.

The leadership and management of the R.E. by the R.E. Co-ordinator are excellent. Her leadership drives the assessment procedures used by all the teachers, she monitors R.E. lessons and is very supportive of all staff, teachers and teaching assistants.

The School meets both the national and diocesan requirements for the allocation of curriculum time for taught R.E.

Collective Worship, liturgical celebrations, the celebration of major Saints' feast days and prayer generally is central to the life of the school community. The school has a 'Rainbow Prayer Board' situated in the entrance lobby. Parents and carers are invited to use the prayer board at any time.

St Anne Line School promotes an outstanding and tangible Catholic ethos. This is subscribed to by all the stakeholders – Governors, the Head teacher and her leadership team, staff, pupils and their parents. The School provides outstanding opportunities for the pupils to develop a strong sense of community through activities which engender feelings of loyalty and belonging. The School continues to develop strong links with other schools in the Deanery and beyond. There are particularly strong links with their partner school St Anne Line Junior School particularly through a new Creative Partnership Project. Links with the Secondary Schools are in place. Community cohesion is an obvious strength of the school.

R.E. displays and artefacts, prayer tables, in the classrooms and around the School, are outstanding in their range and quality.

St Anne Line Infant School values links with parents with every effort being made to improve and maintain communication with parents as their children progress through the school. There is a proactive Parents of St Anne Line Infant School (PALS) which organises social and fundraising events. The governors of the school are very dedicated, hardworking and supportive of everything the school does.

Pupils are given every opportunity to become responsible citizens. This is evident in their concern for each other and for those who are in need. This is particularly evidenced by the work and role of the School Council and the generous fundraising for the charities that the School supports. St Anne Line School participates in the annual Diocesan Citizenship Awards.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is an outstanding strength of the School. They celebrate different cultures and enjoy themed weeks and special days. Resources for the study of other Faiths are very good. 'Pupils personal, as well as their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent. Pupils behave outstandingly well' (Ofsted Report July 2008) The Section 48 inspectors fully endorse this judgement.

What needs to be improved?

There are no specific areas requiring improvement other than ensuring that the areas highlighted by the Section 48 Self Evaluation Form continue to be addressed. .

Overall St Anne Line Infant School is an outstanding Catholic School which displays many strengths. It prepares its pupils so that they transfer to their Junior Schools as happy, well-adjusted young people who are a credit to themselves, their parents and their School. The School owes much of its success to the strong and committed leadership of the Head teacher, her Deputy and her Leadership Team and to the valued support and expertise of her staff and governors.