

St Anselm Catholic Primary School

Roxborough Park, Harrow HA1 3BE

Date of inspection by Westminster Diocese: 7 June 2017



Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

A. Classroom religious education is outstanding

- The content of Religious Education is outstanding and creatively presented to the pupils.
- It meets fully the requirements of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory of the Bishops' Conference.
- The school has responded well to previous report which asked for more creativity in teaching.
- The school ensures the teachers have the resources they need for excellent religious education teaching.
- The teachers have very high expectations of the pupils and the progress they can make.
- Pupils show excellent knowledge and understanding in religious education.
- They are articulate and confident in talking about the teaching of Jesus.
- Pupils engage with their learning in religious education very well.
- Higher order questioning is regularly used in classes to deepen understanding, but needs further development.
- Excellent assessment and shared moderation ensure that the teachers have solid foundations for gauging the progress of the pupils.
- Outstanding leadership on the part of the headteacher and senior leadership team maintains the high standard of religious education.
- Governors and especially the religious education link governor provide excellent support.

B. The Catholic life of the school is outstanding

- Religious Education is securely at the core of the curriculum at St Anselm's.
- At least 10% of curriculum time is given to religious education, fulfilling the requirements of the Bishops' Conference.
- The words and spirit of Pope Francis are communicated well through the displays around the school.
- The pupils experience a prayerful school community which encourages personal prayer.
- Pupils are confident in leading prayer and formulating petitions.
- The liturgical year is the foundation for the religious experiences arranged in the school.
- The school and the pupils have a 'heartfelt understanding' of God's call to serve others.
- The school has introduced 'Caritas in Action' to support the pupils' understanding of their Catholic responsibility.
- A very close home/school/parish partnership is evident.
- 'Pupil Chaplains' are effective in enabling pupils to take responsibility for developing prayer and care opportunities.
- The school cooperates closely with the diocese and attends diocesan liturgical and training events.
- The headteacher, senior leadership team and governors provide outstandingly effective leadership of the school in promoting the Catholic life of the school.

A. Classroom Religious Education

What has improved since the last inspection?

The previous inspection recommended that the school look to more creativity in its teaching and delivering a wider curriculum reference. These recommendations have been fully met. The inspectors found good examples of creative teaching approaches and strategies in the lessons observed and in the planning seen.

The content of classroom religious education is outstanding

The content of classroom religious education is outstanding, both reflecting faithfully the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory* and its adaptation to the pupils' needs and qualities. The school follows a commercial religious education (RE) programme as well as the diocesan extensions. Together they are demanding on both the teachers and the pupils but the school ensures that the RE coordinator has the opportunity for continuing professional development in them. The staff are provided with the tools and resources to deliver the programmes in a confident and creative matter. A specific further programme is followed to provide the resources and teaching in other faiths that the curriculum directory expects. The school employs an external consultant to provide in depth in service with respect of the content of classroom RE, as well as a visiting theatre group to stimulate involvement.

Pupil achievement in religious education is outstanding

Pupils are articulate, confident in using religious vocabulary and show excellent knowledge and understanding for their age and ability. Teachers demonstrate consistently high expectations of pupils who respond very positively. Throughout all lessons observed pupils were engaged, displayed a thirst for learning and applied the skills they had learnt to great effect in their work. The school's focus on creativity in RE has been extended to allow more creative approaches to assessment, eg Year 6 presentation on the Eucharist which enabled all pupils to demonstrate their understanding. The RE subject leader has taken part in a variety of diocesan training and developed staff in their use of the Agreed Understandings to plan, teach and assess classroom religious education. As a result, teachers have become more adept at using the levels of attainment to improve pupils' knowledge and understanding.

The quality of teaching is outstanding

The quality of teaching was at least good throughout with many instances of outstanding practice. The inspectors saw examples of engaging and creative RE teaching, something which the school has been focusing on. They have met this target with much success. All teachers have high expectations of pupils and pupil engagement in every class was of the highest standard. Teachers use questioning skilfully though higher order questioning is a work in progress and purposeful focus in all classes and tasks will ensure the quality of teaching remains outstanding. This alongside marking and next step questions is developed very well in some classes while the senior leadership team has identified the need for more consistent RE marking in others. Teachers were observed using a variety of well-judged teaching strategies to match pupils' learning needs. Parents express a high level of satisfaction with the quality of the RE teaching and with the progress their children are making. The leadership team have a clear understanding of what is need to ensure consistently good and outstanding teaching continues.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of religious education is outstanding

The leadership and management of religious education are outstandingly effective. The school has analysed carefully the leadership required and appropriate from the different centres of authority in the school's management structures. The RE coordinator is very effective in ensuring every teacher has the professional development and encouragement needed to prepare and deliver an engaging programme of lessons in religious education. All staff have a performance related target in respect of their RE teaching. The senior leadership team and the headteacher focus on making sure the RE coordinator has the resources and time allocation needed to be effective in her role as well as providing the ethos and encouragement for a whole school cross curricular awareness of RE. In particular the school arranges for regular visits by an outside RE specialist to monitor and provide appropriate training. The RE link governor is the parish priest who is a regular visitor to the school and who takes a keen interest in the RE teaching in the school, providing help with topics and questions as appropriate. The governing body regularly reviews the progress of religious education.

What should the school do to develop further in classroom religious education?

- Promote and develop further higher order questioning on the part of every teacher.
- Work with the teachers to develop further their knowledge of the Agreed Understandings and the support of pupils in setting targets for their own learning.

B. The Catholic life of the school

What has improved since the last inspection?

The previous inspection recommended more creativity in the Catholic life of the school, as well as raising pupil awareness of global and local links to the living of their religion. These recommendations have been fully implemented. The inspectors were impressed with the creativity on the part of pupils in particular, a creativity that comes from the encouragement and confidence of their teachers.

The place of religious education as the core of the curriculum

is outstanding

Religious education is at the core of the curriculum at St Anselm's. Its centrality at the heart of the life and teaching of the school is evident, and is outstanding in its influence on the pupils' knowledge and growth. At least 10% of curriculum time is given to religious education, fulfilling the requirements of the Bishops Conference. Resource levels, visits, on-going professional development and staffing levels all show that RE is at the core of the curriculum. The school joins with other local Catholic schools to engage in joint moderation to improve RE. The special place given to receiving and placing of a Lampedusa cross is a sign of the social, geographical and political awareness of the school. Many examples of reference to the speeches and documents of the present Pope were noted, and the emphasis was on his personal appeals to people to follow Christ, thus building a person oriented church. The spirituality of the staff is well served, in particular by the retreat they went on at the Rosary Priory in 2016. The support given by the school to the setting up and maintenance of the 'Pupil Chaplains' is further evidence of this commitment to RE being at the core of the curriculum.

The experience of Catholic worship – prayer and liturgy – for the whole school community

is outstanding

Worship and prayer are outstanding and are central to the life of the school, with the pupils taking a key role in planning and leading collective worship. 'Pupil Chaplains' are integral to the spiritual development of the children within the school, helping others to understand the Word of God. The school excels in offering daily opportunities for pupils to pray and reflect, with creativity being shown in the variety and breadth of forms of worship seen. Pupils are given great freedom in applying their knowledge of the richness of the Catholic tradition, and use this to develop their own liturgies such as the very powerful Year 6 Passion mime. They are also confident in spontaneous prayer. Pupils are passionate in their belief of the importance of passing on and nurturing their faith, explaining that it is their mission to 'help people find faith in God and use their knowledge to help others'. The liturgical year is the foundation of all religious experiences organised in the school. The extremely strong school/parish links ensure that the celebration of the Eucharist or the Sacrament of Reconciliation are cornerstones of the school's Catholic life

The contribution to the Common Good – service and social justice

is outstanding

The overall commitment and contribution to the Common Good are outstanding. The school has identified its 'heartfelt understanding' of its duty to respond to God's call for service. This includes supporting with a local care home as well as fundraising for Cafod, Catholic Children's Society

(Westminster), St Luke's Hospice, Cancer Research, Harrow foodbank and for any immediate need in their local community. Pupils are extremely proud of their school and are able to articulate passionately their responsibility to each other and the wider community. St Anselm's is a UN Rights Respecting School and the commitment the school has made was visible throughout the inspection. Children have shown they have a grasp of the theology underpinning their understanding of the value of meeting the needs of those more vulnerable, locally, nationally and internationally. Children's attitudes and behaviour across the school and playground is exemplary. They are well mannered, articulate and confident. They know exactly what to do and to whom they should go when they feel in any way unsafe. St Anselm's has recently supplemented the development of Catholic social teaching by the introduction of 'Caritas in Action' to support children in understanding their Catholic responsibility.

The partnership with parents, school and parish, and collaboration as an integral part of the diocese through its relationship with the diocesan Bishop and those acting on his behalf

is outstanding

The partnerships the school has established with the parents, the parish and the Diocese of Westminster Education Service are all outstanding. The inspectors knew from both the recent parent questionnaire and the meeting with a small group on the day of the inspection the high quality relationship the school has established with them. The parents spoke very highly of their support of and confidence in the school. They indicated that the very good progress their children are making in understanding the teaching of the Church and their own faith often came as a welcome surprise to them. There is an excellent relationship with the parish and the school cooperates in supporting the parish catechetical and sacramental preparation programmes for the children. A very close home/school/parish partnership is evidently reaping its rewards. The head and staff attend diocesan conferences on a regular basis. It was noted that the introduction of the very effective 'Pupil Chaplains' stemmed from a conversation of the headteacher with another head at a diocesan headteachers' conference. The RE coordinator attends deanery meetings in Harrow. The governors play their part fully in liaising well with the diocese and with the parish, attending governor training occasions as appropriate. The RE adviser is a welcome visitor to the school.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management in promoting the Catholic life of the school

is outstanding

In the light of the close partnership of the headteacher, senior leadership team and governors with the diocese, it follows and was observed how effective the leadership and management of the school was in promoting the Catholic life of the school. The pupils spoken to during this inspection all confirmed that the headteacher and teachers make it clear on numerous occasions and in a variety of ways how central Catholic life is to the character and daily life of the school. Parents are left in no doubt that the Catholicity of the school is of central importance. The governing body is committed to and effective in its monitoring of the Catholic life of the school. St Anselm's is an outstanding Catholic school but could be more effective if it gave more information about its Catholic origins and roots.

What should the school do to develop further the Catholic life of the school?

- It should research and publicise the founders of the school, their ethos and the launch given to the school by the diocese and Archbishop at the time of its foundation.

Information about this school

- The school is a 2 form entry Catholic primary school in the locality of Harrow.
- The school serves the parish of Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury, Harrow-on-the-hill.
- The proportion of pupils who are baptised Catholic is 97%.
- The proportion of pupils who are from other Christian denominations is 2% and from other faiths is 1%.
- The percentage of Catholic teachers in the school is 91%.
- The number of teachers with a Catholic qualification is 10.
- There are 41 pupils in the school with special educational needs or disabilities of whom 3 have statements of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)/ Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP).
- The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups is well above average.
- The number of pupils speaking English as an Additional Language is well above average.
- There is a well below average rate of families claiming free school meals.
- 19 pupils receive the Pupil Premium (4.5%).

Department for Education Number	310/3501
Unique Reference Number	102230
Local Authority	Harrow

Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary Aided
Age range of pupils	4 - 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on roll	420
The appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mrs Lynsay Shaw
Headteacher	Mrs Anne Monahan
Telephone number	020 8422 1600
Website	www.st-anselms.harrow.sch.uk
Email address	monahana@st-anselms.harrow.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	29 May 2012
Grades from previous inspection:	
Classroom religious education	Outstanding
The Catholic life of the school	Outstanding

Information about this inspection

This inspection was carried out (i) under the requirements of the Canon 806 and (ii) in accordance with the Framework for Diocesan Inspections 2015 approved by the Archbishop of Westminster and (iii) under section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

- The inspectors would like to thank the governors, headteacher, staff, pupils and parents for their co-operation over the conduct of the inspection.
- During the inspection 14 lessons or part lessons were observed.
- The inspectors attended 3 acts of worship.
- Meetings were held with school staff, pupils, parents and governors.
- Other evidence was gathered from contacts with parents through a questionnaire, scrutiny of a sample of pupils' work, observation of pupils in and out of lessons and examination of school documents.

Inspection Team

The inspectors are appointed by the Archbishop.

Deacon Anthony Clark

Lead Inspector

Ms Nikki Kane

Associate Inspector

Ms Maureen O'Donoghue

Associate Inspector

Diocesan inspection has four grades:

- outstanding
- good
- requires improvement
- causing concern

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