



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD

Inspection Report

Name of School: St Anne Line Catholic Junior School

LEA: Essex

Inspection Date: 25 April 2018

Reporting Inspector: Pamela Brannigan

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: 7-11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 241
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous inspection: October 2009

School Address:
Wickhay
Basildon
Essex
SS15 5AF

Tel. No. 01268 470444
Headteacher: Mrs N. Watson
Chair of Governors: Mrs M. Newell

Information about the school

St Anne Line Catholic Junior School is two form entry in Basildon in the county of Essex and part of the diocese of Brentwood. The school serves the parish of The Most Holy Trinity, Basildon from which most Catholic pupils come. There are currently 241 pupils aged 7-11 on roll. The majority of pupils are from a wide range of ethnic minority backgrounds, 38% of whom speak English as an additional language. Approximately 66% of pupils are Catholics with the remainder coming from other Christian denominations, other faiths or none. 78% of the teachers are Catholics, five have the CCRS or similar qualification and two members of the Senior Leadership Team have completed the 'Developing leadership in Catholic Education' course. The proportion of pupils with special needs is above the national average with 22% eligible for the Pupil Premium payment. The school is part of a local federation with three neighbouring Catholic schools, the Basildon Catholic Collegiate Trust.

Key grades for inspection

1: Outstanding 2: Good 3: Requires improvement 4: Inadequate

Overall effectiveness of this Catholic school

Grade 1

St Anne Line Junior is an outstanding Catholic school. The quality of the prayer and collective worship provided by the school and the extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from its Catholic life is excellent. The Catholic ethos is evident in the daily life of the school with prayer and worship being central to its work. Pupils are given opportunities for spiritual and moral development through the curriculum and the wider life of the school. The quality of pupils' learning and progress in religious education is good as are the standards of attainment. There is regular monitoring of teaching, learning, and assessment. Pastoral care is excellent and shared by the school chaplain, the local parish priest and all staff. There is particularly good support for vulnerable pupils in the 'Bee Hive' room. Relationships within the school and with the local parish are also excellent and pupils feel well cared for and supported in their learning. Parents are happy with religious education and the Catholic life of the school.

The school has a very good capacity for sustained improvement. The last inspection in 2010 identified no areas for improvement other than those noted in the school development plan. Since then the school has put in place initiatives which have led to good outcomes for all pupils. The headteacher has a clear vision for future development which is shared with whole school community. The experienced subject leader produces an annual action plan to sustain effectiveness and put in place further improvements. Regular, rigorous monitoring is ensuring that teaching is varied and appropriate to children's needs. There are strategies in place to share good practice and support new teachers. The curriculum which follows the 'Come and See' programme enables pupils to make connections between faith and their own lives. Staff are encouraged to improve their skills through training and embarking on the CCRS course. There are good links with other schools in the trust through in-service sessions and staff meetings.

The current leadership has an excellent capacity to maintain effectiveness. The headteacher shows strong leadership of a Catholic community and is well supported by her deputy and subject leader. Members of the governing body have a wide range of expertise and a good knowledge of the everyday life of the school. Governors visit frequently and liaise with subject leaders. Systems are in place to develop and strengthen initiatives which are leading to good outcomes for all pupils.

What the school should do to improve further

- Continue to implement the areas identified in the religious education action plan.
- Ensure all stakeholders have a clear understanding of religious education data.
- Continue to develop governors' role in evaluating the provision for religious education and collective worship.

Pupil achievement and progress in religious education are good. All pupils spoken to said they enjoy religious education and the range of activities involved. Pupils observed during the inspection worked well together and behaviour for learning was excellent. They have a good knowledge of the Catholic faith appropriate to their age and abilities. Lessons observed were well planned with a range of cross curricular activities including role play, 'hot-seating,' debate and discussions. Pentecost was the focus of several lessons observed where pupils were fully engaged although a greater use of bibles would enable them to use scripture with confidence. Across the school workbooks are very well presented and show pupils' progress and coverage of the curriculum. Marking is positive and help pupils make the 'next steps' in their learning. Other faiths are taught well and include a visit to a local synagogue. By the end of Key Stage 2 standards of attainment meet diocesan expectations and all groups make good progress. Teaching assistants make a valuable contribution to the learning of individuals and groups of pupils. School leadership gives religious education the same importance as other core subjects and uses staff meeting time and in-service sessions to support teachers.

Pupils make an excellent contribution to the Catholic life of the school. They take on a range of responsibilities including membership of a 'Faith Council', school ambassadors, house captains, assembly monitors and playground prefects. They respond well to opportunities to understand the needs of others in school and the wider community. Last year pupils raised funds for Cafod, the local food bank, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society and Great Ormond Street Hospital. Discussions with pupils showed that they are able to link this with the life and teachings of Jesus. There are very good links with the local parish with regular Masses at The Most Holy Trinity Church when pupils act as altar servers, readers and offertory takers. Pupils also participate in Education and Youth Sunday Masses as well as occasionally singing at funerals. A group of pupils have recently formed a 'Faith Council' and are training with the school chaplain to prepare and set up for Mass as well as monitoring classroom prayer tables. The local parish priest is on the governing body, comes in every week and acts as an additional teaching resource. Pupils show consideration and respect for adults and each other. They know the school mission statement, 'With Jesus through the Anne Line Way, We Love, We Learn, We Share, We Pray. Together we grow Our School each day' The 'Anne Line Way' a code of conduct for everyone is on display throughout the school and well known to pupils. The school has also received a 'Rights Respecting School' award. Behaviour is very good and pupils value the sense of security, friendship and community created within the school. They are aware of the support available to them and feel safe, cared for and know where to go when they need help. Pupils are given opportunities to join in wider community events including singing in the town theatre and shopping centre. They also participate in retreat days and celebrations with other local Catholic schools. Relationships with parents are very good. They value the provision for religious education and the way their children's faith life is supported. Responses to a questionnaire were overwhelmingly positive

Prayer and collective worship are an integral part of school life. Pupils understand the importance of prayer and participate readily. During the inspection they responded to a whole school assembly led by the deputy headteacher with enthusiasm and excellent singing. The cycle of school celebrations reflects the Church's liturgical year and enables pupils to understand how faith links to everyday experiences. They respond positively to opportunities to develop their faith journey through reflective prayer and meditation. Each class has an 'afternoon reflection time' when pupils consider their own roles and responsibilities in the school. Pupils have a good grasp of religious terminology appropriate to their ages. They learn the traditional prayers of the Church as well as writing their own, many of which were seen during the inspection. They are familiar with the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross. There are plans to give pupils more responsibility in planning and leading collective worship. Singing is excellent and the school choir performs regularly at local and national music festivals. Preparation for the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation in Year 3 are parish based with support from the school. Reconciliation services are held in school in Advent and Lent.

The headteacher and deputy demonstrate very good leadership of the school through the way they promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for its Catholic life. Leaders communicate a clear Catholic vision to the whole community and are supported in this by staff and governors who are all committed to providing the best possible environment for the pupils. Parish links are fostered by inviting parishioners to a range of school events including school and family Masses. Catholicity is evident in displays around the school and in the classroom prayer areas.

Many governors have a long standing knowledge and understanding of the school and are well informed about its life through visits to school events as well as meetings with senior leaders. Governors are also invited to join the staff for planned retreats each term. The local parish priest is one of two link governors for religious education and is particularly well placed to monitor current developments. Governors have accessed training provided by the diocese which has enabled them to evaluate aspects of the religious life of the school and to challenge and support effectively. There are plans for governors to monitor the provision for collective worship on a more formal basis.

The experienced subject leader produces a targeted action plan for religious education each year which is monitored and discussed at governors' meetings. She is well placed to assist new teachers. Along with senior leaders she monitors religious education through workbook scrutiny, observing teaching and evaluating outcomes. Feedback after lesson observations is given to staff resulting in improvements in teaching and learning. The subject leader has also led training sessions for staff to help them move to assessment without levels. Leaders support staff development and teachers are encouraged to undertake further training.

School leaders ensure that St Anne Line Junior is a welcoming community where everyone is respected and encouraged. Pupils from other Christian denominations or faith backgrounds are included and their beliefs and traditions are valued. School premises are used by the parish Filipino and Indian communities for cultural celebrations. The school offers a range of extra-curricular activities as well as participating in local community events. There are good links with other diocesan schools including the Catholic secondary schools to which many pupils transfer at the end of Key Stage 2. Provision for spiritual development ensures that pupils are able to reflect on their own lives and experiences. Parents and carers are kept well informed about their children's welfare and progress through regular meetings and their views are sought by means of questionnaires. Parents are positive about the provision for religious education and the way their children's' faith journey is supported.

The quality of teaching and learning in religious education is good. During the inspection, lessons observed were good or better. They are planned with clear learning intentions and a range of activities. All groups of pupils make good progress and behaviour for learning is excellent. Teachers respond well to pupils' comments and take opportunities to extend knowledge and develop understanding. Staff new to the school are well supported by leadership and are given opportunities to increase their subject knowledge through in-school and diocesan training. Well differentiated tasks enable pupils to work with enthusiasm and interest. Effective support by teaching assistants is a feature of many lessons. Marking is positive and there are 'next steps' comments and suggestions of ways to improve.

The quality of the religious education curriculum is very good. At least 10% of curriculum time is devoted to religious education and the subject has full parity with other core subjects including professional development, resourcing and staffing. The programme 'Come and See' is well established and is enhanced by 'Journey in Love, which is due to be reviewed by staff and governors this year. Parents are invited to view some of the materials used. Resources are good although pupils would benefit from easy access to bibles when studying scripture. Each classroom has a prayer focus with religious artefacts and a display board which includes key vocabulary and 'driver' words. Other faiths are taught well and enhanced by visits to a local synagogue. Displays around the school emphasise the importance of faith to its work.. The curriculum enables pupils to become aware of their responsibility for each other and their environment. It contributes very well to their spiritual and moral development.

Provision for prayer and worship at St Anne Line Junior is outstanding. Assemblies and liturgies are well planned and contribute to pupils' spiritual development. They include visual presentations, Bible readings, drama, singing and music. Each week there are Singing and Celebration assemblies attended by parents and governors. Pupils are involved in collective worship in their classrooms and are given opportunities for personal reflection and meditation. A prayer garden provides an outdoor space for class worship. Feast day Masses are celebrated throughout the year and the traditions of the Church are explored with pupils. Parents, families and parishioners are invited to many celebrations throughout the year both in school and the local church. The parish priest supports the school through Masses and classroom visits as well as offering pupils the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at Advent and Easter.

The school is constantly seeking to develop practice to improve outcomes for pupils. Year 3 teachers visit the adjacent infant school from which most pupils come, to enable a smooth transition at the beginning of the academic year. There are also plans to incorporate religious education data from Year 2 pupils into the school development plan. The subject leader has reviewed assessment procedures to prepare the school for changes envisaged later in the year. Tracking of pupils' progress is providing a clear picture of progress There is evidence that good outcomes for pupils are likely to be maintained or improved as the school consolidates and builds on current very good practice in all areas.

The inspector would like to express her thanks and appreciation to all members of the school community for their welcome and openness during the inspection.