



St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

URN: 102230

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Westminster

05–06 June 2024

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

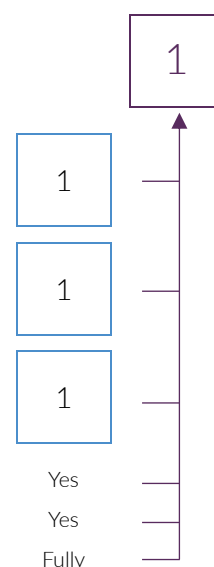
Collective worship (p.7)

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

The school is fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference

The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection



What the school does well

- St Anselm's is an authentic, faith filled community encouraging pupils to serve others as they live out their mission.
- Pupils are religiously literate, and this is evident through the outstanding outcomes they achieve.
- Engagement with parents is strong and they feel involved in this thriving community, which is welcoming and inclusive.
- Pupils are wonderful ambassadors for their school, demonstrating exemplary behaviour and showing great kindness and consideration for others.
- Well planned prayer and liturgy are at the centre of school life, helping both staff and pupils to grow in their faith

What the school needs to improve

- Improve the quality of RE feedback to pupils which will lead to more accurate and consistent teacher assessment judgements.
- Further develop pupils' abilities to evaluate prayer and liturgy so they are able to identify next steps.

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

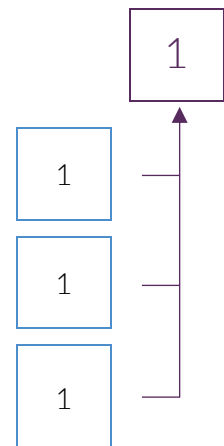
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school



The Catholic life and mission at St Anselm's are outstanding. All members of the school community embrace and live out the mission 'learning and growing together through prayer, belief and love'. British Sign Language is used when they say their mission; this visual reminder ensures it is constantly kept alive for children of all ages. The school responds to the needs of others locally, nationally and globally. Examples of this include raising money for the Catholic Children's Society, Cafod, St Luke's Hospice, Harrow Firm Foundation, Laurel's Care Home and the local foodbank. Pupils also donate their trainers to the Langrug Soup Kitchen in Franschoek, South Africa. Pupils can confidently articulate the theology that underpins their actions. One child commented that 'Jesus taught us parables to help spread his Word.' Pupil groups such as the Growing in Faith together (GIFT) team, the Green Team and the School Council have a strong understanding of why they lead initiatives across the school. They explained how they have a responsibility to care for their common home and were able to confidently share how they act upon their beliefs. One child stated, 'I would give everyone in the world an equal amount of food just like Jesus did at the feeding of the 5,000.' Catholic social teaching is taught very effectively at St Anselm's; pupils are able to speak confidently about what these principles are and how they put them into action.

Staff feel privileged to be a part of this community and this is evident through the high levels of pastoral care they show for both one another and the pupils. The lived sense of community can be felt by all stakeholders. The GIFT team spoke enthusiastically about their role within the community; one child commented that 'we decided to help older people in local care homes as they can be forgotten about'. Pupils are given independence in choosing the charities they support and this leads to each project being a huge success with high levels of participation. Parents are very supportive of the school's mission; one parent commented that 'St Anselm's is a fantastic school with a strong Catholic ethos that runs through every event and lesson. We are

blessed to have such a wonderful primary school for our children'. St Anselm's is a very inclusive school and the increasing number of pupils with additional needs are given regular opportunities to engage in all aspects of school life, being well supported by the adults in school. The school celebrates its diversity and is working hard to ensure that the local community is represented in all aspects of school life. Displays around the school are vibrant and engaging and reflect the distinctive Catholic nature of the school. The provision of R(S)HE is strong and meets all the statutory and diocesan guidelines.

As soon as you enter St Anselm's, it is apparent this is a Catholic school. Senior leaders and governors share a vision for ensuring that the Catholic life is central to this community. The parish priest from Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury is very supportive. He visits classes weekly, sharing his knowledge with the children and leads Masses, Reconciliation and liturgies throughout the year. The RE lead is passionate in ensuring pupils are immersed in the Catholic faith. The whole school community reflects the vision of the leadership team in the relationships displayed by all. Pupil leadership has been well developed; pupils understand their responsibility to care for others. One child commented that 'we strive to become like Jesus.' Parents are recognised as the first educators of their child and are invited and encouraged to be part of the Catholic life of the school. One parent stated that 'my children have been wonderfully supported to know their faith and develop strong moral values through prayer, reflection, and service to others.'

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

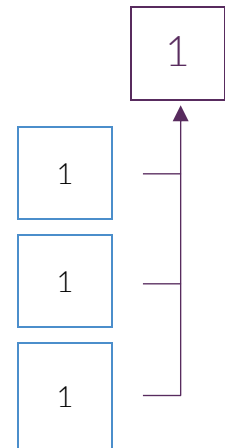
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for religious education



Pupils have a secure understanding of their faith and are confident in sharing what they have learned in RE lessons. They enjoy lessons, and because of their positive attitudes and behaviours, are fully engaged and make excellent progress from their starting points. Pupils are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. A Year 6 pupil stated that 'we should not discriminate against others. Even though we are all unique, we are human.' Pupils' religious literacy is outstanding, they can speak confidently about key concepts using subject specific vocabulary. An example of this was when a Year 5 pupil was able to explain the significance of transubstantiation for Catholics. Pupils are encouraged to work collaboratively in lessons, and they enjoy learning with and from each other, showing respect and consideration to their peers. The youngest pupils receive a secure start to their school life in this happy, nurturing, well-resourced environment that supports their religious understanding and development. Pupil outcomes in RE are excellent and attainment is higher than in other core subjects. Pupils are curious, interested and engaged learners.

Staff are enthusiastic about teaching RE; it is given the highest priority and this leads to strong attitudes and behaviours from pupils. Teachers are very well supported by the RE lead and have strong subject knowledge. Teachers include questioning in lessons that encourages deeper thinking and incorporates scripture. This was seen in a Year 5 lesson when a pupil used their knowledge to link their understanding of the parable of the talents to John's Gospel; 'if you hide your talents and don't use them, you are not living your life to the full.' The use of art and creative approaches to support religious education is a strength of the school. Many pupils shared how these creative lessons were a source of enjoyment for them. Inclusion is a strength of St Anselm's and children with special educational needs are supported in lessons to ensure they achieve. Members of the GIFT team recognise this, stating, 'In this school no one gets left out.' Marking and feedback has improved and where feedback in RE is specific, pupils have a stronger understanding of what they need to do to improve. The next step is for the quality of RE

feedback to pupils to be improved as this will lead to more accurate and consistent teacher assessment judgements.

The leadership team at St Anselm's, has a strong commitment to promoting a high-quality religious education for all, ensuring RE is at the heart of the curriculum. Monitoring systems are strong and ensure support is given where needed. The RE lead demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the school's strengths, alongside a high level of expertise, with the passion and vision to continually improve. Staff speak very highly of the ongoing support they are given by the head teacher and RE lead through regular collaborative planning sessions and diocesan training and this has led to strong subject knowledge and an enthusiasm for teaching RE. There is a strong sense of a common purpose. An ECT commented, 'the school leaders have invested in us and given us the opportunity to develop.' Leaders ensure that there is progression throughout the RE curriculum and that lessons build on prior learning. This is evident from the 'flashbacks' that are often included at the start of lessons. Governors and the parish priest are committed to the school; they know it well and work hard to do their best for the pupils and their families.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

1

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

1

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

1

1

Prayer and liturgy are a central part of school life at St Anselm's and valued by all. From a young age, pupils engage in prayer and behave reverently and respectfully. Pupils use and understand a variety of prayer and worship experiences, such as: meditation, silence and reflection time, hymns, standard prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition alongside spontaneous prayer. These experiences are very well linked to the liturgical year and this ensures more meaning for pupils as well as stronger parish and school links. Singing is an integral part of worship at St Anselm's and pupils sing with joy and enthusiasm, led by the Music lead. Pupils are confident, reverent and respectful in prayer sessions and work collaboratively with teachers and their peers to effectively plan and lead these sessions. They are able to make meaningful links with prayer life and their learning in RE; for example, a Year 5 child stated that 'Jesus is not with us physically but spiritually - He is with us forever'.

The school, parish and home work closely together to support the prayer life of pupils. St Anselm's provides numerous opportunities for planned prayer and liturgy and there is a daily pattern of prayer across all year groups. Parents are invited into school for assemblies, Masses and liturgies and these are very well attended. One parent commented, 'I have attended collective worship, class and whole school Mass, as well as liturgies that have been inspirational, spiritual and faith affirming.' Scripture is at the heart of the prayer and liturgy experiences for pupils at St Anselm's and the links between this and the liturgical year ensure pupils have a strong faith foundation on which to further develop. Pupils are supported well to plan, prepare and deliver class collective worship sessions ensuring respect, reverence and variety. One child commented that 'hearing scripture makes me think about Jesus and how I can strive to be like him.' Prayer and liturgy are age appropriate and progressive throughout the school. The school outdoor prayer garden alongside the outdoor Stations of the Cross are well utilised and provide a meaningful space for children to engage in varied prayer opportunities. Staff now need to

further develop pupil's ability to evaluate prayer and liturgy so they are able to identify next steps, ensuring pupils are choosing to use a variety of prayer types across all year groups.

Senior leaders and governors have a clear vision for the progression of skills in prayer and liturgy and this nurtures staff and pupils' relationship with God. The school calendar reflects significant dates in the liturgical year and pupils are provided with regular opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist. The parish priest works closely with the school to facilitate a range of prayer and worship opportunities, including Reconciliation for the older children. All stakeholders speak positively about how the parish and school relationship enhance the prayer life for all. Pupils have been well developed in leading prayer and liturgy in their classes and key stage assemblies. They are able to include a range of ways of praying in their worship sessions, showing confidence and a strong understanding of scripture across the liturgical year. The GIFT team also lead prayer across the school; a recent example was how they led the Rosary each morning for classes and parents in their prayer garden. As a result of outstanding leadership by the RE lead in collective worship, pupils clearly articulate the importance of prayer in their lives and how this helps them to grow in their faith.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Anselm's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	102230
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3103501
Full postal address of the school	St Anselm's Catholic Primary School, Roxborough Park, Harrow, HA1 3BE
School phone number	02084221600
Headteacher	Tania Hunt
Chair of Governors	Linda Barnard
School Website	www.st-anselms.harrow.sch.uk
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	N/A
Age-range of pupils	4-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	June 2017
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

The inspection team

Robina Maher
Dermot O'Neill

Lead
Team

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement