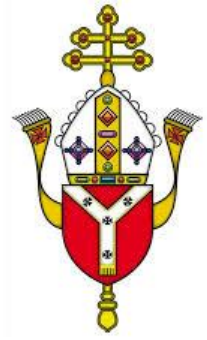


The Annunciation Catholic Junior School

The Meads, Burnt Oak, Edgware HA8 9HQ

Date of inspection by Westminster Diocese: 23 November 2018



Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

A. Classroom religious education is good

- The newly established curriculum is being well planned for by the subject leader of RE. He provides highly effective support and guidance to staff as to its implementation.
- Standards of pupil achievement have shown a rising trend over the last three years. Pupils are articulate in discussing and recounting their learning in religious education in all classes.
- Progress is judged to be good overall across the school. This is the case for all groups of pupils including disadvantaged pupils and for those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The quality of teaching is at least good in all classes seen with outstanding aspects also in evidence at the end of Key Stage 2.
- Pupil conduct and behaviour is consistently outstanding in every class seen and is a strength of the school.
- The leadership and management of religious education are outstanding. This is because of the commitment and drive to raise standards shown by all leaders, including governors within the school.

Classroom religious education is not yet outstanding because

- Opportunities for wider curriculum enrichment and creativity in religious education lessons are being missed and this requires further development. Opportunities for children to produce creative outcomes within lessons are being missed and this requires further development.

B. The Catholic life of the school is outstanding

- The leadership of the headteacher and her leadership team in promoting the Catholic life of the school is outstanding. Some of the practice within the school is exemplary and should be shared across the Diocese of Westminster.
- The Dominican tradition is well established within this school and is integral to the school's Mission and work.
- There is 10% of curriculum time devoted to religious education in every class as required by the Bishops' Conference.
- Prayer and worship are central to the Catholic life of the school.
- Pupils are now given the chance to plan and participate in their own liturgies and acts of worship.
- The school strives to ensure that when pupils leave they have a clear understanding of Christ's commandment to love God and love one another.
- The children were very keen to tell inspectors about all the work they do to support others and their own random acts of kindness.
- The Annunciation Catholic Junior School is a strong Catholic community where relationships between home, school and parish are all highly developed.
- The religious education homework book is an imaginative and effective idea to foster links with the home.
- The effectiveness of the leadership and management in promoting the Catholic life of the school is judged to be outstanding.
- The headteacher has much to be proud of in the work she has developed in this school.

A. Classroom Religious Education

What has improved since the last inspection?

The school has shown significant improvement since the previous inspection. Staff have worked diligently to develop assessment systems across the school using the 'Agreed Levels of Understanding of Levels of Attainment in Religious Education'. The school's marking policy is being complied with in all classes and pupils are now responding to teacher's comments and peer review on how to improve their work. The religious education leader has created assessment folders for each year group and also has a moderation sample folder in place to help teachers with assessment.

The content of classroom religious education is good

The content of The Annunciation Catholic Junior School's religious education (RE) curriculum meets the requirements of the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*. The curriculum is being very well planned for by the subject leader of RE. He provides highly effective support and guidance to staff. Progress and development of content is well planned across all years of the school. The school now budgets for and provides staff with dedicated planning time solely for the use of planning religious education. Other faiths are taught, such as Judaism and Hinduism. The school recognises as one of its own key priorities the need to further strengthen this area of the curriculum.

Pupil achievement in religious education is good

Standards of pupil achievement have shown a rising trend over the last three years. In 2017-2018 there was also a notable rise in the number of the most able pupils achieving the higher levels in Year 6. Attainment in RE is now matching the improved outcomes in other core subjects such as English. Pupils are articulate in discussing and recounting their learning in RE in all classes. Attainment on entry was judged to be above average and pupils leave the school in Year 6 with a high standard of religious literacy therefore progress is judged to be good overall across the school. This is the case for all groups of pupils including disadvantaged pupils and for those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Pupils are provided opportunities to both self and peer assess in lessons using a traffic light system. This is enabling pupils to reflect on their learning at a deeper level. Pupils are also provided with target sheets at the start of each topic and this aspect is developing well in the school but equally needs monitoring. In some cases, pupils were unsure of what their targets meant and how they could be achieved. In Year 3 pupils were seen producing good writing around the topic of 'Signs and Symbols of Advent'. In Year 4 pupils had been learning about monotheism and in Year 5 about Biblical metaphors. The work, especially written work, produced in both Year 6 classes was of a high standard. Pupils were less confident in applying their learning to their daily lives and were unsure about other faiths and beliefs. In one class, pupils were studying aspects of scripture in the Old Testament and the Creation story. Pupils' written responses need to be carefully monitored and further guidance offered. During this inspection, pupils were learning through scripture in the New Testament about Luke's Gospel and the nativity story. Pupils' historical and contextual knowledge was of a high order. The quality of written work on display around the school is of a high standard.

The quality of teaching is good

The quality of teaching is at least good in all classes seen with outstanding aspects also in evidence at the end of Key Stage 2. Pupil conduct and behaviour is consistently outstanding in every class seen and is a strength of the school. This is true in classrooms, around the school and also at playtimes. Behaviour for learning and engagement during lessons is equally outstanding. Most pupils are enthusiastic learners and love sharing and talking about their work. Mutual respect is evident in every class seen and teachers are sensitive to the individual needs of all their pupils. Teachers have

high expectations of pupils and are aspirational for their pupils to grow in knowledge. Subject knowledge is highly developed among teachers in this school and they teach with confidence. Teachers show high level questioning skills and the pupil's ideas and points of view are carefully listened to. Marking and constructive feedback is developing rapidly and in some classes is of a high quality. A distinctive feature of this school is the recently introduced provision of a special RE homework book. This allows parents and their children to work together on a wide variety of RE topics. Standards of written work show at least good progress. However, opportunities are missed to use creativity to further enhance pupil's knowledge in RE. The use of ICT, art and other cross-curricular areas to enhance the curriculum provision for RE requires further development in the school.

The effectiveness of leadership and management in promoting religious education is outstanding

The leadership and management of RE are outstanding. This is due to the commitment and drive to raise standards shown by all leaders within the school in the recent past. The headteacher has driven forward new initiatives and changed the curriculum on offer. She is being well supported by her senior leaders and an outstanding RE subject leader. The RE subject leader is an equally outstanding practitioner and works tirelessly to support colleagues. It is clear his impact on standards within the school has been immense. School leaders are being well monitored and challenged by an experienced and committed governing body who always want the very best for this school. Leaders in the school need more time to embed the new RE systems and curriculum so that there is consistency of practice and equally high standards seen in every class.

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

- Provide more opportunities for pupils to develop their creative skills in RE through the use of art and design, music and information and communication technology (ICT) in RE lessons.
- Further develop and deepen pupil's knowledge and understanding about other major world religions and faiths.

B. The Catholic life of the school

What has improved since the last inspection?

There were no areas for development in the previous inspection report. The school has, since the previous inspection allowed pupils the opportunity to engage and prepare their own acts of worship. Opportunities for spontaneous prayer have also been developed. Prayer areas are situated around the school to provide children with a rich experience of self-initiated prayer, such as the prayer kneeler in front of the new Adoremus display.

The place of religious education as the core of the curriculum

is outstanding

There is 10% of curriculum time devoted to RE in every class, as required by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. This is clearly timetabled and is central to the life of the school. The Dominican tradition is well established within this school and is integral to the school's Mission and work. A generous budget has been set for the last three years and resources bought to support the implementation of a new RE curriculum in 2017. Parents and pupils recognise and value the importance the school places on its Catholic life. It is the commitment and leadership of RE that has made this area outstanding.

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

is outstanding

Prayer and worship are central to the Catholic life of the school. This is a strength of the school and is judged to be outstanding. Pupils are provided with a wide range of opportunities for daily prayer and the school has a planned calendar of liturgies including celebration of the Eucharist at different times of the year. A distinctive and noteworthy feature of this school is the practice of teachers leading and taking part in Sunday Mass at the local church once a year. Pupils are now given the chance to plan and participate in their own liturgies and acts of worship. Parents are invited in to share these prayer services in school. The school is aware of the needs and traditions of other cultures and faiths. The school has identified as one of its own key priorities as being the need for pupils to visit other places of worship. Pupils are provided with plentiful opportunities both collectively and individually for spiritual development. There is a Marian grotto and prayer garden outside for prayer and quiet reflection and this is used at various times of the year. The school has developed some beautiful areas for contemplation and prayer within the school as well.

The contribution to the Common Good – service and social justice

is outstanding

The school is outstanding in its work to promote the Common Good. The pupils at The Annunciation Catholic Junior School are offered outstanding opportunities to develop a richness of the Catholic way of life. The school proclaims Christ as being at the centre of the school and all pupils, staff and members of the school community are encouraged to live and love by his example. The school strives to ensure that when pupils leave they have a clear understanding of Christ's commandment to love God and love one another. The school supports a wide range of charities such as Cafod, MacMillan Cancer research, the Catholic Children's Society during Lent. The school also holds a 'Little Way Week' inspired by St Therese whereby pupils do little acts of kindness. The children were very keen to tell inspectors about all the work they do to support others and their own random acts of kindness. The school has recently formed a 'Diddy-Dom's' group made up of Year 5 and 6 pupils. This group works to spread the good news amongst their pupils alongside assisting the 'Charity' group in deciding on charity fundraisers and creating areas of

prayer around the school. Again pupils were eager to talk about all the great work they were intent on doing. The school is exemplary in its work on fostering the Common Good. Pupils are equally articulate in discussing the theology that underpins all their good work.

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 Annunciation Catholic Junior School is a strong Catholic community. Relationships between home, school and parish are all highly developed. Support from parents is a key feature of this school. Parents are very supportive of the work of the school and this is reflected in a recent RE survey. The RE Homework book is an imaginative and clever idea to foster links with the home. Work in these books was creative and imaginative and allowed parents the opportunity to support their own children's learning and faith. Parents and pupils also eagerly compose prayers and share ideas which then feed into liturgies in school. Partnerships are further being fostered by inviting parents in to attend assemblies and other school celebrations. The website contains outstanding information on the Catholic life of the school and is clear and up to date. It is a model of good practice and deserves to be shared more widely in the diocese. Links with the parish are equally strong and the parish priest is a frequent and welcome visitor to the school. The school attends a wide variety of diocesan training and support. All Diocese of Westminster policies and protocols are being fully implemented.

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

is outstanding

The effectiveness of the leadership and management in promoting the Catholic life of the school is judged to be outstanding. The school motto: 'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire' – St Catherine of Siena is at the heart of this Catholic school community. The commitment of the head and her leadership team to promote the Catholic life of the school is evident in every aspect of school life. The governors share the vision of the staff of the school and are supportive and equally committed to continuous school improvement. Parents express great confidence in this school and its Catholic life. Senior leaders at all levels are deeply committed to enhancing the richness of the Catholic life of the school. Its self-evaluation of Catholic life is highly accurate. The headteacher has much to be proud of in the work she has undertaken in the last few years.

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

- Share the outstanding practice in the school's Catholic life more widely across the Diocese.

Information about this school

- The school is a two form entry Catholic Junior school in the locality of Burnt Oak.
- The school serves the parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Burnt Oak
- The proportion of pupils who are baptised Catholic is 97%.
- The proportion of pupils who are from other Christian denominations is 3.0%.
- The percentage of Catholic teachers in the school is 88%.
- The number of teachers with a Catholic qualification is 8.
- There are 39 (18%) of pupils in the school with special educational needs or disabilities of whom 2 have statements of Special Educational Needs and /or 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 an average rate of families claiming free school meals.
- 52 pupils receive the Pupil Premium (23%).

Department for Education Number	302/3514
Unique Reference Number	101342
Local Authority	Barnet

Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary Aided
Age range of pupils	7-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on roll	223
The appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mrs Anne O'Shea
Headteacher	Mrs Carol Minihan
Telephone number	020 8906 0723
Website	www.annuncaition.jnr.barnet.sch.uk/
Email address	office@annunciationjnr.barnetmail.net
Date of previous inspection	8 November 2013
Grades from previous inspection:	
Classroom religious education	Good
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 8 lessons or part lessons were observed.
- The inspectors attended 2 acts of prayer and worship in classes.
- Meetings were held with school staff, pupils 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 Grades

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires improvement
- Causing concern

Inspection Team

The inspectors are appointed by the Archbishop.

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Lead Inspector

Mrs Ruth Sykes

Associate Inspector

Mr Michael Ross

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