



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

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SECTION 48 INSPECTION REPORT:

**THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL  
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

School: St Anthony's Catholic Primary School  
Address: Dunkery Road  
Woodhouse Park  
Wythenshawe  
Manchester  
M22 0NT

Tel No: 0161 437 3029

URN: 139458

Headteacher: Mr R P Ward

Chair of Governors: Father Michael Murray

Date of Inspection: 18 November 2015

Inspectors: Mrs E Robb  
Mr P Sharp  
Mrs R Moores

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School  
Mission Statement

St Anthony said,  
"Let your words teach and your actions speak".

At St Anthony's we stand together following Christ in all that we do. We love life, have fun, forgive and celebrate as a Catholic family. We give all of ourselves, and always accept a challenge.

Lord, help us to shine like stars and share the good news of Jesus.

"Journeying together with Jesus Christ,  
we learn to love and love to learn."

Guide us St Anthony  
Dirige Sancte Antoni



Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust  
Mission Statement

United in faith, we are the Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust. Welcome together as a Catholic family To enlighten minds, To enrich souls, To become the best people that God wants us to be; through our work, service, prayer and fun.

"Journey together with Jesus Christ,  
We learn to love and love to learn."



## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Pupils	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Number on roll		177	90	87	82	86	87	91	700
Catholics on roll		112	61	64	54	74	63	62	490
Other Christian denomination		61	27	21	27	11	23	28	198
Other faith background		4	2	2	1	1	1	1	12
No stated religious affiliation		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of learners from ethnic groups		69	39	38	54	29	31	30	290
Total on SEN Register		3	10	2	1	6	10	11	43
Total with Statements of SEN		0	0	2	1	0	0	1	4
FSM		24	9	17	14	18	15	17	114

Exclusions in last academic year	Permanent	0	Fixed term	0
Index of multiple deprivation				

PARISHES SERVED BY THE SCHOOL	
Name of Parish	No of Pupils
Our Lady Queen of Peace: St Anthony's St John's St Elizabeth	490

With reference to Year 6 – the Catholic schools to which your pupils transferred	
PUPILS TRANSFER	
Name of School	No of Pupils
St Paul's High School	55
St James High School	1

RE TEACHING TIME	FS		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
	PT	FT							
Total RE teaching time (Hours) -- per week		2hr 15 min	2hr 30 min	2hr 30 min	2 hr 30 min	2 hr 30 min	2 hr 30 min	2 hr 30 min	17 hr 15 min

STAFFING	
Full-time teachers	25
Part-time teachers	3
Total full-time equivalent	27
Support assistants	31
Percentage of Catholic teachers f.t.e.	93%
How many teachers teach RE (P) f.t.e.	23
Number of teachers with CCRS or equivalent	7
Number of teachers currently undertaking CCRS	2

NAME OF SCHOOL	
St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School	
Published admission number	700
Number of classes	24
Average class size KS1	30
Average class size KS2	30

## FINANCIAL DATA

EXPENDITURE (£)	Last financial year 2014/2015	Current financial year 2015/2016	Next financial year 2016/2017
RE	£4045.00	£6372.00	£4080.00
English	£13832.00	£5369.00	£6120.00
Mathematics	£7438.00	£14494.00	£4080.00
Science	£918.00		£2601.00

<b>Key to judgements: Grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 requires improvement and grade 4 inadequate</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
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<b>OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS</b>	<b>1</b>
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From their earliest years, the children at St Anthony's experience an environment where they "learn to love and love to learn". In subsequent years they build on these firm foundations. Children are happy, hardworking and aspirational. They are encouraged to be independent learners, taking responsibility for their own learning and are equipped with strategies to be resilient when faced with challenges. All children are keen to succeed and strive to do their best. The behaviour of the children is excellent. They respect and care for each other. Teachers know their children well and relationships at all levels are strong. The children talked confidently about the trust they have in adults throughout the school because they listen to them and help them sort out any problems or issues.

Thorough assessment and monitoring systems are in place which track and evaluate children's progress. Intervention programmes and focus groups ensure all children make at least good to outstanding progress. There are high staffing levels throughout the school and skilled, talented teaching assistants work closely with teachers to maximize learning opportunities, so that all children can experience success. The children are keen to become involved in such groups as School Council and Mini Vinnies, where they experience and organize fund raising activities and develop an understanding of the needs of others at a local level, as well as the wider community aspects.

Children lead the school in Collective Worship as they plan and present prayerful assemblies, rooted in Gospel values, following the liturgical year and 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' Religious Education scheme of work. Every class has a Collective Worship book, where class teachers and children record and evaluate their Collective Worship sessions. These books are proudly displayed on class altars and children often refer to and celebrate the work contained in these books. The children also take a pride in their Religious Education books and the inspectors witnessed some examples of outstanding work contained therein. Every class has time allocated in the Chapel. During an observed Collective Worship in the Chapel, the Reception children obviously enjoyed their time for prayer, song and story. At different times throughout the year parents, from various year groups, are invited into school to observe and participate in Collective Worship sessions. They enjoy discovering how their children are developing on their faith journey. One parent wrote "I enjoyed watching the children join in with singing and seeing how much they know about how to be Christ-like."

<b>LEADERS AND MANAGERS</b>	<b>1</b>
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Leadership and management are outstanding. The inspirational leadership of the Headteacher ensures all have a clear vision of the school's mission. He is well supported by an excellent Senior Management Team, a dedicated, hard working Religious Education Co-ordinator, committed staff, Parish Priest and Governing Body. Together they ensure that the school is providing the best possible Catholic education for all the children in their care and this is communicated to the whole school community in words and actions. The governors are proud of their school and rightly so. They visit school often and provide effective challenge, whilst supporting the school leadership wholeheartedly. Governors are focused on and committed to the mission of the school. They are active members of the parish community and are excellent witnesses to Catholic education. The Parish Priest, who is also the Chair of Governors, is very supportive of all St Anthony's sets out to achieve. The Catholic life of the school is regularly monitored by leaders and managers, as part of the school self-evaluation process. Governors with specific responsibility for Religious Education come into school often and look at files, attend liturgies, look at children's books, Collective Worship books and discuss teaching and learning in Religious Education.

This, along with the appropriate reports and discussions, enables governors to have a sound knowledge of the many strengths of the school, and to be able to identify and address areas for development.

## PROVISION

1

The Religious Education provision fully meets the requirements of the Bishops' Conference. The leadership team effectively evaluate and monitor the teachers' performance and Religious Education provision across the school, to ensure that the needs of all children are addressed. Senior leaders and teaching staff consider carefully how to present the Religious Education curriculum in a creative and exciting way, so that children can benefit from the many opportunities to develop their spiritual, moral, and cultural knowledge. In the lessons observed, teaching was at least good with most being outstanding. Classrooms are well organised, music is played to create an atmosphere of reflection and preparedness and ICT is used to excellent effect to enhance the learning experiences. Excellent behaviour supports a philosophy of respect for all. Consequently, the children are engaged, enthusiastic and happy to participate in all aspects of their Religious Education. Assessment in Religious Education is regularly moderated with the assistance of diocesan expertise. There was evidence of differentiation and staff are working hard to develop this further.

The children are obviously listened to as they express their beliefs and views confidently and enthusiastically. The children enjoy the many extra-curricular activities available to them. The School Council has 'a voice' and meets regularly to express their opinions and ideas. The children have an excellent understanding of the world outside their school. They make an outstanding contribution in their practical fund raising activities, such as for Cafod, or the street children in Brazil. They take a hands on approach in their local community, where they assist with Lenten lunches and helping at the local community food banks. One of the Mission Week children told the inspector that what they were doing was "faith in action." Another child, from the Mini Vinnies, told an inspector, "It is not always about fund raising, it can be about friendship."

There are prayer focal points in classrooms, which provide children with resources as well as the opportunities to experience quiet time for prayer and reflection. Children are encouraged to write and share their own prayers. Members of the Faith Council are invited to lead prayer in and around school. The children also have the opportunity to attend and lead Friday class Masses in church, with the parish community. This helps the children to appreciate their role not just in the school family but also in the parish family and wider community. The provision of a School Chapel is significant and provides many opportunities for children, staff and parents to experience this sacred space where all can take time to speak to God freely.

The children are sensitive to and respectful of other faiths, and have had opportunities to visit other places of worship, for example, the children visited a Mosque and a Synagogue. Children from across the school have been given opportunities to further develop their spirituality through retreat visits to Savio House, Marist Centre and Bolton Abbey. The Year 6 children also have an opportunity to visit Bologna where they stay at a convent and have opportunity to celebrate Mass and visit the Basilica.

Two school chaplains have worked in the school and have contributed to further developing the provision for Collective Worship, through modeling examples of outstanding practice. Their replacements in 2016 will continue with this work, with children and staff, to further enrich the Catholic life of the school.

**OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS**

1

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School provides an outstanding education. The belief in, and response to, the recently reviewed Mission Statement are significant factors in the success of this outstanding school. All staff, governors, children and parents have a strong understanding of the Mission Statement rooted in Gospel values and reinforced through the words of St Anthony of Padua. Relationships at all levels are excellent. Children and all staff are valued and their gifts and talents nurtured and developed. The children are happy, extremely well behaved, and achieve very well as they journey through St Anthony's. Religious Education underpins all that St Anthony's aspires to achieve and the gospel values are lived out in this outstanding, busy and friendly school.

**What the school could do to improve further.**

- To further develop differentiation within the Religious Education curriculum
- To ensure the Religious Education action plan contains strategic actions with well-defined time scales

## Parents' Questionnaires

122 Parents returned questionnaires

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school	91	31	0	0	0
2	I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches	81	40	1	0	0
3	I am made to feel welcome in school	77	43	2	0	0
4	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	64	51	3	1	3
5	The school gives me a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education	75	45	2	0	0
6	The school enables my child/ren to achieve a good standard of work in Religious Education	74	45	1	0	2
7	The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress in Religious Education	62	57	1	1	1

## Pupil Questionnaires (Year 2)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	I like being at this school.	17	5	3
2	I learn new things in Here I am lessons.	21	1	0
3	I enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live as His friend.	21	1	0
4	I have to work hard.	22	0	0
5	My teacher helps me when I get stuck so I can make my work better.	20	2	2
6	My teacher listens to me.	15	7	0
7	<i>When I am unhappy there is always an adult I can talk to.</i>	20	2	0
8	I get praise when I do my best.	22	0	1
9	Other children are kind and behave well	14	8	3
10	<i>I am happy on the playground.</i>	18	4	1
11	I am allowed to help in class and around school.	17	5	2
12	I enjoy the times we say our prayers, talk to God and sing songs about Jesus.	21	1	2

## Pupil Questionnaires (Year 6)

		Yes	Sometimes	No
1	Do you like being at this school?	50	36	1
2	Do you find out new things in Religious Education lessons?	65	22	0
3	Are your Religious Education lessons interesting?	35	51	1
4	Do you get help when you are stuck?	73	13	1
5	Do you have to work hard?	77	10	0
6	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	74	13	0
7	Do other children behave well?	11	71	5
8	Are teachers fair to you?	58	25	4
9	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	63	24	0
10	Are you given responsibility?	62	21	4
11	Do you enjoy your times of prayer together?	71	15	1