



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



Inspection Report

Name of School: St Antony's Catholic Primary School

LA: Newham URN: 131926

Inspection Dates: 5th October 2010

Reporting Inspectors: Ms. Colette Dawson and Mr Anthony Castle

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: 3 - 11
Gender of pupils: Mixed
Number on roll: 458
Appropriate Authority: The Governing Body
Date of previous Inspection: 12th July 2007

School Address:
Upton Avenue
Forest Gate, London, E7 9PN
Tel. No. 020 85523670
Email: info@st-antony-s-jun.newham.sch.uk
Chair of Governors: Sister Una McCreesh
Headteacher: Mr. Brian Lucey

Introduction:

The Inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education (Schools) Act 2005 by inspectors appointed by the Diocesan Bishop at the request of the Governing Body of the School.

The Inspectors acknowledge and are appreciative of the full support, co-operation and courtesy they enjoyed from Governors, Headteacher, Staff and Pupils of the School both before and during the Inspection. The Inspectors wish to express their gratitude to all concerned.

The focus of the Section 48 Inspection was:

- Classroom Religious Education
- The Catholic nature of the School through;
 1. Worship
 2. Links with the Catholic and wider community
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

The Section 48 Report

**St Antony's Catholic Primary School,
Upton Avenue,
Forest Gate,
London,
E7 9PN**

Head Teacher: Mr. Brian Lucey

Date of Inspection: 5th October 2010

Description of the School:

St Antony's Primary School is a voluntary aided Catholic school situated in the London borough of Newham and in the Diocese of Brentwood. It is located in Forest Gate which is classed as an area of high deprivation. It is a two form entry school with a nursery close to St Anthony's parish church. The vast majority of pupils are from a Black African or Caribbean background with the remainder from a diverse range of East European, Asian and South American communities. The school was founded in 1862 by the Ursuline Sisters who maintain strong links with the school. The school has provision for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) through the Nursery and two Reception classes. 'Kids World' is a 'satellite' early years centre located across the road 'and has been identified as an

excellent unit which opens its doors to parents / carers and their children, 0 – 5 years, from the local community, bringing together people of different faiths and cultures.’ (SEF) ‘Kids World’ is oversubscribed and very popular.

Record of Evidence Base:

Two Inspectors were in the School for the equivalent of two inspection days.

- The study of pre-inspection documentation including the Self-Evaluation Form/ Denominational Provision (SEF/DP).
- The observation of complete lessons.
- Scrutiny of pupils’ work.
- Meetings with the Head teacher, the Deputy Head teacher, the Assistant Head teacher, a range of teaching and support staff, the R.E. Co-ordinator, the Chair of Governors, the R.E. link governor, governors and parents, the Parish Priest and the School Council.
- Participation in a Key Stage Two and a Key Stage One Assembly.
- Observations of R.E. Displays in the Class rooms and around the school.

What the School does well:

St Antony’s continues to be an outstanding Catholic School which displays many strengths. It is firmly committed to developing its Catholic identity under the inspirational and outstanding leadership of its Head Teacher who is very well supported by his Deputy and Leadership team, committed Governors, highly motivated Staff, Pupils and the Parish Priest.

Religious Education (R.E.) is an area of high focus in the school. ‘The Way, the Truth and the Life’ is the R.E. programme in use in the school. This programme is not recommended by the Diocesan Bishop. However the school has agreed to review the R.E. provision and resources when the revised ‘Here I Am’ is published next year. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is used effectively to enhance the quality of lessons.

The overall quality of teaching and learning in R. E. is good or outstanding. Lessons are well planned and learning objectives are stated, explained and revisited. In all of the lessons observed, pupils were on task, engaged, highly motivated, challenged and enjoying their R.E. Behaviour is outstanding. Pupils were enthusiastic and purposeful and worked well together. ‘Talk Partners’ are used effectively. Success criteria was fully explained and understood. Relationships and class management are recognised strengths of the school.

Assessment in R.E. is consistent in all year groups. It is systematic, rigorous and informative. There is a clear assessment focus for each of the R.E. topics which gives good evidence of knowledge and understanding. Consistent ‘next step marking’ is to be developed further. Positive feedback is given to the pupils and this enables them to make progress.

The leadership and management of R.E. by the R.E. Co-ordinator, who is relatively new to the post, are excellent. Her leadership drives the assessment procedures used by all the teachers, she monitors R.E. lessons and is very supportive of all staff, teachers and teacher assistants.

The School meets both the national and diocesan requirements for the allocation of curriculum time for taught R.E.

Collective Worship, liturgical celebrations, the celebration of major Saints' feasts and the school's links with the local parish, are all strengths of St Antony's School. The whole school assembly, led by Year Six pupils and observed by the inspectors was outstanding. The liturgical seasons, especially those of Advent and Christmas and Lent and Easter, are high points in the School's calendar.

St Antony's School promotes an outstanding and tangible Catholic ethos. This is subscribed to by all the stakeholders – Governors, the Head Teacher and his leadership team, staff, pupils and their parents. The School provides outstanding opportunities for the pupils to develop a strong sense of community through activities which engender feelings of loyalty and belonging. The school has an excellent 'Community Cohesion Plan' in place. 'The staff and governors at St Antony's are not only preparing our pupils to be the workforce of 2020 and beyond, but are preparing our children to make an active contribution in society.' (Community Cohesion Plan 2009 – 2010) The School continues to develop strong links with other schools in the Deanery and beyond. The emphasis on community cohesion is an outstanding strength of the school.

Displays and artefacts in R.E., especially the banners around the school and the 'Prayer Focus', in the classrooms are outstanding.

St Antony's Primary School values links with parents/carers with every effort being made to improve and maintain communication with parents as their children progress through the school. There is a weekly newsletter and regular parents / carers meetings and home visits. There is a proactive Parents Association which is dedicated to providing enjoyable social and fundraising events. The Ofsted Report (September 2009) made the judgement that 'Parents hold positive views about the school and are happy with their child's experience.' The Section 48 inspectors endorse this judgement. The governors of the school are very dedicated, hardworking and supportive of everything the school does. The Leadership by the Chair of Governors and school governance in general are both outstanding and major strengths of the school.

Pupils are given every opportunity to become responsible citizens. This is evident in their concern for each other and for those who are in need. This is particularly evidenced by the work and role of the School Council and the generous fundraising for the charities that the School supports. The older pupils take on a variety of responsible roles within the school community.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is an outstanding strength of the School.

What needs to be improved?

There are no specific areas requiring improvement other than ensuring that the areas highlighted by the Section 48 Self Evaluation Form continue to be addressed. In addition the school needs to review R.E provision and resources and the R.E. Co-ordinator should monitor the use of text books in R.E. lessons, especially in Key Stage One, to make sure that they do not inhibit the creativity of the teacher or the interest of the pupils.

Overall, St Antony's Primary School continues to be an outstanding Catholic School which displays many strengths. It prepares its pupils so that they transfer to their Secondary Schools as happy, well-adjusted young people who are a credit to themselves, their parents / carers and their School. The School owes much of its success to the strong and committed leadership of the Headteacher and his Leadership Team and to the valued support and expertise of his staff and governors.