



St Anne's Catholic Primary School

URN: 148092

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Birmingham

19–20 November 2025

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

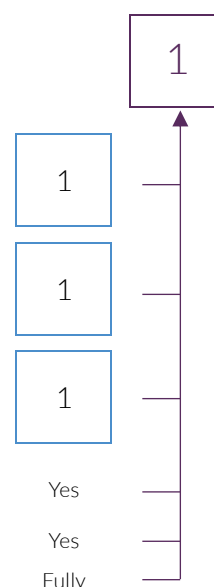
Collective worship (p.7)

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

The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference

The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop

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



Compliance statement

- This school fully complies with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference.
- This school is fully compliant with the additional requirements of His Grace.
- This school has fully addressed all previous areas for improvement.

What the school does well

- Staff consistently bear witness to the Catholic faith through their words and actions, reflecting Christ's example by placing the needs of others at the centre of all they do.
- The school environment is vibrant and attractive, and it celebrates its Catholic identity. Every space in school is utilised to create a prayerful, spiritual environment where pupils can encounter God, whether through commemorating the lives of the saints or by promoting the need to care for others.
- Celebrations of the word are marked by pupils with deep reverence, leading to full, active participation and engagement by all.
- St Anne's is a welcoming and inclusive community where every child is known, loved, and cared for.
- Behaviour, particularly within religious education lessons, is exemplary. This reflects the deep respect both pupils and staff hold for the subject. As a result, pupils achieve exceptionally well.

What the school needs to improve

- Develop a well-planned chaplaincy programme that provides creative, high-quality opportunities for the spiritual and moral development of pupils and staff.

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

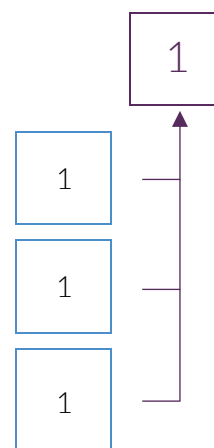
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

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



Pupils at St Anne's wholeheartedly live out the school's mission, evident in the way the community works together for the common good, shows consistent care for those most in need, and fosters an inspiring environment where all are welcomed, included, and empowered to contribute. Pupils know they are unique and loved and take immense pride in being part of the school family. This is reflected in their relationships with one another and in their active participation in the school and wider community. Respect is embedded at all levels; consequently, behaviour is exemplary throughout the school. Pupils embrace leadership opportunities, such as becoming liturgical leaders, stewards of creation, school councillors, and digital leaders. These opportunities allow pupils to respond to Catholic social teaching principles actively and to put their faith into action. They show pride in the fact that they are doing 'God's work on earth'. Pupils have a lived understanding of Catholic social teaching through fundraising for Father Hudson's Caritas, participating in a local tea dance, and spending time with elderly community residents. Pupils embrace their roles as young disciples, typically stating that 'faith without action is not faith at all', as exemplified by their campaign to reduce kitchen plastic use.

Christ is at the heart of St Anne's, and this is known, lived, and expressed by all staff, who speak authentically of belonging to one family. The school's mission statement is revisited annually with pupils in a planned and progressive way; for example, Year 2 pupils reflect on how they are special, Year 4 pupils consider how they can care for God's creation by working with others. Year 6 pupils link the mission to Scripture in a meaningful way. Consequently, the mission has a significant and tangible impact on the life of the school, seen most clearly in pupils who celebrate their uniqueness as they 'care, share and learn together'. Staff are dedicated to ensuring that all pupils and their families are known and loved, and a powerful sense of community is reflected

in the additional support offered to families. Staff consistently go the extra mile to care for the most vulnerable, acting swiftly and compassionately when a need is identified. The school stands at the heart of the community it is proud to serve, welcoming everyone with generous hospitality. The exceptional environment reinforces this ethos, with every space thoughtfully used to reflect and bear witness to God's love for all.

Leaders and governors have an inspiring vision for outstanding Catholic education and are exceptionally driven to make God known to all. The school's Catholic ethos is deeply embedded across every aspect of school life. It is highly valued by parents, who typically comment that 'Faith is woven into every part of school life.' Staff training is well planned and highly prioritised, with opportunities such as working with the Columban Missionaries at a Multi Academy Company (MAC) staff formation event enabling staff to develop strong expertise and a deep understanding of the school's mission. The induction programme for newly appointed staff is rigorous, ensuring they are both confident and well-supported. Leaders respond enthusiastically to MAC and diocesan expectations, collaborate effectively with other schools, and frequently take the lead in initiatives that place them at the service of the wider MAC community. The school is widely regarded as a beacon of excellence by staff, governors, and MAC directors. Governors are passionate, committed, and highly knowledgeable; they provide both support and robust challenge to maintain the school's high standards. Comprehensive monitoring forms an integral part of this approach and is effective in strengthening outcomes for all pupils.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

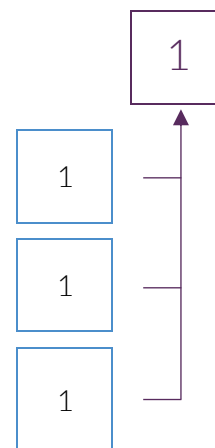
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

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 make excellent progress in religious education, with high attainment evident across all phases. Clear and consistent structures, combined with embedded high expectations, ensure that pupils develop secure and increasingly sophisticated religious knowledge, understanding, and skills, enabling them to become religiously literate. Knowledge retrieval strategies are routinely used, allowing pupils to make strong connections with prior learning. Pupils are actively engaged in lessons, concentrate well, and apply their skills to reflect deeply and spiritually, making personal connections linking their learning to Catholic social teaching. They demonstrate a thoughtful and mature approach, articulating how their learning is relevant to their daily lives; pupils typically describe religious education as teaching them 'life values' and helping them have a 'stronger bond with God.' Lessons are fully inclusive. Pupils with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) are supported exceptionally well through adapted teaching and resources, enabling them to make good progress. Spiritual learning partners encourage collaboration; consequently, pupils can speak fluently about their learning, using key concepts and appropriate subject-specific vocabulary with accuracy. Established routines, such as 'hands on hearts', foster a respectful and calm learning environment, contributing to exemplary behaviour. The quality of work in books is consistently high across all year groups, reflecting pupils' engagement, pride and sustained effort.

Teachers demonstrate strong subject knowledge and a deep commitment to high expectations for all pupils, communicating these clearly in relation to learning, progress, participation, and behaviour so that pupils achieve high standards. A consistent approach from all staff enables pupils to consolidate and extend their learning. Effective knowledge retrieval strategies, together with the spiritual learning journey displayed in classrooms and on knowledge organisers, support pupils in making meaningful links between lessons. The curriculum is carefully planned

and delivered with genuine passion by teachers who are deeply committed to nurturing each pupil's spiritual growth. Teachers use questioning skilfully to optimise learning, routinely posing open questions and probing further to extend pupils' thinking. Vocabulary is securely embedded across lessons, strengthening pupils' grasp of key concepts. Celebration is a prominent feature that motivates pupils, with every piece of work valued. Additional adults are deployed effectively to support pupils' needs and enhance learning, ensuring that all pupils, particularly those with SEND, access the curriculum and achieve well. Pupils enjoy religious education lessons because teachers incorporate a variety of engaging and purposeful tasks into their lesson plans.

Leaders and governors ensure that the teaching of religious education is at the heart of the school, giving it more than full parity with other core subjects. They are firmly committed to securing high-quality and regular staff training, both within school and through MAC and diocesan opportunities, which staff greatly value; a member of staff noted, 'The professional development we receive allows us to consistently carry out high-quality lessons that are consistent throughout the school.' Leaders ensure the curriculum is thoughtfully planned to meet the needs of all pupils, creating opportunities for every pupil to flourish, and have developed a Catholic curriculum in which Catholic social teaching is woven through every subject. The dedicated religious education subject leader has high expectations and is effective in supporting staff to deliver high-quality, engaging lessons by sharing her time, expertise, and guidance; her support is also highly valued by colleagues across the MAC and diocese. Governors are actively engaged in monitoring, analysing, and evaluating standards, with activities clearly linked to school development priorities. The link governor provides expertise, challenge, and support through regular visits.

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 fully embedded in school life at St Anne's and central to its mission, with all pupils demonstrating deep reverence and engagement. Staff comment 'Prayer is woven into our school life, and the children really value the time spent communicating with God.' Engagement in worship is exemplary, characterised by prayerful silence, attentive listening, and profound respect for others, with pupils engaging with reverence and participating joyfully in singing. Staff describe prayer and liturgy as 'inclusive, creative, and transformative', profoundly shaping pupils' spiritual and moral development and inspiring them to live out Gospel values with confidence and joy. Pupils collaborate closely with staff to prepare creative, well-structured worship, undertaking ministries such as setting up prayer focal areas in early years and reading prayers; their ownership is evident in thoughtful evaluations and suggestions for improvement. As one pupil explained, 'I love the hymn 'Share the Light!' because we must share Christ's message with all the people we meet.' Opportunities to take part in the full cycle of the Church's liturgical year ensure pupils have an excellent, age-appropriate understanding of the richness and variety of Catholic prayer, reinforced by high-quality displays throughout the school and classrooms.

Prayer and liturgy at St Anne's provide meaningful experiences that inspire pupils to embrace and live out Gospel values, encouraging them to 'spread God's love with others.' Worship is consistently invitational and inclusive, enabling all pupils to engage with depth and sincerity, as evidenced in the prayerful atmosphere across all year groups, where pupils engage with reverence and enthusiasm. Staff and pupils truly value the regular pattern of high-quality spiritual experiences that continually affirms the centrality of prayer at St Anne's. Scripture is always at the heart of worship, proclaimed joyfully by pupils who listen to carefully selected passages, reflect upon them, and respond in a variety of thoughtful ways. Opportunities for quiet

reflection, including in the 'Heart Room,' enable pupils to connect Scripture meaningfully to their lives. Pupils plan and lead prayer with creativity and maturity, supported by staff who model prayerful leadership with integrity. The school works very closely with its families to ensure they are fully included in the school's prayer life, and parents and carers appreciate being regularly invited to pray and to join in with assemblies, religious education workshops, and 'stay and pray' sessions.

Leaders and governors ensure that prayer and liturgy are at the heart of school life. Leaders have developed a prayer and liturgy policy that provides pupils with clear support strategies with which to plan and deliver reverent acts of worship, resulting in consistency and confidence throughout St Anne's. Liturgical leaders in each class support their peers in confidently leading prayer, while staff model best practices and provide high-quality formation that secures full engagement from the whole community. Staff are excellent role models, ensuring that worship is consistently dignified, inclusive, and spiritually enriching. A carefully planned calendar of events, including holy days, saints' days, celebration of the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, opportunities for Reconciliation, and regular Masses for pupils and parents, secures pupils' knowledge of how prayer shapes the Church's liturgical year. Governors demonstrate outstanding strategic leadership, ensuring that resources for prayer and liturgy are of a high quality, with generous budget provision reflecting their commitment to sustaining high-quality prayer experiences for the whole community. Rigorous monitoring and highly effective evaluations by pupils, staff, parents, and governors inform future planning, with this reflective culture driving continual improvement and sustaining excellence.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Anne's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	148092
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	334 3511
Full postal address of the school	Bosworth Drive, Chelmsley Wood, B37 5DP
School phone number	0121 779 8060
Headteacher	Daniel Linehan
Chair of governing board	Paul Bentley
School Website	www.stannessolihull.co.uk
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Multi Academy Company
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Academy
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	September 2019
Previous denominational inspection grade	1

The inspection team

Bernadette Corbett

Jane McNally

Jon Clinton

Lead

Team

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