



Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for **St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Anderton**

URN: 119668

Carried out on behalf of the Most Rev. Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool

Date: 20 – 21 September 2023

Overall effectiveness The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school.....	1
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.....	1
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Collective worship (p.7) The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.....	1
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 fully to the areas for improvement from the last inspection	✓

Summary of key findings

What the school does well

- The whole school community lives out the Catholic life and mission of St. Joseph’s. They rejoice as they, ‘Work, learn and grow together, in God’s love’.
- The learning environment is attractive, well-presented and creatively resourced, to communicate and embrace the Catholic ethos.
- The behaviour and attitude of pupils is exemplary.
- Questioning by adults enables deep learning, resulting in high achievement in religious education.
- Strong and supportive relationships and high-quality pastoral care ensures that everyone thrives at St. Joseph’s.

What the school needs to improve:

- Provide more opportunities for pupils to be actively-involved in evaluating their own work in religious education and in collective worship.
- Widen the range of enrichment visits and visitors, to enhance learning and deepen understanding.
- Provide a wider variety of traditional prayers and opportunities for spontaneous prayer, so that pupils are proficient in responding to scripture in different ways.

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:.....

1

Pupil outcomes

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

1

Provision

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

1

Leadership

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

1

Pupils at St Josephs are confident, happy and unique individuals who understand and live out the Catholic mission of their school. They have been fully-involved in the shaping of the mission statement and motto through a recent review day. They clearly explain how their faith and values, inspired through the scriptures, such as the Beatitudes, drive them into action. They search for opportunities to help others, through their work with Cafod and the call to support their local and global communities. They explain how their class-pledges impact on the world around them and on those in need. They grow vegetables and herbs in the polytunnel and raised beds. They raise money by selling their produce and use the money to help those who are less fortunate. Others respond through litter-picking or through creatively recycling bottles to make seating for the outdoor classroom. They deeply understand the importance of caring for others. They support the elderly of the parish through tea and bingo. Pupils offer an open and friendly welcome to those who join the school from other countries. They show deep respect for themselves and others. One pupil said, 'We respect others' faiths, we treasure their ideas, and we rejoice.' The behaviour and attitudes of pupils is exemplary.

The mission statement is a clear expression of the ethos and work of St Joseph's. The school values, which explicitly demonstrate how the mission is achieved in action are displayed, frequently discussed and shared. Adults live out the mission, in the service they offer to the school and the community. They raised money for Cafod, through the evening Lenten walk to Rivington Pike. All are welcome at St Joseph's, where relationships and pastoral care are

exemplary. Support for those who are most in need is prioritized, for example through the uniform exchange and food bank. These examples of service to others, demonstrate how Christ lives in this school. A staff member stated that, 'Catholic life is the pinnacle of our school; it encompasses everything that we do'. The 'Growing In Faith Together' (GIFT) team and the Mini Vinnies were inspired, by their teachers, to work together for the Cafod Live Simply Award. Now, everyone is enriched, by the creative and physical environment provided, both within and outside the school. The outstanding outdoor spaces, the forest and planting areas, the 'twigloo', the pathways etc. enable everyone to deepen their spiritual life. One parent stated that, 'My child is developing his own personal faith and relationship with God. He has opportunities to explore, ask questions and appreciate the awe and wonder of God's creation'. The programme for relationships, sex and health education meets statutory and archdiocesan requirements. Teaching is well-planned and pupils respond very well.

Leaders and governors are fully committed to upholding the Catholic life and mission of the school. They self-evaluate and make strategic decisions which impact on the Catholic life and mission of St Joseph's. They ensure that the whole curriculum is permeated by religious education. The headteacher is a source of inspiration. She leads by example and places herself at the service of the Archdiocese as a Catholic Schools Inspector. The parish priest describes the headteacher as 'a blessing!' Staff well-being is given high priority and as a result, they feel very well-supported. Pupils contribute to the evaluation and planning of Catholic life and mission and this has impacted greatly on the shaping of the outside areas. Partnerships with parents are highly effective and their views are regularly sought. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about their child's school. One parent stated that, ' My child has been made to feel so welcome and I know how safe and happy she is. This is without doubt down to the caring Catholic ethos that permeates throughout school and is demonstrated by all staff'. Leaders, governors and the parish priest are dedicated to building strong links between the school and the parish. Governors are active members of church groups. They ensure that they direct their skills and expertise to support the mission of the school.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade:.....

1

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education.....

1

Provision

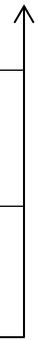
The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education.....

1

Leadership

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

1



Learning in religious education is of the highest quality. Pupils make good progress and achieve high standards, which are in-line with the rates of achievement seen in other core subjects. Attainment is consistently above average. Detailed knowledge, skills and understanding of religious education themes are articulately explained and demonstrated by pupils. They explain how scripture and religious ideas influence their everyday actions and lives. Older pupils discuss The Parable of The Prodigal Son with maturity and understanding of key concepts and vocabulary. A very able year six pupil keeps his own notebook of thoughts and reflections, demonstrating deep theological ideas. Younger pupils explore the story of creation and know that God created them and they are special. Pupils enjoy collaborative work, they listen well and are sensitive to others opinions and ideas about religious themes. They work very well independently, embracing challenging questions and sustaining their concentration. They are curious learners, who want to know more. Their work in books and on display is beautifully and creatively presented. Pupils say that they greatly enjoy their religious education lessons. Year five pupils shared their poems about what makes them unique. One pupil said, 'I like RE because you can connect with God'.

Teachers and supporting adults are highly skilled and they confidently lead lessons. One staff member reported that, 'Religious Education is given an extremely high profile and we do everything we can to ensure that children love this lesson'. Teaching plans are based on a thorough understanding of pupils' starting points, abilities and next steps. Teaching assistants are deployed very well and there is excellent teamwork, which enables pupils to feel secure, supported and loved. In lessons, teachers demonstrate excellent subject knowledge and very high expectations. They model ideas clearly, using flip charts, to support role play and to build

on previous learning. They use a variety of interactive teaching strategies to gather pupils' responses. Probing questions enable pupils to build on their ideas and move their learning forward. All pupils are expected to contribute. Teachers' verbal feedback is highly effective during lessons and pupils are given time to reflect before they respond. Older pupils respond to teachers' written feedback, which is increasingly challenging, in line with the age and ability of pupils. Driver words are used very well in lessons, on working walls and in feedback to ensure that learning is excellent.

The curriculum for religious education is well sequenced and meets the learning required under the *Religious Curriculum Directory* (RED). In reception, children have started to learn about Creation and Covenant, under the new RED. Religious education has full parity with other core subjects, for example planning, marking and feedback and reporting to parents. Professional development for staff and governors is a high priority. Staff who are new to St Joseph's receive training as part of their induction and all staff are supported to achieve the 'Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies.' Well-planned, sensitive and timely monitoring of religious education by leaders is carried out. Standards are informed by enhanced learning walks through religious education lessons. The findings are fed back to staff and governors for discussion and further development of practice. This ensures the accurate identification of strengths and improvement areas. Teachers engage openly with shared 'book-looks.' they moderate assessments together and share best practice. St Joseph's is part of a cluster of schools, which works closely together, for example on planning for religious education in the early years, and moderation of standards. The subject leader's inspiring vision for high-quality teaching in religious education, together with accurate and searching monitoring and evaluation, results in exceptional learning outcomes.

Collective worship

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

Religious education key judgement grade:.....

1

Pupil outcomes

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

2

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



Pupils enjoy and participate fully in prayer and liturgy. A staff member stated that, 'The children are extremely respectful and are aware that God is present in these still moments.' Pupils welcome the scripture with reverence, through words and signs. They confidently read the scripture, which has been heard first in the whole school assembly. They deepen their understanding of these readings during class-based prayer and liturgy. Pupils enjoy time to reflect in silence and some pupils share how the scripture has meaning in their own lives. Themes about forgiveness, empower pupils, who go forth and make changes in their lives. Two younger pupils explained how they had been awarded 'forgiveness wrist bands' and stated, 'God wants us to say sorry'. The impact of the pupils continuing mission can be seen in the written comments which are added to the 'Go Forth' display board in the hall. Pupils embrace the opportunity to lead some aspects of prayer and liturgy. They reverently prepare the focus table, with a cloth, a cross, a candle, artefacts and a Bible. They take this responsibility seriously. To develop this area further, pupils should evaluate the quality of the prayer and liturgy they have planned and extend the variety of ways of praying that are part of the Catholic tradition.

Prayer and liturgy are central to everyday life at St Joseph's. Teachers ensure that there is a well-embedded, daily pattern of prayer which offers pupils and staff a range of experiences and ways to pray. Well-chosen scripture passages follow the churches season or explore relevant themes, for example, the 'Beatitudes' are well known, because they inspire the school's mission. Staff are inspiring role models in leading class prayer and liturgy. They create an atmosphere of calm, using music and candles. They model prayers and share personal

experiences. They welcome and proclaim the Gospel through word and symbolic gesture. Pupils are supported as they plan and lead aspects of worship. Staff willingly share their talents to enhance provision for prayer and liturgy. Musicians on the staff support singing in assemblies and join with the church music groups for times of extra special celebration. The 50th anniversary Mass with the Bishop, in which the forest area was blessed, was a joyful expression of God's creation, with the whole community. Scripture, prayers and religious symbols are at the centre of beautiful creative spaces and displays around the school. These are places of reflection, where pupils are reminded of their uniqueness through art displays which reflect the word of God. Families are invited to class assemblies, the monthly family Mass and to special celebrations throughout the year. One parent said, 'This school takes the children to church regularly and my child absolutely loves to be in church, singing and learning'.

The policy for prayer and liturgy is carefully formed and used by staff so that pupils participate in prayer and liturgy which is reflective of their age and stage of development. The liturgical calendar supports planning for Masses and worship. Holy days, significant events, the monthly Family Mass, and the feast day for St Joseph are celebrated. Sacramental provision is regularly offered. The last year has ensured a welcome return to community celebrations for this close, family school. Continual professional development is given high priority, led by the headteacher, through staff meetings and archdiocese training. Leaders are highly-effective at providing engaging, high quality, liturgical opportunities, which then enhance the skills of other staff. Regular monitoring and evaluation, by leaders and governors ensures that prayer and liturgy is prioritised, is of high quality and very well resourced. The Link Governor is a regular visitor to the school and has joined in prayer and liturgy and witnessed the responses of the pupils, who are, 'All involved and keen to join in'. Self-evaluation is effective and has greatly improved the quality of provision for prayer and liturgy at St Joseph's.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Anderton
School unique reference number (URN)	119668
Full postal address of the school	Rothwell Road, Anderton, Chorley, Lancs, PR6 9LZ
School phone number	01275 480598
Name of head teacher or principal	Fiona Brownsey
Chair of governing board	Debra Butterworth
School Website	www.st-josephs-anderton.lancs.sch.uk
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	Not applicable
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age-range of pupils	4 - 11
Trustees	Archdiocese
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	17 th May 2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

The inspection team

Christine Mason	Lead inspector
Julie Littler-Shire	Team inspector
Name of inspector	Lead/team
Name of inspector	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

