



# St Anne's Roman Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy

URN: 151517

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Salford

11–12 February 2026

## Summary of key findings

### Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

2

#### 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

#### Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

1

#### Collective worship (p.7)

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

2

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Fully

## What the school does well

- Relationships across the school are exceptionally strong, nurturing a community rooted in respect, care and gospel values.
- The mission statement is clearly lived out by all, with the whole community consistently guided by the rule of love.
- Pupils take on a wide range of meaningful leadership roles that significantly enrich the Catholic life and mission of St Anne's and enhance collective worship opportunities.
- Pupils enjoy religious education and engage enthusiastically in lessons that deepen their understanding and faith.
- Strong partnerships with parents and the parish enrich the prayer life of the school and strengthen its Catholic community.

## What the school needs to improve

- Teachers should provide specific, targeted feedback in religious education that identifies next steps clearly and ensures all pupils understand how to improve their work and deepen their learning.
- Enable pupils to evaluate the quality of prayer and liturgy consistently and confidently, helping them identify strengths and areas for improvement.
- Implement a structured, developmental approach that builds pupils' skills in planning, leading and participating in prayer and liturgy, ensuring clear progression from the Early Years Foundation Stage to other key stages.

## 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

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

1

Pupils at St Anne's make an exceptional contribution to the Catholic life and mission of the school. They speak confidently and proudly about their identity as children of God and live out the school's mission with sincerity and joy. Their understanding of what it means to be 'guided by the rule of love' is deeply embedded, and they demonstrate this daily through acts of kindness, forgiveness, and service. Pupils participate enthusiastically in charitable outreach, including the Christmas toy appeal for refugee families through St Benedict's Parish, the Caritas harvest food drive supporting the Salvation Army, and fundraising for Mary's Meals. Their commitment to social action is strengthened further through leadership opportunities such as the Growing in Faith Together Team, Laudato Si' Leaders, Peacemakers, and the Caritas Team, with all Year 6 pupils taking leadership or community-service roles. Behaviour across the school is exemplary. Pupils treat one another with dignity and respect, creating an inclusive and nurturing environment. They contribute meaningfully to prayer, liturgy, and worship, and many demonstrate enjoyment in planning and leading these celebrations. The strong relationships between pupils, staff, and families enrich the school's lived mission. Pupils' joyful participation in initiatives such as the 'Sunday singing superstars' reflects their wholehearted engagement in the life of the Church and school community.

The provision for Catholic life and mission at St Anne's is outstanding. The school's mission is clearly articulated, highly visible, and woven purposefully through every aspect of school life. Pupils talk confidently about ways in which they follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Staff model the mission with integrity and warmth, creating a family like community in which every child feels known, valued, and loved. Pastoral care is exceptionally strong. Staff go above and beyond to support pupils and families, offering compassionate inclusion and tailored provision so that all

children experience success. The curriculum is enriched with meaningful opportunities for pupils to engage deeply with Catholic social teaching, from visiting care homes to participating in charitable outreach led by the Caritas ambassadors. Strong relationships between staff, pupils, and families underpin a joyful and supportive community, and parents overwhelmingly affirm the school's welcome, communication, and care. They show strong support through high levels of engagement and attendance at all events. Safeguarding practice is firmly rooted in gospel values, with staff acting sensitively and swiftly to support families through practical help and early intervention. Prayer and liturgy sit at the heart of school life, supported by regular worship and strong pupil leadership. The school environment reflects Catholic identity powerfully through high-quality displays, sacred spaces, and visible witness to the mission. This mission-driven provision enables all members of the St Anne's community to flourish in faith, service, and love.

Leaders articulate a clear, gospel rooted vision that places faith at the centre of school life, modelling the mission with authenticity and conviction. Their commitment to reviewing and further embedding the mission theme, the rule of love, ensures that Catholic identity continues to develop and flourish across the community. Partnerships with parents and the parish are a significant strength. Leaders create meaningful opportunities for families to engage in prayer and celebration, including stay and pray sessions and the grandparents' afternoon tea, strengthening the home-school-parish relationship. The school works closely with the parish in worship and sacramental preparation, and governors take an active role in monitoring Catholic life, ensuring accountability and visible support. Monitoring of Catholic life is ongoing. Leaders and governors draw on pupil voice, which is highly valued, evaluation of questionnaires, and regular visits to school to support improvement. Catholic social teaching is woven purposefully through the curriculum, supported by training and pupil leadership groups. Staff well-being is prioritised, promoting a culture of dignity and mutual care.

## Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

### Religious education key judgement grade

**Pupil outcomes**

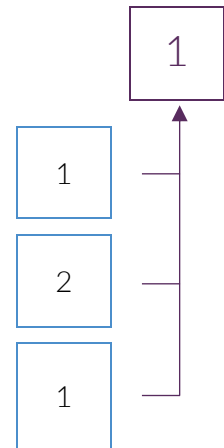
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

**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 demonstrate high levels of engagement, enjoyment, and achievement in religious education. They respond enthusiastically to a rich variety of creative teaching approaches, including drama, artwork, role play, and the exploration of scripture. These methods help pupils develop secure understanding, make meaningful connections, and articulate ideas with clarity and confidence. Religious literacy is well developed. Pupils use subject specific vocabulary accurately and recall and interpret scripture confidently through discussion, flashback activities, and application to their own lives. Pupils explained in detail during an observed lesson ways in which they could build the kingdom of God. Progress is strong across the school. Monitoring, assessment information, and pupil voice demonstrate that pupils, including those with special educational needs and or disabilities, make sustained and sometimes accelerated progress. Many pupils achieve as well as, or better in, religious education than in other core subjects. Pupils are reflective, curious learners who show an ability to explore deeper meanings within scripture. Their work is consistently of a high standard and presented with great pride. They enjoy expressing their faith creatively and respond positively to creating and reflecting on examples of religious art. Their engagement in religious education enhances their spiritual development and strengthens the Catholic mission of the school.

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education at St Anne's is good. The curriculum is well planned and rooted in the *Lighting the Path* programme, ensuring clear alignment with the *Religious Education Directory*. Lessons are creative, engaging, and varied, with teachers skilfully using drama, artwork, freeze frames, storytelling, and outdoor learning to bring scripture and key concepts to life. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, children explore stories such as Jesus and the fishermen through role play, building strong early foundations. Teachers use flashbacks effectively to consolidate prior learning and strengthen pupils' ability to make

connections across units. Scripture is deliberately woven through lessons, prompting pupils to reflect, respond, and consider how Gospel values relate to their lives. Adaptive teaching ensures that pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities access learning successfully. Staff benefit from training provided by the diocese and from collaboration with cluster schools, which strengthens confidence and subject knowledge. Pupils demonstrate curiosity and enthusiasm, and they enjoy their religious education lessons. As the curriculum continues to embed, a clear next step is to refine assessment. More precise and targeted feedback will contribute to pupils understanding how to deepen their thinking and improve their work, supporting progress towards an outstanding judgement.

Leaders articulate a clear, ambitious, and deeply rooted vision for religious education, ensuring that it is taught with rigour, fidelity to the *Religious Education Directory*, and a strong sense of mission. They demonstrate secure subject knowledge, model practice, and work closely with staff to ensure consistency in teaching. Early career teachers feel well supported, and the subject leader willingly shares expertise, contributing significantly to strong practice across the school. Leaders ensure a well-designed and carefully implemented curriculum incorporating *Lighting the Path*, diocesan planning, and *Caritas in Action*. They enrich learning through visits, interfaith experiences, and outdoor opportunities that help pupils make meaningful connections between faith, life, and creation. Monitoring is robust and systematic. Book looks, lesson visits, planning scrutiny, and pupil voice activities provide leaders and governors with a clear understanding of strengths and areas for refinement. Professional development is a notable strength, with staff accessing diocesan training, cluster networks, and coaching in school. Leaders' reflective and collaborative approach ensures continual improvement, resulting in a vibrant and high-quality religious education provision that enables pupils to flourish academically and spiritually.

## 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

2

**Provision**

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

2

**Leadership**

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

2

2

Pupils at St Anne's participate respectfully and enthusiastically in prayer and liturgy. They enter prayer with reverence and calm focus and engage fully in reflection, prayer, and silence. Their singing is joyful and heartfelt, contributing to a strong sense of community and shared faith. Pupil voice shows that pupils look forward to collective worship and value opportunities to reflect and deepen their relationship with God. Members of the Growing in Faith Together Team confidently plan and deliver Celebrations of the Word, selecting scripture, preparing prayers, and shaping the 'go forth' mission. Younger pupils support with preparing prayer spaces and responding to Gospel messages. Pupils demonstrate secure understanding of the liturgical year and recognise how colours, symbols, and themes support prayer. Prayer spaces in classrooms, the chapel, and outdoor areas support reflection. Pupils speak confidently about how worship influences their choices and relationships. As provision continues to strengthen, an important next step is to deepen pupils' skills in evaluating the worship they lead and experience so that they can refine and enrich future celebrations.

Prayer and liturgy is central to the life of St Anne's and is planned thoughtfully to provide a rich daily pattern of prayer that nurtures pupils' spiritual growth. Worship is reverent, inclusive, and rooted firmly in the traditions of the Church. Staff model commitment to the prayer life of the community. Scripture is used meaningfully across the school, enabling pupils to deepen understanding and make links between the Gospel and their lives. Staff support pupils well in planning Celebrations of the Word, ensuring sessions follow the four-part model and promote thoughtful participation. Worship takes place in a variety of sacred spaces, including the chapel, classrooms, the hall, the peace garden, and the laudato si' forest, where a group of pupils helped plan and develop environmental pledges throughout the space. This provides opportunities for reflection on care for our common home and enables prayerful encounters in nature. Music and

singing contribute to a reflective atmosphere, and meditation observed during the inspection in younger classes helps pupils enter worship with calm focus. Prayer tables and the entrance prayer station are maintained carefully and reflect the liturgical seasons or school themes. Parents, parish partners, and governors participate in key celebrations, strengthening Catholic identity. Leaders are developing a wider range of embedded, creative, pupil led, and engaging prayer experiences to deepen worship further and support progress towards outstanding practice.

Leadership of prayer and liturgy at St Anne's is purposeful and reflective. Leaders nurture the school's spiritual life and ensure that prayer and liturgy remain central to daily practice. Staff receive regular guidance and ongoing professional development, which strengthens confidence and skill in planning and leading worship. Policies for prayer and liturgy are established, reviewed, and supported by governors, helping staff deliver meaningful, inclusive, and consistent worship experiences. Leaders and governors understand age-appropriate progression in pupils' participation and are developing a structured, skills-based approach that supports pupils as they grow from guided involvement to increasing independence in planning and leading Celebrations of the Word. Worship is well resourced, and leaders' monitoring and audits ensure that sacred spaces, both indoors and outdoors, remain inviting and of a high standard. Leaders also enrich the prayer life of the school by planning celebrations linked to the school's patron saints and wider Catholic tradition. The feast of St Anne, the saint of grandparents, is marked with joyful celebrations that bring families and the parish community together in prayer. A recent celebration of St Francis, including a 'pray for pets' gathering where families brought their animals to be blessed, offered a creative and engaging opportunity for pupils to reflect on care for creation. As provision continues to strengthen, leaders are embedding the evaluation of prayer and liturgy within the school's wider cycle of self-evaluation and planned improvement, ensuring worship continues to grow in quality, depth, and impact across the community.

## Information about the school

Full name of school	St Anne's Roman Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy
School unique reference number (URN)	151517
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3573327
Full postal address of the school	Clarendon Road, Audenshaw, Manchester, M34 5QA
School phone number	01613708698
Executive headteacher	N/A
Headteacher	Stephanie Clarke
Chair of local governing body	Maureen Daly
School Website	<a href="https://stannesprimaryaudenshaw.co.uk/">https://stannesprimaryaudenshaw.co.uk/</a>
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Academy
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	13 June 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

## The inspection team

Anne-Marie Bell  
Caroline Boden

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