

PARENT POWER

Best primary schools in England 2022

See the highest-achieving primary schools and learn more about Parent Power's Primary School of the Decade



Friday December 03 2021, 6.00am, The Sunday Times

rom helping to convince City airport and Tate & Lyle Sugars to give

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their lowest-paid staff a pay rise to raising money to help children less fortunate than themselves, pupils at St Antony's Catholic Primary School in Newham, east London, one of the UK's most deprived boroughs, have a keen sense of social justice as well as plenty of academic ambition.

"The first thing that I want is to make sure we are turning out children who

are going to be socially well adjusted, very conscious of what they can do to

help to make the society that we live in a better place," says Angela Moore, the head teacher of the top-performing primary school in England and our Primary School of the Decade. When Sir David Amess, the MP for Southend West, was killed in October, St Antony's held an assembly to remember its former pupil. "We did a special

assembly about him because we said here is someone who has lived the St

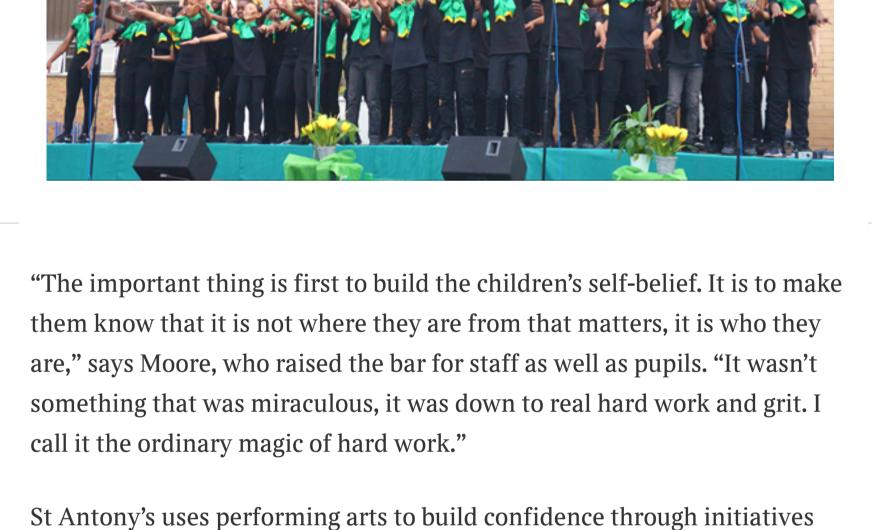
Antony's message and mantra, and that is you make a difference wherever you are, and if you go into something, go into it 100 per cent to make a difference in the lives of people," Moore says. "It doesn't stop when you leave St Antony's. You carry that same passion and that same message with you on into life."





bottom to top over the past ten years that caught the eye when adjudicating on our award. It was also our Primary School of the Year two years ago. Moore, who moved to the UK from Jamaica in 2003, set about changing the culture and ethos of the school, raising expectations through a "can do" attitude, and challenging perceptions that being on the special educational needs and disabilities (Send) register was an excuse to underachieve or

that being "deprived" was naturally linked to low attainment.



including music videos and songs for its campaign to promote the London

This 158-year-old school, now part of the Our Lady of Grace Academy Trust,

has a track record of producing outstanding results. Based on the outcomes

living wage, tapping into the talents of parents including Saloum N'jie, a

film director, and the rapper D Double E.

of the three most recent standard assessment tests (Sats), year 6 pupils attained an average scaled score of 113.7 for reading, 114.3 for maths and 116.3 for grammar, punctuation and spelling, where scoring 100 represents meeting the expected attainment level of an 11-year-old. St Antony's — where 57 per cent of pupils speak English as an additional language, 20 per cent have special educational needs and many parents

work two jobs to make ends meet — tops the table by a significant margin,

the leading school among 15,000 English primaries.

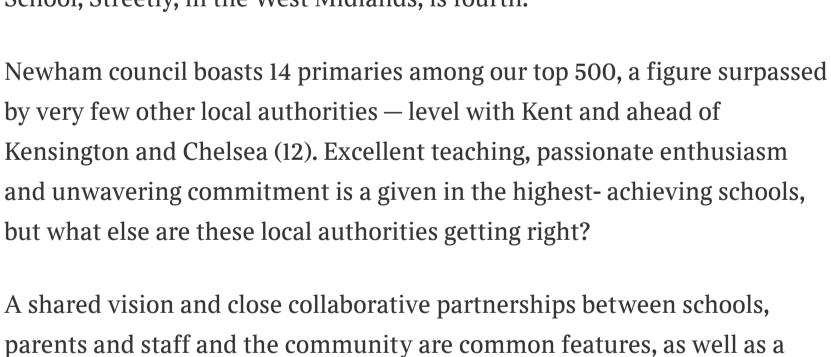
Since the introduction of the new-style Sats in 2016, the strong



beyond the classroom.

families.

says.



curriculum," says Anita Stewart, Newham council's director of education, who took up her post in February.

She also highlights the stability provided by longstanding heads and

understand the educational and wider needs of their pupils and their

teachers who have spent their entire careers working in the borough and

rich variety of opportunities and experiences to help pupils to develop

"Sats are a factor of the educational journey but actually what's more

important to our schools in Newham is that rich, broad and balanced

Faith also seems to play a part in high achievement. Just under half of our list of the 500 leading primary schools is made up of faith schools, including more than 103 Church of England schools and 128 Roman Catholic primaries. There are also a number of Jewish primary schools. St Antony's plans to introduce an annual community service award at the

year 6 leavers' ceremony in memory of Amess, who was a devout Catholic.

Choosing a winner may be hard. Pupils are very active in the wider

community. "Even though we are from a disadvantaged community, what we teach the children is that there are always people who have less than you, so count yourself as being blessed and don't be afraid to help someone else," Moore

1 St Antony's RC Primary School, Forest Gate, London 2 St Stephen's School, East Ham, London **3** Mayflower Primary School, London 4 St Anne's RC Primary School, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield **5**= Courtland School, London

5= Fox Primary School, London 7 Lowbrook Academy, Maidenhead

The top state primary schools in England

- 8 Bevington Primary School, London **9** Hampden Gurney C of E Primary School, London
- 10 Thomas Jones Primary School, London 11 South Farnham School, Farnham
- 12 Colville Primary School, London
- 13= Oratory RC Primary School, London 13= St Barnabas and St Paul's C of E VA Primary School, Blackburn
- 15= Nicol Mere School, Wigan 15= St John Fisher School, Thamesmead, Erith 17= Evelyn Street Community Primary School, Warrington
- 17= St Joseph's RC Primary School, Willesden, London
- 19= Portswood Primary School, Southampton 19= Scotts Primary School, Hornchurch

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