

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

URN: 102426

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Westminster

05–06 June 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

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

1

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

1

Compliance statement

- The school is fully compliant in relation to the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' conference.
- The school is fully compliant in relation to any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop.
- The school has addressed all areas for improvement from the last inspection.

What the school does well

- The school community fully embodies the mission statement, making it a lived reality in daily school life.
- Pupils show deep pride in supporting charities, recognising this as following Jesus' call to 'love thy neighbour'.
- Leaders and governors have a clear and inspiring vision for Catholic life and mission, serving as strong role models for the entire community.
- The use of scripture is well embedded across all key stages, helping pupils understand that it is the Word of God.
- Pupils deeply value prayer and liturgy opportunities, sharing their faith confidently with others.

What the school needs to improve

- The school needs to develop strategies to ensure teachers use questioning and feedback effectively and consistently to engage all pupils, adapt teaching in real time and move learning on.
- Ensure that monitoring systems are robust and lead to strategic action, targeted professional development and support.
- Enhance the involvement of the chaplaincy team in planning and delivering prayer and liturgy.

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 Sacred Heart live out the school's mission statement, 'To love and learn with Jesus', with authenticity and conviction. One pupil described it as 'more than a mission statement: it's a way of life'. Pupils' behaviour is exemplary; they are polite and welcoming. They speak enthusiastically about their school with a deep sense of belonging. They feel loved and valued, regardless of background and show genuine respect for one another, as reflected by pupils' comments, 'We all belong here no matter where we come from', and 'we know we are all part of God's family'. Pupils have a deep understanding of the principles of Catholic social teaching, which they put into action by planning and delivering fundraising initiatives for both local and national charities, such as supporting the food bank and the Catholic Children's Society.

Staff and pupils embrace the mission wholeheartedly, ensuring that Christ is truly at the centre of all they do. The whole school community demonstrates a strong culture of welcome and respect, with vibrant, engaging classrooms and shared spaces that create an environment pupils are proud of. Vulnerable pupils are fully supported, and staff act as role models of faith in action. One member of staff shared, 'we aim to treat every child as a valued individual of God', reflecting the culture of kindness and pastoral care. All pupils are given meaningful opportunities to develop spiritually and morally, which parents deeply value, saying they are 'so happy to be part of a school where the Catholic ethos is lived out each day and children are taught how to be compassionate, forgiving and responsible'. The chaplaincy provision is strong, offering regular prayer opportunities and supporting moral, spiritual and educational growth. Year 6 pupils in the Chaplaincy team and the younger Mini Hearts speak enthusiastically about their roles and how they support others in prayer.

The leaders and governors of Sacred Heart are deeply committed to the Church's mission and the Bishop's vision for Catholic education. Leaders and governors see education at Sacred Heart as extending well beyond academic success, focusing on the holistic development of each child.

Parents value this, highlighting the school as a community that lives out its Catholic ethos each day, actively engaging families in their children's faith journey. Leaders and governors make decisions firmly rooted in the teachings of Jesus and Catholic social teaching. Staff are treated with dignity and respect with their well-being prioritised. Governors possess a deep understanding of the school and actively contribute to its evaluation, confidently recognising both strengths and areas for further development. They describe themselves as 'critical friends', offering both challenge and support. The headteacher values the support of the diocese and works closely with the diocesan advisor. Although the school mourned the passing of the former parish priest this year, it has continued to maintain strong links with the parish. Parents are encouraged to participate in worship and celebrations, fostering a strong home-school-parish partnership. They greatly appreciate the regular newsletters that celebrate the Catholic life of the school, keeping them informed and engaged. Leadership at Sacred Heart is faithful to its mission as a Catholic school at the heart of the Church's educational vision.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

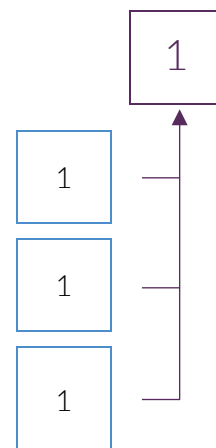
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

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 excellent religious knowledge and understanding. Evidence from book looks and discussions with pupils confirms that they are consistently progressing - knowing more, remembering more and doing more. Pupils spoke confidently about their learning on Pentecost, describing how the Holy Spirit empowers them to act with courage and kindness in their daily lives. They can make connections between the events of Pentecost and their own experiences, sharing examples of how they can be 'brave and strong for others', just as the disciples were. One pupil explained how the story of Pentecost helped them understand the importance of 'sharing the Good News and being a witness to their faith'. They readily articulate how their religious education learning influences their choices and behaviour, making strong links to scripture. Pupils consistently achieve results that are better than average when compared to other core subjects or national data. This has been maintained over the past three years for almost all pupils. Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are well supported in religious education lessons through effective strategies that help them access the curriculum and make good progress. Carefully scaffolded activities help pupils engage meaningfully in their learning. Pupils' behaviour in religious education lessons is exemplary; they engage wholeheartedly in discussions and activities, showing genuine enthusiasm for their learning, which results in work of a high standard. Pupils are eager to improve their work, and in most cases, challenge questions and next-step marking enable them to do so. When used consistently, this provides valuable feedback that deepens learning; however, it does not always successfully move learning on.

Teaching is firmly rooted in strong subject knowledge. Religious education is highly valued as a core subject by staff and pupils alike. Creative activities such as drama, art, Godly play and music help bring religious education alive. Pupils' work and ideas are consistently celebrated - not just in lessons but also in wider school life, as seen in the many impressive displays around school. Teachers use questioning to promote reflection and assess pupils' progress, often employing mini plenaries and discussions to check understanding. However, the effectiveness of

questioning to challenge deeper thinking and extend learning is variable. Teachers do not always develop questioning strategies that engage all pupils and enable real-time adaptations to meet individual needs and accelerate progress.

Leaders and governors ensure that religious education is a faithful expression of the *Religious Education Directory*. The religious education leaders have worked hard to ensure that the curriculum design is delivered in a sequential way with clear progression across year groups, helping pupils build on prior learning and deepen their understanding. Although monitoring is in place, it does not always lead to targeted action and improvement. Nonetheless, governors are kept well informed through detailed updates and show a strong grasp of the school's strengths and next steps. Self-evaluation is informed by analysis of pupil progress, lesson observations and work scrutiny, and all stakeholders are involved in shaping the ongoing development of religious education. Leaders and governors ensure that religious education is given parity with other core subjects through effective budgeting, careful timetabling, training opportunities and resourcing. Leaders provide professional development and support, which staff appreciate, and which helps maintain the high standards in religious education across the school. One parent shared, 'my child learns so much about his Catholic religion and has great pride in attending Sacred Heart'.

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 woven seamlessly into daily life at Sacred Heart. Pupils participate with reverence and enthusiasm in a range of prayer and liturgy experiences, developing a secure understanding of the Church's liturgical year and significantly enriching their spiritual growth. Pupils work collaboratively with peers and adults to prepare creative and well-structured liturgical experiences, demonstrating skill and understanding of the liturgical norms of the Church. However, the involvement of the chaplaincy team could be enhanced to develop the planning and delivery of prayer and liturgy. While pupil-led class worship is carefully planned and delivered, it is essential for the school to ensure that these experiences do not simply become religious education lessons with questions and answers but remain spiritual and prayerful in nature. Children are given opportunities to explore how spiritual experiences shape their behaviour and worldview. A parent commented, 'She loves sharing the prayers she's learned. We are incredibly thankful for how the school has nurtured this part of her life'.

The school have established a daily rhythm of prayer reflecting the rich traditions of the Church. Significant religious events, including Masses and seasonal liturgies, are planned to ensure full, conscious and active participation from pupils and staff. Staff model exemplary practice when leading prayer and worship. They confidently lead meaningful, reflective and joyful worship experiences, whether in class or in larger assemblies. Scripture is thoughtfully chosen and central to worship, with children making strong links to the liturgical season. Parents value these experiences, with one sharing, 'the Christmas Advent Trail was really beautiful', and another appreciating the half-termly newsletters that keep families engaged in the school's prayer life. The pupil chaplaincy team is a vital part of this provision, nurturing the younger pupils' understanding of prayer. One chaplaincy team member shared how they love teaching the younger pupils 'to learn their prayers', during the regular lunchtime clubs that they lead. Prayer spaces across the school are carefully crafted to inspire reverence and quiet contemplation. Pupils value the chapel, prayer garden and copse, which offer them a peaceful retreat to connect more deeply with their faith and feel close to God.

The prayer and liturgy Policy is regularly reviewed, ensuring staff have clarity and confidence to deliver worship. Leaders and governors prioritise prayer and liturgy within the school budget, allocating resources to create beautiful, well-maintained spaces, which inspire and nurture the spiritual life of the whole community. The striking statue of Jesus Christ at the entrance symbolises the centrality of his presence. Professional development in prayer and liturgy happens throughout the year, giving staff the skills and confidence to lead meaningful worship. This commitment to prayer is evident in the enthusiastic participation of staff and pupils, ensuring that worship remains a central and uplifting part of school life for all. Leaders and governors have a clear and inspiring vision for this Catholic school and serve as strong role models for the entire community.

Information about the school

Full name of school	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	102426
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3123405
Full postal address of the school	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Herlwyn Avenue, Ruislip, HA4 6EZ
School phone number	001895633240
Headteacher	Theresa McManus
Co-Chair of governors	Valerie Wendorff & Rowena Geraghty
School Website	http://www.sacredheart.hgfl.sch.uk
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	June 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

The inspection team

Amanda Dowling	Lead
Geraldine Hampton	Team
Daniel Keane	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