

The Champion Catholic Secondary School

URN: 137040

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Brentwood

07–08 November 2024

Summary of key findings

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

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

Compliance statement

- The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference.
- The school is fully compliant with the additional requirements of the diocesan bishop.
- All areas for improvement outlined in the previous diocesan inspection have been addressed in full.

What the school does well

- The generosity of the entire school community towards numerous charitable causes is tremendous.
- The sense of belonging, the charism and the school virtues permeate the whole school.
- The strong links with parishes and parents enable the school community to fully promote and develop the faith of the students.
- The well-being of students and staff is paramount at Campion and leads to a school where all can flourish and grow.
- The student ambassadors are excellent role models in the way they selflessly give of their time in the service of others.

What the school needs to improve

- Introduce a range of tasks in lessons to stimulate greater independence and challenge.
- Develop the core religious education programme to enable students to capture learning fully.
- Implement a systematic monitoring of prayer and liturgy to ensure students experience a consistently authentic experience of worship.

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



Students at The Campion School enjoy a very strong sense of belonging that stays with them throughout life. Testament to this is the considerable number of ex-pupils who return to work at the school in support, teaching and leadership roles. The mission of 'making Christ known to all' is fully embraced and translates into agency for social justice. The students respond generously and energetically to the demands of Catholic social teaching but are only beginning to be able to articulate the theology behind their actions. The school's long tradition and rich Jesuit charism has a great deal of meaning to the students and is a genuine source of pride. The development of the virtues of charity, courage, forgiveness, gratitude, honesty, humility and resilience are a fundamental part of school life and feed into the notion of living in the 'Campion Way'. The impact of the virtues and the lives of the saints associated with them can be seen in the students' interactions with each other and staff. Behaviour is exemplary in lessons and around the school. The students value greatly the school's chaplaincy provision, seeking out opportunities to contribute and help it to grow.

The mission statement, proudly displayed in the school sports hall is a clear and inspiring expression of the educational mission of the Church and of the school's Jesuit foundation. It is known, treasured, lived, and witnessed to throughout the school. Along with the mission, daily life centres around scripture. The lived sense of community at Campion results in a lifelong bond and an active alumni. The school excels in terms of its pastoral offering and goes above and beyond to foster an exceptionally supportive and gracious community where all are valued and respected. Staff expertly model the 'Campion Way' and consistently bear witness to the school's Catholic life and mission. In the last few years, the school environment has been thoughtfully reimaged to more effectively witness to its identity, mission, and charism. The iconography,

murals, vinyls and images of St Edmund Campion and the house saints cleverly tell the school's history and serve as a reminder that at Campion, the enterprise is of God (Auctore Deo). The chaplaincy is central to the life and mission of the school and students value greatly this dimension of school life. The chaplaincy programme is well planned and provides extensive, creative and high-quality opportunities for the spiritual and moral development of pupils and staff.

Leaders and governors have great ambitions for the school and their inspirational leadership engenders a confident Catholic community where students and staff can flourish. Strategic planning is carried out with a very clear purpose and vision to ensure students are educated with a view to having an active faith. This was most keenly demonstrated by a sixth former's comment on the Church's commitment to the Common Good: "Our Catholic nature is universal; we are here to dedicate every single part of our life to God... it underpins all that we do". As a consequence of strong communication, the school enjoys excellent relationships with parents/carers. They have a thorough understanding of the school's mission and are highly supportive of it. The school's detailed and accurate self-evaluation demonstrates a genuine commitment to continuous improvement. This leads to well-targeted and timely improvements, often creatively conceived with key partners, to further enhance the Catholic life and mission of the school. There is a steadfast commitment to supporting staff new to the school. To that end, the headteacher and chaplain have developed an effective and focused induction programme to inspire all staff to participate actively in, and contribute to, the Catholic life and mission of the school.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

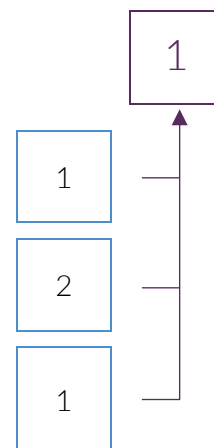
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

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



Throughout the school, students develop excellent knowledge and understanding and skills that exemplify the learning required by the *Religious Education Directory* and the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*. Students' books in every year group attest to the fact that they make excellent progress in their learning when measured against the planned curriculum for each year. At GCSEs, outcomes have improved in recent years with students in religious education achieving above average attainment when compared with the national average. The number of entries for A level Religious Studies is steadily increasing with students attaining well. Students are appreciative of their teachers' efforts and in the main, they enjoy religious education. The presentation of work in books is neat and completed to a high standard. Behaviour is exemplary in lessons, with students focusing very well on learning and demonstrating high levels of collaboration with staff and peers. Pupils speak fluently about their learning in religious education and can make links with prior learning. Their strong oracy skills and theological literacy enables them to ask incisive questions to move their learning on. During the inspection, this was very well demonstrated in a Year 13 lesson on the signs in John's Gospel, where the class analysed John 5: 1-17. Students have a clear understanding of what grade they are working at, what they are aiming for and what they need to do to in order to reach it.

Teachers at Campion are wholly committed to the value of religious education and they understand the impact it can have on the students' spiritual and moral development. Religious education teachers have strong subject knowledge which they use to good effect to produce sequential planning, whereas, in sixth form core religious education, greater attention needs to be given to the planning to ensure learning is fully captured in a consistent fashion across the various topics. Where learning is at its best, teachers use questioning skilfully to elicit articulate responses and to consolidate and develop knowledge and understanding. Teachers create a

positive environment for learning where students feel comfortable and can ask questions. In Key Stage 4 and 5 lessons, tasks are linked to exam questions to provide focus and help with preparation. However, there is not enough variety in the tasks offered in lessons which in turn limits independence and the level of challenge.

Leaders have ensured that the RE curriculum faithfully reflects the learning required in the *Religious Education Directory* and the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory* and that religious education has at least full parity with other core curriculum subjects in relation to resourcing, timetabling, staffing and accommodation. Professional development is seen as a key priority by the school and all members of the department are given the opportunity to select relevant sessions from the school's termly calendar. In addition, the team avail themselves of every opportunity to attend subject specific training and to work closely with other Catholic schools. The headteacher, subject leader, second in charge and the link governor work closely together to ensure that governors are kept informed and that there is an ongoing striving for improvement. The subject leader has an inspiring vision for religious education which is shared by the whole department and supported by the senior team. There is a sense of ambition for religious education and a comprehensive plan in place to secure improvements in all areas of the department. The collegiate and open approach of the religious education lead is recognised and appreciated by both the team and students.

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

At Campion, there are daily opportunities for the school community to pray and reflect which engages most students and leads them to full, active and conscious participation. Students possess a sound understanding of the different ways of praying in the Catholic tradition but the annual plan of provision should be developed to better reflect this wide variety. The introduction of the daily Ignatian Examen after lunch provides students with a timely opportunity for spiritual reflection and development. Students value this well-established, regular space for guided reflection and stillness. Owing to support from the chaplain and the music department, students enthusiastically undertake liturgical ministries, such as reading, serving on the altar and singing in the choir with confidence, understanding and skill. The liturgical calendar serves as the foundation of the programme for prayer and reflection, with students experiencing the full richness of the liturgical year through the use of colours, scripture, artwork and devotions. There is a tradition of house captains leading liturgy in school through the assembly cycle and although it is guided by the chaplain, students feel equipped and empowered to lead prayer and to evaluate its efficacy.

Prayer and liturgy are undoubtedly central to this reflective school community. The annual plan of provision ensures there is a well thought through pattern of prayer in the school. The morning offering prayed each day in tutor time is embraced by students in the lower school but as they progress through the school, participation wanes and its impact lessens. Students enjoy regular experiences of Mass at key points in the liturgical year. Students also have regular opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and have an excellent annual retreat programme they value highly. The chapel is well used by the school community to promote prayer, worship and reflection. The chaplain makes a significant positive contribution in leading prayer and liturgy.

The local clergy, who are regular visitors, also make a considerable contribution to the liturgical experience of staff and students.

The impressive musical tradition adds a unique depth and richness to the liturgical and sacramental life of the school and this is rightly celebrated and held in high regard by the local community.

Leaders and governors ensure that prayer and liturgy have a high profile in the school. Staff have received training about the structure of prayer and liturgy and there is a clear understanding among staff that the delivery of high-quality prayer and liturgy in all its forms is a priority within the school. The impact of the chaplain on the broad range of ways of praying in the school cannot be overstated. He can confidently articulate the Church's understanding of the relationship between participation and ministry. Leaders including governors ensure that students feel supported and able to produce prayerful daily activities. Staff, including senior leaders, are inspiring models of exemplary practice, engaging in prayer and liturgy that is genuine and authentic. The school works hard to secure a flourishing partnership with parents and parishes which was echoed by a parent: 'The care and all round family feel at Campion is second to none'.

Information about the school

Full name of school	The Champion Catholic Secondary School
School unique reference number (URN)	137040
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3114700
Full postal address of the school	The Champion Catholic Secondary School, Wingletye Lane, Hornchurch, RM11 3BX
School phone number	001708452332
Headteacher	Paul Larner
Chair of governors	Brenda Underwood
School Website	http://www.thecampionschool.org.uk
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	The Champion School
Phase	Secondary
Type of school	Academy
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	11-18
Gender of pupils	Boys & mixed VI Form
Date of last denominational inspection	24 th April 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	1

The inspection team

Nancy Conoboy	Lead
Dermot O'Neill	Team
Josephine Erokwuj	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