



All Saints Catholic Secondary School

URN: 101247

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Brentwood

16–17 October 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

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

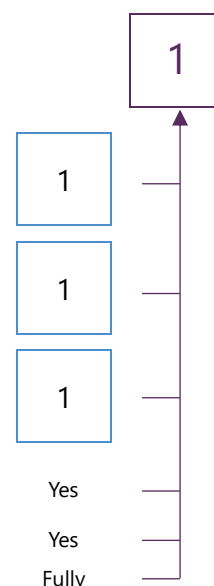
Collective worship (p.7)

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

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

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

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



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 any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop.
- The school has responded fully to the areas for improvement from the last inspection

What the school does well

- The authentic vision of exceptional Catholic education is lived out in the school mission statement of 'One in Christ' and permeates every aspect of this joyful and harmonious community.
- Leaders, and governors, are inspirational in how they have ensured that the students are at the heart of all that they do, which results in a school where the needs of all are fulfilled.
- Through a well thought out and embedded curriculum, robust assessment, effective teaching, and consistent practice, students are engaged and enjoy religious education resulting in excellent progress made by all groups.
- The chaplaincy team has enabled the students to thrive in their Catholic faith through participation, engagement and leadership of collective worship.
- This spirit filled community celebrates the Word through student led daily prayer, singing and celebrating.

What the school needs to improve

- To construct and implement a leadership programme, grounded in Catholic theology, designed to support the growth and development of senior, middle, and aspiring non-Catholic leaders.

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

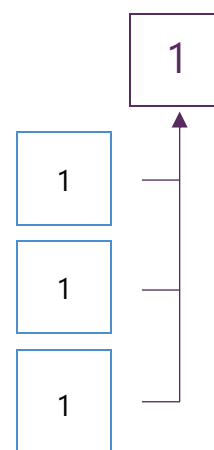
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

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



The concept of RUAH (Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour) is the living philosophy that permeates every aspect of this exceptional Catholic school. Pupils and staff alike embody a shared understanding that faith is lived, not merely spoken. The consistency in language, actions and witness from all staff has created a culture rooted in love, respect and the Gospel values. The school's Catholic identity is deep and authentic, described by one member of the Chaplaincy Team as, *'We are the embodiment of Christ in our school.'* This genuine spirituality is visible in the high standard of displays throughout classrooms and communal areas, which reflect the school's mission, charism and Catholic social teaching. Pupils are known, valued and loved as unique individuals. Their confidence and security are evident in both learning and social settings. Relationships among staff and pupils are exceptionally positive, marked by mutual respect and a shared love of learning. The behaviour of pupils is exemplary, contributing to a calm, purposeful learning environment. The Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching permeate every curriculum area, as staff confidently model and integrate these principles into teaching and daily life.

Provision for Catholic Life and Mission is outstanding. The school's mission statement is consistently lived and witnessed throughout every aspect of school life, including lessons, pastoral care, inclusivity, and a rich variety of extra- and super-curricular opportunities for all pupils. Initiatives such as adaptive judo sessions demonstrate the school's commitment to ensuring all pupils can participate, succeed, and engage meaningfully in activities that promote personal growth and wellbeing. The school fosters a strong sense of welcome, enabling staff to flourish in their roles and contribute confidently to the Catholic life of the school. Pupils recognise and value this supportive environment, one stating, 'The Wednesday Club provides me with a safe space and I cherish it,' while another reflected, 'The chaplains are incredible people; we wouldn't be who we are without them.' The personal, social, health and economic education programme is of the highest quality, particularly the planning and delivery of relationship and sex education through 'The Theology of the Body', which provides pupils with a

profound understanding of relationships, morality, and Catholic teaching. Across all areas, the provision nurtures faith, compassion, and confidence, ensuring pupils experience a rich, holistic, and inspirational Catholic education that aligns fully with the school's mission

Leadership of Catholic Life and Mission is outstanding. Senior leaders and governors demonstrate deep understanding of the school's unique Catholic character and can clearly articulate its mission, ensuring it remains at the heart of all decision-making. They are highly ambitious for its ongoing development and the spiritual formation of every pupil. Continuous professional development, including the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies course for the and heads of year, ensures staff have an enhanced knowledge of the faith and are confident in leading the Catholic life of the school. Catholic social teaching is embedded across the staff body; all understand their responsibility for nurturing pupils' moral and spiritual growth and model these values consistently. Induction of new staff is purposeful and supportive, enabling them to contribute confidently to learning and the school's Catholic mission. One staff member noted, 'Induction is an opportunity to welcome people into the school and reassure them. There is an aura as soon as you enter this place for the first time.' Partnerships with parents are exceptionally strong. Communication, pastoral support, and participation in liturgical life are highly effective, with parents expressing pride and admiration for the school. Policies and practices place students at the centre while caring for staff, ensuring a flourishing Catholic community.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

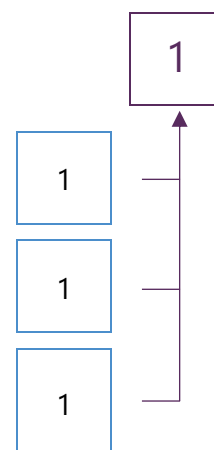
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

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



Outcomes in Religious Education are outstanding. Students consistently achieve significantly above national averages and make excellent progress from their starting points. A level results are strong, reflecting high levels of subject mastery and deep understanding of Catholic theology and moral teaching. Students demonstrate a clear awareness of their target grades, can accurately identify their current attainment, and articulate with confidence the steps needed to improve further. Across all key stages, pupils are fully engaged in lessons, showing enthusiasm, curiosity and a genuine love of learning in religious education. The quality of questioning by teachers is consistently high, prompting deep reflection and ensuring that pupils develop critical thinking and a sophisticated command of Catholic literacy. Students respond thoughtfully and confidently, exploring moral, theological and philosophical issues with maturity. The Key Stage 3 curriculum is carefully designed to build strong foundations for success at GCSE, ensuring that all pupils are well prepared both academically and spiritually. As a result, students demonstrate a profound understanding of faith in action, scripture, and the teachings of the Church. Their achievement and engagement in religious education are a living expression of the school's Catholic mission and values.

The provision for religious education is outstanding. The department is staffed by highly qualified expert teachers whose passion for their subject and deep theological knowledge inspire pupils to excel. Relationships between staff and pupils are excellent, creating a respectful and engaging learning environment where every learner feels valued and supported. A consistent approach to curriculum delivery ensures that all pupils, regardless of class or teacher, receive the same rich and challenging diet of learning. Assessment and feedback are exemplary, promoting rapid progress and enabling pupils to understand how to improve. The religious education Assessment Booklets are a benchmark of excellent practice, providing explicit guidance that empowers all pupils to 'close the gap' and raise their confidence. The innovative 'Take Ten' recall strategy is deeply embedded across the school,

strengthening retrieval practice and fostering pride in achievement. The learning environment celebrates the subject's centrality — the religious education department is prominently located in the school's main corridor, symbolising its role as the core of the core. Pupils' presentation of work is exceptional, reflecting their pride and commitment. Achievement is regularly celebrated through recognition systems, reinforcing a culture of excellence and joyful learning in religious education.

Leadership of religious education is outstanding. The curriculum leader has a clear and ambitious vision of excellence for all students, ensuring that the subject remains firmly at the heart of the school's Catholic mission. Through consistent expectations, high standards, and the effective sharing of best practice, lessons are exceptionally well planned, resourced and delivered. This results in a coherent, challenging, and inspiring experience for every learner. The strategic leadership of the department, particularly through the robust implementation and resourcing of the *Religious Education Directory* (RED), has enabled pupils to achieve beyond their target grades and to deepen their understanding of faith and life. Continuous professional development opportunities ensure staff are confident, knowledgeable and reflective practitioners, contributing to sustained improvement and excellence. Forensic monitoring and evaluation of teaching and outcomes drive continuous refinement of practice. Enrichment opportunities within religious education allow pupils to explore the rich diversity of faith and community, fostering inclusion and respect. Governors are well informed about the strengths and areas for development within the curriculum, providing both challenge and support. The overall impact is one of visionary, faith-filled leadership that transforms learning and lives.

Collective worship

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

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

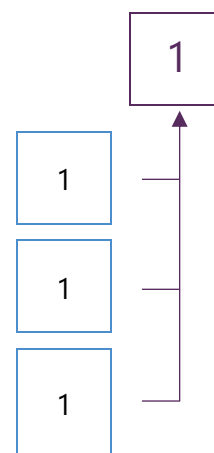
How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

Leadership

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



Prayer and liturgy are central to the daily life of the school, shaping both learning and community. Prayer before every lesson and the reverent recitation of the Angelus at midday provide sacred moments of calm, reflection, and spiritual renewal for all. Pupils fully engage in these practices with sincerity and respect, demonstrating deep understanding of their spiritual significance. All pupils are actively involved in leading prayer and liturgy, with fortnightly form assemblies designed and led by students from Key Stage 3 through to Key Stage 5. These gatherings promote reflection, discernment, and the use of scripture, nurturing confidence and spiritual leadership. The annual plan of prayer and liturgy offers a rich variety of liturgical experiences - Mass, music, craft, and communal singing - that celebrate the beauty and diversity of Catholic faith. The RUAH values, together with the three strands of Sacrament, Virtue, and Charity, permeate all aspects of school life, inspiring pupils to live out truth, goodness, and beauty. Pupils articulate eloquently how prayer shapes their faith journey, with one stating, 'In my walk with Christ, I had a lot of questions, and the Wednesday Club provides me with a safe space and answers —and I cherish it.'

Prayer and liturgy are central to the life of the school, shaping its rhythm and reflecting a deep, authentic Catholic identity. A wide range of significant moments of both joy and sorrow are marked with reverence and creativity, allowing pupils to share their prayer intentions openly and feel spiritually supported by their community. One staff member observed, 'The senior leadership team are inspiring and bring faith to all that we do,' reflecting the strength of leadership in this area. The chaplaincy lead provides high-quality scaffolded resources that enable both staff and pupils to lead worship with confidence and skill, ensuring consistency and excellence across all year groups. The creativity of prayer and liturgy enriches the experience for everyone, fostering deep engagement and reflection. The chapel is the beating heart of the school, complemented by sacred spaces such as the St Francis Peace Garden, Laudato Si windows, and displays of Scripture and house saints that ensure prayer

permeates the entire environment. The front foyer, featuring handmade jubilee doors, is used for charitable acts and community service, helping pupils find purpose in their call to serve the common good. The overall provision is prayerful, inclusive, and life-giving.

Governors are regular visitors to the school and actively participate in worship, demonstrating strong support and understanding of its central role in school life. Senior leaders are front and centre, promoting, monitoring, and evaluating prayer and liturgy to ensure the highest standards and quality are consistently achieved. The school operates a planned, cohesive, and comprehensive liturgical calendar, including the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharist, Liturgy of the Word, and other key celebrations. Mission Week, culminating in the Feast of All Saints, provides students with opportunities to discern and apply their call to serve as Eucharistic ministers, mission group leaders, and in other ministries, fostering leadership, responsibility, and spiritual growth. The chaplaincy team know their students well, understanding their individual and collective contexts, and plan accessible, meaningful, and relevant worship experiences tailored to every form class, year group, House, and the whole school community, including staff. The impact of leadership is evident in the exceptional engagement of pupils and staff in prayer and liturgy, which is both high quality and spiritually enriching. Through skilful planning, rigorous evaluation, and visionary leadership, prayer and liturgy are embedded deeply into the life of the school, inspiring faith, reflection, and a sense of shared mission.

Information about the school

Full name of school	All Saints Catholic Secondary School
School unique reference number (URN)	101247
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3014703
Full postal address of the school	Terling Road, Wood Lane, Dagenham, Essex, RM8 1JT
School phone number	02082704242
Headteacher	Clare Cantle
Chair of Governors	Dominic Savage
School Website	http://www.allsaintsschool.co.uk/
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Phase	Secondary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	11-18
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	December 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	1

The inspection team

Andrew Bull	Lead
Deirdre McHugh	Team
Dermot O'Neill	Team
Winnie Greer	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