

DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH VALIDATION REPORT



Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO7 7BW.

URN: 137345
 Date of previous validation 7th, 24th, 25th October 2013
Date of this validation 11th and 18th March 2019

Overall effectiveness	Previous validation:	Outstanding
	This validation:	Outstanding

The school community:	Outstanding	Attainment and progress in RE:	Outstanding
The wider community:	Outstanding	Quality of teaching in RE:	Outstanding
Spiritual development:	Outstanding	Leadership and management of RE:	Outstanding
Moral development:	Outstanding	Leadership and management:	Outstanding

This is an Outstanding school

- Oaklands provides an outstanding Catholic education rooted in an exceptional commitment to Catholic Social Teaching.
- The school mission statement is a lived reality, which radiates throughout Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College.
- Students confidently speak about the distinctiveness of their school community and the rich opportunities for personal, spiritual and academic development it provides.
- Students, parents, staff and governors are overwhelmingly positive about their school and are truly 'United by the Cross' in this safe, secure, purposeful and Christ-centred environment where everyone ensures no-one is left behind.
- Attainment is high across all key stages. Religious literacy is exceptional, which is a reflection of the high quality of dialogue evident in RE classrooms.
- Teaching in RE is well planned and delivered in an academic and spiritual manner. Students clearly enjoy the subject and see its value.
- The leadership and management of the RE department is outstanding. Excellent plans are in place to maximise student attainment.
- Oaklands consistently offers the whole school community opportunities to encounter God and develop a relationship with Him.
- Students exude an authentic moral responsibility in all aspects of school life, enabled by the structures and support the school puts in place for them throughout their time at Oaklands. The effortless atmosphere of calm and caring belies the exceptional effort and commitment given by all staff.
- The headteacher and his senior team consistently model a professional and authentic approach to Catholic education, which inspires the school community to share a strong sense of purpose, vision and mission. Governors' commitment to the Catholic life of the school is exemplary. Their support and challenge has enabled the school to thrive and grow, united by the cross.

What does the school need to do to improve further?

In order to continue to move forward, the school should consider the following:

- Validators agree with the areas identified by the school for development: Provide varied opportunities for parents to attend worship in school and engage with curriculum events that give them a clear understanding of what is taught in RE.
- The RE department should continue to develop and monitor the effectiveness of strategies to improve progress in KS3 and 4.

Full Report

The school as a Catholic community

The school community:	Outstanding
The wider community:	Outstanding

- The headteacher offers outstanding Catholic leadership of the school. He shares a vision of Catholic education with Governors and his senior team that informs all strategic decisions and provides the foundation for the relentlessly positive ethos ensuring ‘no-one gets left behind.’
- Students speak proudly of the way their community works well together because everyone shares the same caring and compassionate attitude: ‘We are a pretty unique, caring community in this area’. Students recognise that people are different and accept those differences choosing to celebrate shared values and promote equality for all.
- Students also speak of a sense of belonging because staff know them well. Students feel their teachers are ‘so open’ and they are ‘given so much more, so many possibilities at Oaklands – it enriches you, you grow so much here’. A sixth form student said; ‘staying on has been one of the best decisions I have ever made.’
- Relationships are mutually respectful across the school. Students feel their voice is heard.
- Staff, students and governors have a great sense of pride and belonging to this vibrant, caring and compassionate school community.
- The school is supported very well by local clergy and religious. There are strong and established links with a number of local parishes.

Curriculum religious education

Attainment and progress:	Outstanding
Quality of teaching:	Outstanding
Leadership and management of RE:	Outstanding

- Attainment in the key stages remains high.
- Pupil premium and SEN progress remains high and is evident of a holistic approach toward the different members of the student body.
- Teaching continues to be outstanding with lessons having high levels of challenge, and explicit spiritual input.
- The RE department is continuously driving improvement and is constantly developing ideas and resources in order to further student development in RE. Effective strategies to improve progress at KS3 and 4 are being developed.
- Students both enjoy and value their RE lessons in all the key stages and relationships between the department and the student body is very strong. Excellent behaviour for learning was observed in all key stages.
- Leadership of the RE department is outstanding, with a team led by a passionate professional who, alongside the committed senior team, keep RE as a central part of the school.
- The whole RE department are committed to rigorous continuing professional development.
- Members of the department are now working for national Catholic organisations helping in the wider mission of the church beyond the classroom and into other areas of life.

Spiritual and moral development

Spiritual development:

Outstanding

Moral development:

Outstanding

- Prayer is an important part of everyday life at Oaklands in all areas of the school community. Sixth form students spoke about morning prayer in tutor groups giving them ‘a positive mindset to start the day’.
- The headteacher and his senior team are consistent prayerful role models for staff and students are reflective and respectful of each other.
- Examples such as ‘10:10’ week, when all subjects are Gospel driven illustrate the lived reality of the school’s mission.
- The chaplain brings the Chapel into the heart of the school, welcoming all into the presence of God through her ministry. The recently refurbished chapel is a beautiful and fitting gem at the heart of the community.
- Opportunities for celebrating the sacraments are readily taken up students.
- Arrangements for the induction of new staff are outstanding giving staff a clear understanding of the distinctiveness of their role in this Catholic school. New staff understand that there is a broader purpose to education at Oaklands and they are given clear expectations of the role they will play.
- Worship is inclusive, interactive and respectful. Students are thoughtful and respond positively to the many and varied opportunities that are planned for them.
- Behaviour is outstanding. Clear guidelines are followed willingly and respectfully.
- The pastoral care given to students is exemplary. Systems and policies are in place to ensure that students are safe, happy and can prosper at the school. All staff are aware of their professional responsibilities and go ‘above and beyond’ in their care of the students, seeing the value and worth of each individual.
- The most disadvantaged students are given opportunities for growth and personal development, for example in the ‘Young Carers’ group.
- The schools’ development of the ‘Romero Award’ is evidence of the outstanding commitment to Catholic Social Teaching. It is a leading catalyst for change within the Diocese.

Leadership and management:

Outstanding

- The headteacher leads by example in his commitment to serve the school and the wider community. An authentic approach to the calling of educators as role models for young people is evident across the school.
- Governors fulfil their duties with care and a high level of professionalism. They understand the distinctive nature of Catholic education and clearly articulate a vision for the continuing mission of the school in all its aspects.
- The deputy headteacher leading the pastoral element of school life is passionate and exceptional. Her profound understanding and holistic approach to the needs of individuals and the whole community contributes strongly to the positive outcomes and ethos at Oaklands.
- The head of RE is deeply committed to her students and staff, to the subject itself and the ongoing spiritual formation of students at Oaklands.
- The school has engaged very effectively with the self-review process, with all constituent parts of the community being involved. The school has also addressed fully the areas for development highlighted in the previous validation.

School details

Name of school:	Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College
Age range of pupils:	11-18
Gender of pupils:	Mixed
Number of pupils on roll:	1369
Chair of Governors:	Cdr. Marc Evans RN
Headteacher:	Mr. Matthew Quinn

Oaklands is a large secondary school, around 8 miles north of Portsmouth. It is situated in extensive grounds, with administration and RE teaching accommodation in the White House, and a range of purpose built classroom blocks. Governors admit 224 students in Year 7. There are currently 219 students in the Sixth Form. 65.7% of the student population are Catholic. There are 104 members of teaching staff, and 123 support staff. 33.5% of all staff are Catholic.

9.4% of children are on the SEN register. 15.9% of students have English as an Additional Language. 5.7% of students qualify for Free School Meals. 13.3% of students are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. 3.8% of students are from British service families.

Information about this validation

This report to the Bishop of the Diocese under Canon 806 of the Code of Canon Law is also the report to the governors of the school on religious education. For Catholic maintained schools, the report also fulfils the requirements of Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Validation Team

Mr. John Wright	Lead Validator
Miss Lyn Bourne	Assistant Validator
Mr. David Walford	Assistant Validator

Activities carried out as part of the validation

- Ethos walk with Year 11 students.
- Meeting with local clergy and school lay chaplain.
- Meeting with senior leaders.
- Observation of a house assembly, tutor worship and Year 7 worship in the chapel.
- Meetings with students from all key stages.
- Meeting with governors.
- Work scrutiny.
- Meetings with several staff groups.
- Meeting with head of RE.
- Eight RE lesson observations.

Conclusion

The team wishes to thank the school for its very warm welcome and co-operation during the validation process.