

DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH S48 VALIDATION REPORT



Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School

URN: 116478
 Date of previous validation: 30th June – 1st July 2015
Date of this validation: 25th November 2019

Overall effectiveness	Previous s48 validation: Outstanding
	This s48 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

- Bishop Challoner provides an outstanding, inclusive Catholic education and every member of the school community carries Challoner’s call to do ‘ordinary things extraordinarily well’ close to their heart.
- The headteacher leads through highly authentic personal witness and senior staff talk passionately about their commitment to ‘walk with’ the children in their care.
- Positive, caring and supportive relationships are the rich foundation for the journeys staff and students take together at Bishop Challoner.
- This ethos shapes the educational philosophy of the school and informs every pastoral and academic strategy.
- Children at the school recognise this distinctive ethos and celebrate that they are accepted for who they are – they believe they can be themselves at Bishop Challoner.
- Parents are overwhelmingly positive, with many finding the ‘ethos and opportunities provided by Bishop Challoner under the consistent and inspirational leadership of the headteacher, to be outstanding’.
- Governors are fully supportive of the school and provide robust objective challenge to ensure the Bishop Challoner community continues to excel.
- Religious education (RE) has a very high priority within the school and is clearly ‘the core of the core’ leading professional practice and whole school strategy.
- RE results are excellent and the standard of work across all age groups is very high.
- This richly diverse community works effectively together sharing a common purpose to help young people discover, nurture and celebrate their gifts, character and vocation in life.
- There are outstanding opportunities for spiritual formation during the students’ journey through Bishop Challoner. The school provides an authentically Catholic education.
- There are outstanding examples across the school of the school community’s response to Catholic Social Teaching, with students and staff going above and beyond to care for others.

What does the school need to do to improve further?

- In order to continue to move forward the school should consider the following:
- Move to the next stage of planning for a school Chapel and a Muslim prayer space on site.
 - Continue the Key Stage 3 curriculum review with a focus on stretch and challenge and active learning.

Full Report

The school as a Catholic community

The school community:

Outstanding

The wider community:

Outstanding

- The spirit of the Gospel is a lived reality in this school. The mission to do ordinary things extraordinarily well shines through every encounter with staff and students.
- All members of the school community walk with each other through the joys and struggles of life in and out of school. Students and staff spoke eloquently about what this means to them personally.
- Families are at the heart of this truly diverse and inclusive school giving the children the space and love to achieve no matter what.
- Members of the school community described how they ‘love being here’ and felt ‘part of a secure loving, family’ explaining that ‘we have a faith backbone, it is our bedrock.’
- There are outstanding examples across the school of the school community’s response to Catholic Social Teaching, with students and staff going above and beyond to care for others.
- The ‘infusion of different cultures’ here enriches every aspect of school life from a unique perspective on fundraising to help those affected by the recent typhoon to an international ‘bake off’ fundraising event.
- An exceptional pastoral care system provides highly effective care and support for all students, ensuring everyone feels included and listened to - students always come first.
- It is evident throughout the school that every member of the community is valued as a unique person and is treated with respect, acceptance and compassion. This is demonstrated particularly strongly through the work of the pastoral and SEND teams.
- Student voice and student leadership are thriving, with many examples of students having a positive impact on the life of the school. Young people have a clear moral compass which is modelled at the highest level. Their voice is listened to and action is taken as a result of their input.
- Student ambassadors in a variety of roles all have a clear purpose and their work is having a positive impact across the school.
- The school is an active member of the diocesan family of schools and works collaboratively with the parish and local school networks.
- Students and staff are involved in supporting local, national and international charities and, together with their work towards the Romero Award, they have become more aware of issues of social justice, equality and human dignity.
- The link with St Bede’s College and the community in Bamenda remains strong, despite the political difficulties limiting opportunities for travel.

Curriculum religious education

Attainment and progress:

Outstanding

Quality of teaching:

Outstanding

Leadership and management of RE:

Outstanding

- The RE department remains outstanding with excellent results at Key Stage 4 (KS4) and a determination to improve their Key Stage 3 (KS3) curriculum for all learners.
- The KS3 review will benefit from the established collaborative planning using the Teacher Effectiveness Enhancement Programme (TEEP) in regular team meetings, and the commitment to include higher order thinking tasks.
- RE has a very high priority within the school; it is clearly ‘the core of the core’ at Bishop Challoner.
- Results for RE at KS4 remain very high for the school and reflect excellent student attitudes and enthusiasm for the subject.

- Teaching in RE is outstanding with all staff in the department contributing to both the academic and spiritual parts of the curriculum.
- Students enjoy RE and appreciate the extra effort that is put in by staff members to help them both in their academic and faith life.
- Behaviour for learning was outstanding in all lessons observed.
- The RE department is led by an outstanding practitioner who over the years has contributed both to the school and the diocese. She is a key figure within the school who actively promotes the highest standards.
- The RE department have led whole school professional practice, developing and modelling marking strategies for colleagues.
- Innovative strategies have been developed to address the gaps in knowledge and understanding for some Year 7 students at the start of the year.
- The members of the department value the wider school leadership and their placing of the RE department at the heart of the school.

Spiritual and moral development

Spiritual development:

Moral development:

Outstanding

Outstanding

- Prayer is an important part of everyday life at Bishop Challoner in all areas of the school community.
- Worship is enriched by the work and witness of the school chaplain, who facilitates numerous opportunities for staff and students linked to the liturgical year and in response to life events.
- The headteacher, his senior team and governing body are exemplary role models for staff and students through their daily witness in this Christ-centred school.
- There are outstanding opportunities for spiritual formation during the students' journey through Bishop Challoner. The school provides an authentically Catholic education.
- The development of Mission Weeks, retreats and other liturgical celebrations has enriched the spiritual life of the school.
- Students speak positively about the diversity of the school population and how this enriches their community and their experiences in school.
- The Relationships and Sex Education curriculum is developing towards full compliance in September 2020. The Head of RE has shared the parent consultation process with other Diocesan secondary schools and it is a model of best practice.
- The calm and orderly atmosphere in school, underpinned by the wisdom and witness of its leaders and its model of pastoral care, enables students to thrive.
- Behaviour is outstanding. Students self-regulate their behaviour supported by a clear framework of praise and challenge.
- Staff are credible witnesses to those values of justice and reconciliation, which helps students to feel safe and know that issues will be resolved swiftly.
- Governors, staff and students describe a 'family' feel to the school and students in particular talked of the welcome given to all who join Bishop Challoner.
- The student's willingness to take on leadership roles and act as ambassadors bears witness to their moral formation.
- Students outreach to each other through peer mentoring and to the local community are visible signs of their moral development.
- The schools' participation in the 'Romero Award' and the support it has given to Bamenda is evidence of the outstanding commitment to Catholic Social Teaching.

Leadership and management:

Outstanding

- The headteacher, together with the support of his senior team and governors, leads with justice, mercy and wisdom. He is a highly authentic witness in every aspect of his role both within the school and beyond.
- The inclusive and diverse nature of this community rises to the call to do ordinary things extraordinarily well on a daily basis.

- Governors and senior leaders demonstrate outstanding leadership, working together on many levels to move the school forward.
- Leaders do not have a culture of arrival but of continuous improvement, judging themselves against their own high standards, determined to improve the experience for staff, students and families.
- Governors are involved in school, triangulating their evidence carefully and taking opportunities to get to know their school very well indeed.
- Members of the senior leadership team walk alongside their school, having an open door culture and working together with staff to ensure the high quality of experience for pupils
- Staff value the approachability of leaders and feel part of the decision making processes for the development of the school.

School details

Name of school:	Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School
Age range of pupils:	11-16
Gender of pupils:	Mixed
Number of pupils on roll:	876
Chair of Governors:	Mr M O'Driscoll
Headteacher:	Mr John Wright

Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School is an average sized and growing, oversubscribed school serving a wide geographical and pastoral area. The school population is increasingly diverse, with a higher than average proportion of students with English as an additional language. The proportion of disadvantaged students is below average as is the number of students with SEN and/or disabilities.

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

Miss Lyn Bourne	Lead Validator
Mrs Julie Oldroyd	Assistant Validator
Mr David Walford	Assistant Validator

Activities carried out as part of the validation

- Attendance at staff briefing.
- 1 assembly observation, 2 tutor observations.
- 8 part-lesson observations
- Ethos walks with senior students.
- Discussion on the school's self-review documentation.
- Meetings and discussions with 5 student groups.
- Meetings and discussions with the headteacher, head of RE, governors, chaplain, pastoral team, two staff groups.
- Parental survey and community meeting
- Work scrutiny

Conclusion

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