



# Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Primary School

URN: 148085

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Birmingham

19–20 September 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 fully complies 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 archbishop.
- The school is fully compliant concerning previous areas for improvement.

## What the school does well

- Catholic life and mission at Our Lady of the Wayside are inspirational. The school's sense of community and belonging to the family of Christ is evident at every level.
- Governors, working closely with the local parish priest and deacon, work expertly with leaders as guardians of the mission to sustain the school's high standards.
- Pupils' behaviour is exemplary, and all relationships are rooted in respect, as they follow the teachings of the Gospels.
- Pupils are very enthusiastic about their religious education lessons, which they love. They are religiously literate and confidently discuss their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- Experiences of prayer and liturgy are high-quality and enable pupils to have a profound spiritual encounter with God.

## What the school needs to improve

- Provide pupils with regular opportunities to apply what they have learned in religious education lessons to reach deeper levels of religious literacy after learning new knowledge.
- Create a process in which pupils have regular opportunities to evaluate prayer and liturgy, which informs their future planning.

## 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**

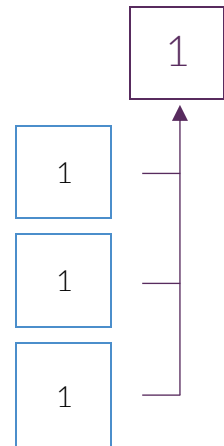
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

**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 fully embrace and live out the mission of 'learning and growing together rooted in Christ.' They are very happy and confident and feel secure at Our Lady of the Wayside; they love being at this school. Pupils have a clear sense of how they should behave by following the teachings of Jesus Christ; their behaviour is exemplary. Pupils show a deep respect for themselves and others, including those of other faiths. Pupils highly value their leadership roles and speak confidently about the support they provide locally, nationally, and internationally. For example, pupils told inspectors, 'We achieved Cafod's *LiveSimply* award, and so we challenged the parish to do the same; they received the award recently, too.' Pupils benefit from an extensive chaplaincy programme provided by the school. RE councillors and Mini Vinnies show a deep commitment to working with school leaders to live out the mission actively and confidently and suggest ways that the school could be proactive in responding to the principles of Catholic social teaching. For example, pupils led fundraising events to support St Mary's Trust in India. Pupils have a deep understanding that everyone is part of God's family.

The school's Catholic life and mission are inspiring. All stakeholders work in unison, showing that Christ is firmly at the heart of this exceptional community. The mission statement is embraced by all who enter the school; it is known, lived and witnessed at all levels. Staff are role models of the faith and eagerly engage in activities that reflect the school's life and mission. As a result, the quality of relationships is strong, and the culture of welcome is warmly extended to everyone in the school and parish, creating the sense that belonging to one community is the cornerstone of Our Lady of the Wayside. One parent commented, 'Our Lady of the Wayside is a little piece of Heaven and the epitome of a Catholic school.' The school environment is a strong witness to its identity, charism, and mission. Great time and care have been taken to effectively use space, the

prayer garden, prayer room, and artwork featuring scripture quotes and Bible stories to enhance pupils' deep sense of belonging.

Leaders and governors are deeply committed to the Catholic life and mission of Our Lady of the Wayside so that the school's Catholic character is continually improved and the close links with the parish remain exceptionally strong. Self-evaluation processes are rigorous; monitoring and challenge are forensic and well-targeted. The headteacher and deputy headteacher are inspiring role models of their faith and continually identify opportunities for the school community to witness Gospel values through their support for staff and the inclusion of Catholic social teaching in the school's daily life. The quality of relationships with the overwhelming majority of parents is strong. For example, one parent commented, 'There is a strong sense of community and excellent links between the parish, school and parents. Catholic life permeates all aspects of education, and there are many opportunities for children to live out and enact the Word of God. Sacramental preparation is extensive and involves the entire family; there is a deep understanding at all levels of what it means to be Catholic.' The partnership with the local parish is a particular strength of the school community rooted in service to each other. Routine visits from the local parish priest and deacon strengthen the school's mission, showing that 'learning and growing together rooted in Christ' is firmly witnessed at every level.

## Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

### Religious education key judgement grade

#### Pupil outcomes

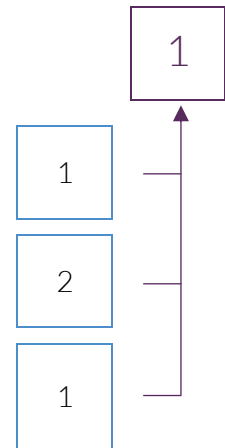
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

#### 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 are developing excellent knowledge and understanding in their learning in religious education. They speak confidently about what they have learnt and use specific vocabulary accurately. Pupils have secure levels of religious literacy, and they understand how their learning in religious education shapes their thoughts and actions. For example, Year 6 pupils participate in moments of self-reflection to discern times when they have been jealous or showed resentment. Subsequently, they explore how these feelings impact their actions. Pupils consistently revisit prior learning, demonstrating their ability to remember more. As a result, attainment in religious education shows that most pupils achieve well. Pupils approach lessons with pride, showing deep curiosity and a love of learning in religious education. For example, pupils in Reception were engrossed in the story of Creation, which led to high levels of interest in the continuous provision activities available to them. One child commented, 'God had a rest on day seven as he had a busy week.' Throughout the school, pupils are enthusiastic learners. One pupil told inspectors, 'I really enjoy RE lessons because they are so much fun; we have the opportunity to deepen our thinking.' As a result, pupils' behaviour is exemplary and highly motivated, as shown in their well-presented and creative work in their books.

All staff deeply understand the value of religious education on the spiritual and moral development of pupils at Our Lady of the Wayside. They have very good subject knowledge and use questioning effectively. For example, pupils in Year 2 were revising prior learning by answering various questions about stories from the New Testament before being introduced to the story of Jonah and the Whale. This is an established routine across the school. However, too long on retrieval practice often prevents pupils from being allowed to know more by applying their learning to new concepts. Relationships between pupils and staff are excellent, resulting in exemplary environments that enable pupils to participate in a variety of activities both as

independent learners or collaboratively with others. Feedback, through marking, is provided through open-ended questions; however, not all pupils respond, and opportunities are missed to support pupils in deepening their understanding of religious concepts or spiritual and moral issues.

Leaders and governors ensure that religious education is given the highest priority and is very much at the core of the curriculum. The subject has full parity with other core subjects, as evidenced by the implementation of curriculum enrichment activities and resourcing. Religious education meets all the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory* requirements and is regularly monitored to ensure that it always remains compliant. Leadership across all levels is outstanding, and the close working relationship between leaders, governors, and the multi-academy company (MAC) school improvement representative results in a self-evaluation and monitoring schedule, which is challenging and rigorous. In partnership with the headteacher, the subject leader has a secure vision of how to support teachers in effectively analysing data to inform planning so that pupils' capabilities in religious education are recognised and nurtured. Governors, together with the local parish priest and deacon, are regular visitors to the school. They work exceptionally well with school leaders to provide high-quality staff support, training, and formation, enhancing their teaching.

## 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

All pupils fully engage in the wide range of prayer opportunities at Our Lady of the Wayside. They are consistently attentive and reverent in their thoughts and actions, and they respond with pride during each experience of prayer and liturgy. Pupils have a detailed knowledge and understanding of the liturgical year and know why traditional prayers are said at certain times. Pupils know that they can pray anywhere, and they regularly use prayer spaces provided for them, such as the prayer room and garden. Pupils particularly value their regular attendance at Mass. As one pupil explained, 'We love going to Mass in church with the parish.' As a result, pupils of all ages sincerely appreciate that prayer and liturgy help shape how they think and influence their lives. Pupils work effectively with staff to prepare and participate in creative and well-constructed experiences of prayer and liturgy using the 'gather, listen, respond, go forth' model. They undertake their ministries with confidence, understanding, and skill. They routinely use liturgical music, scripture, religious symbols, and moments of private reflection highly effectively to bring other prayer participants to a purposeful spiritual encounter with God.

The opportunities for prayer and liturgy provided by the school are a particular strength for this community. Staff work exceptionally well with the parish church to provide families with experiences to deepen their spirituality as one body; everyone loves and cherishes this. One parent commented, 'Our Lady of the Wayside is like one big church family.' Mass celebrations are at the school's heart, with groups of pupils attending Mass with the parish every week. Furthermore, each class leads Mass for the parish at weekends throughout the school year, meaning that families are highly valued and involved in the school's prayer life. Parents say, 'The staff go above and beyond to provide children with the best possible opportunities from spiritual retreats, visits to other places of worship and the amazing parent and child workshops to prepare the children for First Holy Communion.' Prayer and liturgy are central to the life of the

school; daily patterns of prayer are naturally embedded, and staff lead them with pride. Staff inspire and learn from each other, which, in turn, provides exemplary practice for pupils who are very well supported in leading prayer and liturgy in line with the school's policy.

Leaders, governors, the local parish priest, and the deacon work together expertly to meet the school community's needs. They clearly understand how prayer and liturgy underpin the school's mission and, as a result, give it the highest priority. The partnership between the school and parish for sacramental preparation is exemplary; leaders show high levels of fidelity to the frequency of the celebration of the Eucharist throughout the academic year. The school's policy for prayer and liturgy ensures a clear progression of expectations appropriate to the age of pupils, resulting in a consistent experience for all. Leaders and governors highly value the importance of staff training and development, which focuses on spiritual formation and how to support the needs of the pupils. Monitoring and evaluating prayer and liturgy are rigorous and involve leaders, governors, and the local clergy. This ensures a secure understanding of what the school does well and what it needs to develop further.

## Information about the school

Full name of school	Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	148085
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	334 3500
Full postal address of the school	Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 4AY
School phone number	0121 744 6852
Headteacher	Deborah Enstone
Chair of governing board	Paul Bentley
School Website	<a href="http://www.ol-wayside.solihull.sch.uk">www.ol-wayside.solihull.sch.uk</a>
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	Our Lady And All Saints Catholic Multi Academy Company
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Academy
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	July 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	1

## The inspection team

Tara Davies	Lead
Wendell Gopaul	Team
Claire Restell	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