



St Christopher's Catholic Primary School

URN: 133615

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Liverpool

30 September 2026 – 01 October 2026

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 diocesan directives

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

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Yes

Yes

Fully

What the school does well

- St. Christopher's is a genuinely inclusive community where every pupil is welcomed, valued and respected.
- The mission statement truly underpins all that the school undertakes. It provides a clear foundation for decision-making, relationships, teaching and learning, prayer and worship, and the wider life of the school.
- The headteacher provides inspirational leadership and a clear vision for Catholic life and mission, shared by a dedicated leadership team and governors and reflected in a strong culture of servant leadership.
- Staff are highly skilled in creating engaging and creative lessons, resulting in high levels of enthusiasm, interest and progress from pupils.
- Pupils benefit from well-planned prayer and liturgy which is a joyous, meaningful and uplifting experience for all.

What the school needs to improve

- Strengthen effective practice in teaching and learning even further by ensuring high aspirations and expectations are consistently reflected across all classes as the Religious Education Directory continues to be embedded.
- Share successes and strengths more widely in order to further celebrate and promote the Catholic identity of the school with the wider community.

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

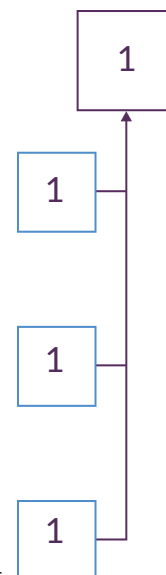
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

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 at St. Christopher's Catholic Primary School benefit immensely from its distinctive mission and ethos. The mission statement, *'We embrace each new day and live the Jesus way through caring, learning and inspiring'*, is deeply embedded, understood and lived by pupils and the whole school community. It provides a strong foundation for pupils' faith, spirituality and moral development, with decisions and actions consistently rooted in the school's Catholic mission and charism. Pupils have a wide range of opportunities to contribute actively to the Catholic life and mission of the school through roles such as prayer leaders, school council, eco council and mini police. There are leadership positions available which create aspiration and a sense of responsibility and service, including selecting a charity to support each year. Pupils and their families demonstrate genuine compassion and generosity through fundraising for Macmillan, Nugent, CAFOD and the World Wildlife Fund, as well as supporting the local foodbank. Pupils readily make connections between their actions and Catholic Social Teaching, particularly stewardship, service and the common good. They can articulate how the school's mission is lived out in their daily lives. Consequently, pupils contribute positively to a nurturing community where kindness, respect, compassion and service are evident.

The school's mission is integral to its distinctive Catholic charism and is given high priority by leaders, staff and governors. It is consistently referred to in lessons and whole-school prayer through the 'Focus of the Week', ensuring that the mission is not simply displayed but actively lived. It is a powerful force within the school, shaping relationships and creating a safe, nurturing and inclusive community where everyone is valued. Pastoral care is exemplary and a particular strength of the school. Staff know pupils and their families exceptionally well and

respond sensitively to individual needs, offering practical support, guidance and a listening ear with respect and dignity. Parents highly value the personal and supportive approach of the headteacher and staff. One staff member commented that, 'St. Christopher's is at the heart of its community and goes above and beyond to support children, families and staff, every single day.' This strong sense of belonging is evident throughout the school. The RSHE lead has successfully implemented a coherent programme which responds effectively to the needs of the local community and is compliant with Archdiocesan directives. The school's Catholic identity is further strengthened through well-presented displays in shared spaces, ensuring that faith is visible and celebrated throughout the school.

The headteacher acts as an ambassador of the mission of the school and is highly regarded across the school community. A staff member commented, 'The headteacher sets the example in her leadership of our mission statement.' The senior leadership team works cohesively to ensure that Christ remains at the heart of decision-making, a commitment fully embraced by governors. This provides the school with a clear and firmly established Catholic identity and purpose. The distinctive ethos of the school permeates the wider curriculum, with leaders maximising opportunities for pupils to encounter Catholic social teaching in other meaningful contexts. Leaders and governors ensure that diocesan policies and procedures are consistently implemented. They work closely with the parish, recognising that, for many families, school is their experience of Church. Strong partnerships with parents further strengthen this sense of community and belonging. Staff induction places the mission at the heart of professional practice, ensuring that new staff understand and contribute to the school's Catholic ethos. There is a shared commitment to Catholic social teaching, demonstrated through the school's work towards the Live Simply Award. Staff wellbeing is prioritised by leaders, who ensure that colleagues feel supported both professionally and personally. Leaders and governors have much to celebrate and include in their self-evaluation.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

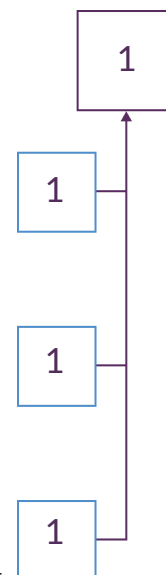
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

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 at St. Christopher's thoroughly enjoy their religious education lessons and demonstrate high levels of engagement, enthusiasm and interest. The successful implementation of the Religious Education Directory (RED) has strengthened pupils' knowledge and understanding and enhanced their enjoyment of the subject. Pupils speak confidently about their learning, readily retell favourite Bible stories and use religious vocabulary accurately and appropriately, demonstrating developing religious literacy. Behaviour in RE is excellent. Pupils listen attentively, contribute confidently and respond thoughtfully to questioning. They are keen to share their ideas and their contributions are valued, creating a classroom environment in which pupils feel listened to and respected. Pupils particularly enjoy the creative opportunities provided through the RED. Collaborative activities enable them to explore their learning in different ways, deepen their understanding and make meaningful connections. The quality of work in pupils' books is consistently high, reflecting strong expectations for content, creativity and presentation. Pupils take pride in their work and can identify when they have been successful and explain how they can improve further. Progress is evident across the school, with pupils building securely on prior learning and knowing more and remembering more over time. The progress made reflects the high priority given to religious education as the core subject.

Teachers of religious education demonstrate excellent subject knowledge in planning and delivering highly engaging and purposeful lessons. Learning objectives are clearly communicated and taught through creative and well-chosen activities which successfully

maintain pupils' high level of interest and engagement. Teachers provide a wide range of tasks which meet the needs of pupils and enable them to make progress. Teachers use questioning skilfully to check and deepen pupils' understanding, challenge their thinking and maintain the pace of lessons. Prior learning is revisited, enabling pupils to make meaningful connections and build securely on what they already know. Teachers maximise the opportunities for pupils to reflect on their own personal thoughts and ideas during key times in lessons. This approach is highly effective in ensuring pupils make excellent progress during lessons. Assessment is used effectively to inform teaching and support pupil progress. Teachers provide verbal and written feedback which enables pupils to recognise their strengths and identify how to improve. Strategies are in place to encourage pupils to correct and edit their work. Teachers value pupils' verbal contributions and class discussion alongside written work, providing a rounded understanding of pupils' knowledge and understanding. This responsive approach strengthens relationships, builds trust and enables teachers to adapt learning effectively.

The knowledge and commitment of the RE team are key drivers of the strong outcomes achieved by pupils. Leaders and governors demonstrate a clear and sustained commitment to religious education as the 'core of the core' subject. This commitment is reflected in the quality of provision and pupils' positive attitudes towards RE. Leaders ensure that planning is carefully considered to meet the needs of all groups of learners, with creativity and variety used effectively to enhance pupils' learning experiences. High-quality resources are used imaginatively to deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding. The subject leader demonstrates a high level of subject expertise and provides a clear and aspirational vision for the development of RE. The RE team work collaboratively to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and learning with the same rigour as other core subjects. A thorough timetable of monitoring and evaluation ensures progression over time. Professional development is purposeful and supports teachers in maintaining high standards and developing their subject knowledge. Staff feel supported through well planned, purposeful and effective continued professional development. Exciting trips, visits and visitors enrich the RED curriculum, providing memorable experiences which develop pupils' sense of awe and wonder.

Collective worship

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

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

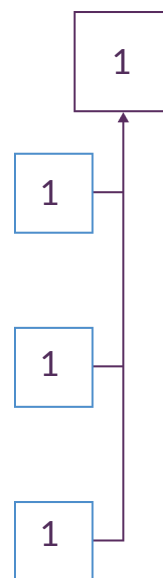
How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

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



Pupils' engagement in whole-school and class prayer and liturgy is exceptional. Pupils of all ages participate fully and confidently, approaching prayer with reverence, respect and a deep sense of purpose. A variety of prayer experiences and settings create an atmosphere of stillness, reflection and anticipation, enabling pupils to encounter scripture meaningfully. Pupils listen attentively to the word of God and respond thoughtfully, demonstrating a developing understanding of its relevance to their lives. Pupils speak confidently about the Church's liturgical year and explain how it is reflected throughout the prayer life of the school. They undertake liturgical ministries with confidence and understand how prayer and liturgy connect with the wider life and mission of the school. Prayer and liturgy provide meaningful opportunities for pupils to reflect upon their own lives and consider how they can live out their responsibility as stewards of God's creation and as members of the wider community. The sense of awe and wonder generated through these experiences supports pupils' spiritual development. Communal singing is a particular strength. Pupils sing traditional and contemporary hymns with confidence, enthusiasm and joy. Their exemplary participation demonstrates a strong sense of belonging and helps pupils recognise that they are part of a wider Catholic family.

There is a well-established and consistent pattern of daily prayer at St. Christopher's. Pupils pray together at the beginning and end of the day and before lunch, with prayers thoughtfully displayed in every classroom. Scripture is central to prayer and worship and is explained carefully and thoughtfully. Staff are positive and committed role models who participate fully in prayer and liturgy. Their active involvement reinforces the school's mission and creates a

strong sense that St. Christopher's is a community where everyone is valued, loved and respected. Communal singing is a particular strength and is characterised by enthusiasm, joy and participation. Live guitar accompaniment and child-friendly actions enhance the experience and reflect the importance placed on prayer and liturgy. Prayer spaces and prayer stations are located throughout the school building and outside space and are of a consistently high standard. High-quality resources and displays provide constant visual reminders of the school's Catholic identity and mission. Strong relationships between school, home and parish further enrich the prayer life of the community. The close relationship with the Parish priest, who is well known and valued by pupils, staff and parents, strengthens the school's sense of belonging and connection to the wider parish community.

Leaders and governors understand the centrality of prayer and liturgy and actively safeguard its importance within school life. The school's policy for prayer and liturgy is a useful and effective working document, reflected consistently in practice across the school. The prayer life of the school is given high regard by staff and great importance is placed on their own formation by leaders and governors. Regular opportunities are given for the staff to gather together in prayer. Staff value these opportunities which strengthen their sense of community and provide spiritual support, particularly during times of difficulty and sorrow. Staff lead prayer and liturgy with confidence and skill. Through effective policy and practice, leaders have established a clear progression which enables pupils to develop their confidence and skills in participating in prayer and liturgy. The Church's liturgical year is planned for and celebrated throughout the school year. Pupils have regular opportunities to participate in Mass at church and in school. The school works closely with the parish to support the sacramental programme, preparing pupils to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. Robust monitoring and evaluation ensure that the highest standards are maintained.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Christopher's Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	133615
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3413024
Full postal address of the school	TARBOCK ROAD, LIVERPOOL, L24 0SN
School phone number	0151 486 2835
Headteacher or Head of School	Mrs Nicola Harrop
Chair of Governors	
School Website	www.stchristophersprimary.com
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	
Age-range of pupils	3 - 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	18 June 2019
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

The Inspection Team

Lyn Rawlinson

Lead

Karl Landrum

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