

Sacred Heart RC Primary School

The Sacred Heart Standard

WESTHOUGHTON

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01942 634681

Executive Headteacher: Mr M Johnson | Head of School: Mrs B Furey | Deputy Headteacher: Miss F Duffy

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear parents and families,

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026: MARIAN TERM

The Sacred Heart Standard



Whether the summer break passed quickly or slowly for you, we welcome everyone back as we re-gather for learning in a new academic year. A particularly warm welcome is extended to all our new pupils and their families who join us for the first time. Whether your child is starting in Reception, joining another class, or returning for another year, we are committed to ensuring that everyone feels valued, supported, and inspired to achieve their very best. A special mention to our Year 6 pupils, who have returned as the example-setters in our school. We know you will be outstanding role models, guiding younger children with kindness, and encouraging everyone to love one another.

We are pleased, too, to welcome those new members of our staff joining our dedicated team this term. Please do introduce yourselves to them when you meet them.



We are in Ordinary Time – the time we focus on living Like Jesus, learning from Christ's life and considering the impact we can have on others if we follow Him. This is why our newsletter heading is in green.

STAY & PRAY: Parents, parishioners and family members are welcome to 'stay and pray' every Thursday morning, at 8:35am in the Croi. For those new, the Croi is accessed via the door between Y3C and our Reception entrance. Mrs Doodson, our lay chaplain, would love to meet you there, and all are warmly welcome, no matter what your personal faith tradition is.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL INSPECTION: Our Canonical / S48 inspection took place on 9th & 10th July, with the report being issued on the last day of the Trinity term. If you haven't read it already, you can find it on our website by

clicking CSI in the main menu. <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/>. A copy is attached to this edition of the Sacred Heart Standard.

PROPHET POINTS: Our children are in four Prophet Points houses: Abraham, Isaiah, Noah & Moses. Each class have now agreed the behaviours expected to earn points.



The Sacred Heart Standard

LOVE ONE ANOTHER



WEDNESDAY WORD: You can share the Gospel we will be reading in school as a family, each week, in the Wednesday Word, which is downloadable from <https://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

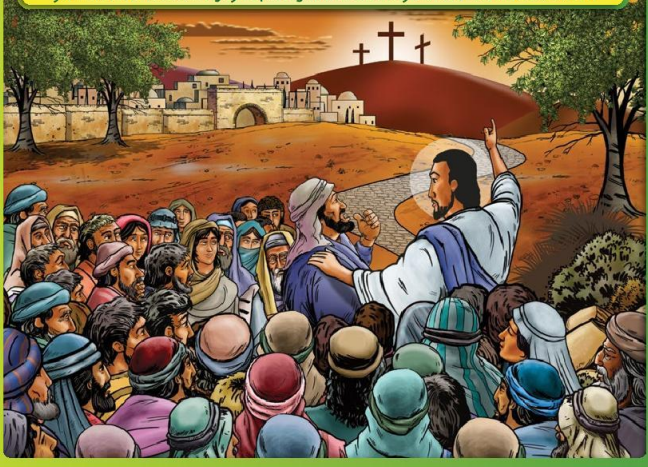
Wednesday 3rd September

1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Great crowds followed Jesus on his way and he said to them, "If you want to be my disciple, you must love God more than anything else, even more than your family and even more than you love yourself. If you really want to be my disciple, you must be willing to carry your cross and follow me." Then Jesus gave them this example: "Suppose a builder wanted to build something. Would he not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, 'Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish what he started.' So, you must be willing to give up everything you have if you want to be my disciple."

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 7th September. Luke 14:25-33 (the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **LOYALTY**.



The Wednesday Word Trust: a Registered Charity in England and Wales No.1125628 and a Company Limited by Guarantee No.6608122.

2 Wednesday's Word **LOYALTY**

"We understand that loyalty to God is a matter of loyalty to a person to whom we are bound to walk together on the same road. And this person is Jesus." Pope Francis

What are some of the things that Jesus said his disciples must do? This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that, to be Jesus' friends, we must put our loyalty to him before anything else in our life. Ask your child what the word 'loyalty' means to them. Who stands out to them as being a loyal friend – someone who stays with them in both good and difficult times? What other qualities make a loyal friend? We can all ask God to help us to grow in loyalty – it's a gift worth asking for.

"Jesus is the loyal friend who never abandons us." Pope Francis

To be loyal is to be faithful, reliable, supportive and trustworthy – to keep promises and stand up for the truth. Being loyal to Jesus is not always easy. He asks us to take up our cross. This means that we must sometimes do difficult things like saying sorry or helping when we don't want to. In what other ways can we show our loyalty to Jesus in the new school year? Perhaps we can: always try to love our neighbour as ourselves; spend time with Jesus and listen to him through daily prayer; be self-giving – always trying to put others' needs before our own; try to forgive others in the same way that Jesus forgives us.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to grow in our **loyalty** to you: to be trustworthy and reliable people who always stand up for the truth, even when it's hard. Amen.

3 SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

☒ GREAT CROWDS
☐ LOVE GOD
☐ GIVE EVERYTHING
☐ FOLLOW JESUS

☐
☐
☐
☐

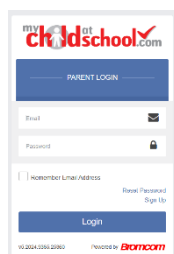
CROSS OUT THE LETTERS b k s IN THE 4 JUMBLED WORDS TO FIND 4 REAL WORDS.

E	X	G	G	O	D	E	D	W	G	S
L	V	H	O	E	V	O	L	J	X	R
O	C	E	S	D	W	O	R	C	S	E
V	R	Q	R	C	T	Y	J	D	F	A
E	O	W	P	Y	V	A	J	S	V	T
J	W	I	O	E	T	F	O	L	L	O
Q	D	G	S	L	V	H	F	L	R	J
P	S	H	R	V	L	I	Q	U	V	E
G	I	V	E	E	G	O	G	N	H	S
O	O	C	M	S	A	K	F	U	G	K
G	E	V	E	R	Y	T	H	I	N	G
J	B	O	T	E	T	S	U	S	E	J

banysthikng Yobkus blosvek smokreb
 Jesus said, " _____ must _____ God
 _____ than _____ else."

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

As I start a new school year, I will try my best to ...



PARENT APP: Parentapps Connect (PAC) is being replaced with 'My Child at School' (MCAS) which is part of Bromcom, our school's management information system. This will also replace 'School Money' (SM) so that payments can be made in one place. Whilst both PAC and SM are still in limited use, our new Reception parents will not be added to these systems. We expect MCAS to be up and running within the next few days. In the meantime, absence reporting should be via phone call to the office, rather than on PAC.

RESIDENTIALS 2025-2026: Our Y5 Ford Castle & Y6 Dearne Valley residentials have now been launched. The letters are linked below.

- UKS2 France: Monday 29th September - Friday 3rd October 2025
- [Y5 Ford Castle & Lindisfarne: Wednesday 25th March - Friday 27th March 2026](#)
- KS2 Big Sleep: Friday 5th June, 8pm - Saturday 6th June 2026, 8am.
- [Y6 Dearne Valley: Friday 3rd July - Sunday 5th July 2026](#)

OPEN AFTERNOON TOURS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS: Prospective parents are invited to a learning walk around the school on Tuesday 21st October, 1:15-2:15 or 2:15-3:15pm. Please book on the tour by emailing or telephoning the school office.



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

Jesus lives in our school: in our minds and words and actions... Love one another!
 So that, in all things that we think, say and do, God may be glorified.

UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE COMMUNICATION & HOME SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP: We believe that strong partnerships between home and school are central to every child's success. Our newsletter, the Sacred Heart Standard, will be regularly electronically distributed to keep you up-to-date with key dates, events, achievements, and important notices. Our school website and social media channel will also be updated frequently. Please check them for the latest news and announcements.

<https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/> | <https://www.facebook.com/TheJourneyMatters>

UNITE: This year's curriculum promises exciting opportunities for learning across all year groups. Our curriculum outline can be found on our website at <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/curriculum-map/> and is outlined in the first **UNITE** letters, which will be distributed at our **UNITE** meetings on **Wednesday 10th September**, a drop-in opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, ensure they have any essential information about their wellbeing, and promote positive partnership. Teachers are available until 5:00pm, so there is plenty chance to visit all your children's teachers. Please access classrooms via their external doors (2D via 2W). This will enable our cleaning team to begin their work in the communal areas of school. **UNITE** dates for the year can be found at: <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/unite/>

ACHIEVE: Our monthly drop-in days continue this year, where you can share concerns or gain clarity on matters relating to your child's welfare and progress with our SEND, Safeguarding and Senior Pastoral leads. Anyone is welcome – appointments for **ACHIEVE** can be made via the main office. Of course, the first point of contact for day-to-day matters is always your child's teacher, and Mr Dootson, our senior pastoral lead, is always available to speak to parents.

The first **ACHIEVE** opportunity is on **Wednesday 24th September** (8:30am-4:00pm). Further dates for the academic year can be found at <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/achieve/>

CELEBRATE: The **CELEBRATE** strategy aims to share memorable moments through our [Annual Plan of Provision](#) (APoP), found at <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/apop/> and to celebrate learning. Our APoP contains most of the **dates you will want to put in your diary**, some specific to your child's class. The APoP is a working document, so look out for any amendments and updates throughout the year.

CELEBRATE are those regular opportunities to share in your child's learning and progress in a range of ways. As well as Celebrations of the Word, we celebrate musical achievement every half term in special recitals. All are welcome when classes join the parish for celebration of Mass (in church). Sporting and artistic celebrations will also take place throughout the year. Look out for dates on our newsletters and social media – add them to your diary and join us to **CELEBRATE** together. Dates of our Achievement, Wellbeing & Development Reviews – Teacher/Parent/Child evenings (**Wednesday 22nd October** & 11th February); dates that educational reports will be issued & the report drop-in; new Reception intake 2026 dates; and music recitals can be found at <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/celebrate/>

Our first music recital, performed by all pupils, is on **Monday 20th October**, 2pm. All are welcome.

OTHER KEY DATES: Important reminders and key dates will be shared via future editions of this newsletter. Any other letters issued will be added to our website at <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/sacred-heart-standard/> .

MARIAN TERM: The first half term of our year recognises the feast, next Monday of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will celebrate in our Like Jesus celebration of the word and rolling worship. We continue to pray: **Jesus lives in our school: in our minds and words and actions... Love one another! So that, in all things that we think, say and do, God may be glorified.**



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

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The timetable for this academic year is as follows:

Mon – Piano/Keyboard, led by Karen Giudici, 9:00am-12noon | 12:40-3:20pm (5h40min) - SH Sanctuary

Wed - Ukulele Club, led by Simon Sackey, 8:30am-10am (1h30min) - SH Sanctuary

Wed – Strings, led by Jonathan Hoyle, 9:00am-10am (1h) - Imagination Space

Wed – Vocal, led by Emily Walker, 1:30pm-3:30pm (2h) - SH Sanctuary

Thu – Ukulele Club, led by Simon Sackey, 8:30am-9:00am (30min) - SH Sanctuary

Thu – Guitar, led by Simon Sackey, 9:00am-11:40am (2h40min) - SH Sanctuary

Thu - Piano/Keyboard, led by Karen Giudici, 9:00am-12noon (3h) - KS1 Library

If your child's lesson begins at 8:30am, they should enter via the main office / breakfast club so that they are ready for their lesson.

HANDWRITING: Our school is part of the Letter-join handwriting scheme and our pupils can log in to the Letter-join website at home on iPads, tablets and computers. There you will find the same, easy-to-use handwriting resources that we use at school. Scan the QR code, then select your class.

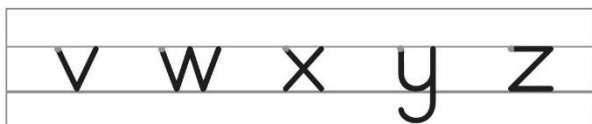
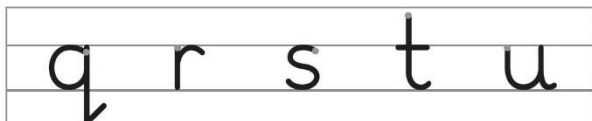
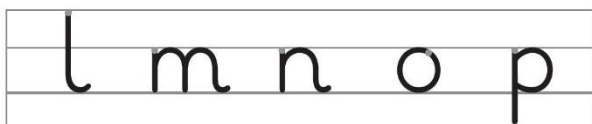
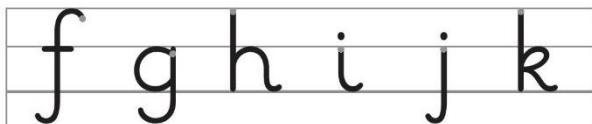
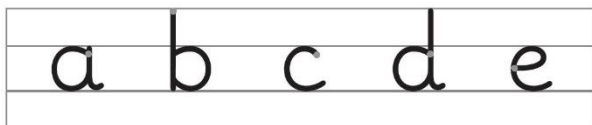
Further details:

- [Letter-join home access parent letter](#)

As the term begins, most of our new exercise books have special handwriting lines to help us write even more beautifully.

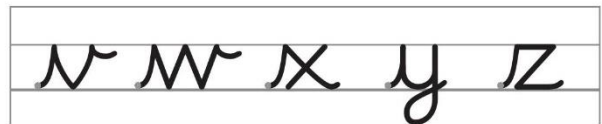
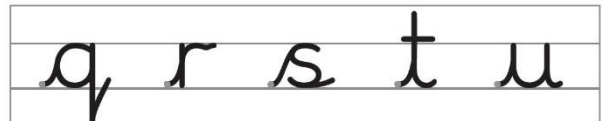
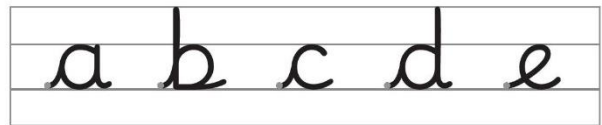


Cursive lowercase letters



Letter-join

Cursive lowercase letters



Letter-join



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

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SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING: The wellbeing and safety of every child is at the heart of all we do. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss your child's needs, please speak to their class teacher or contact the school office to speak to our senior pastoral lead. We are here to listen and to support.

WATER BOTTLES: All children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school. This should be filled only with fresh water, and not juices. Children may refill their bottle from the water fountains. Bottles should be taken home every day to ensure they are clean. Please mark the bottle with your child's name.

SCHOOL MEALS: Mr Hanlon, our chef, is happy to liaise with parents about any dietary requirements your child may have. Universal free infant school meals are available for Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 pupils. The meal price for those in KS2 is £2.55 per day. If your child is swapping between packed lunch and school meal, please inform the office, with plenty of notice. Meal choices should only change at the start of a half-term.

PACKED LUNCHES: These are placed on the lunch trolley upon entry to school. Ensure the box is named clearly and tightly fastened. They are then not accessed until lunchtime.

SNACK: Our school kitchen prepare a morning break snack for those who buy into the scheme. This is available from Y1-Y6, and the charge is £17.50 covering the period 8th September to 24th October. Any snack brought from home should be a healthy one, and not overly packaged, to minimise litter.

NO NUTS: No nut products are to be brought into school. We have children on site with severe nut allergies.

R & KS1 FRUIT & VEG SCHEME: The government provide free fruit/veg for children in Reception, Y1 & Y2. This daily snack is made available to all infant pupils.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: Sunday Mass attendance is required and will be recorded as part of the programme. If you intend your child, who must be in Y3 or above, to be part of the preparation programme for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and first Eucharist, please return the registration form directly to Fr Christopher by 12th October 2025.

TERM	DATE / TIME	FOCUS
Marian Term	Friday 26 th September 2025, 3:00pm	Parents' Information Session <i>(registration opens the next weekend). Forms to be completed and returned directly to Fr Christopher after Saturday night (6pm) or Sunday (10am) by Sunday 12th October 2025.</i>
	Sunday 19 th October 2025, 10:00am	Enrolment Mass & distribution of passports.
Remembrance Term	Sunday 16 th November 2025, 10:00am	Mass – We pray
Candlemas Term	Sunday 25 th January 2026, 10:00am	Mass – We listen
Lenten Term	Friday 27 th February 2026, 3:00pm	Parents' Session – Reconciliation 1
	Sunday 1 st March 2026, 10:00am	Mass – We follow
	Friday 6 th March 2026, 3:00pm	Parents' Session – Reconciliation 2
	Thursday 12 th March 2026, 6:30pm	First Reconciliation
	Friday 27 th March 2026, 3:00pm	Parents' Session – Communion
Pentecost Term	Saturday 25 th / Sunday 26 th April 2026	Three weekends for First Eucharist – Saturday 6:00pm / Sunday 10:00am Mass
	Saturday 2 nd / Sunday 3 rd May 2026	
	Saturday 9 th / Sunday 10 th May 2026	
Trinity Term	Sunday 7 th June 2026, 10:00am	Celebration Mass
	Monday 8 th June 2026, 1:30pm	School celebration party





TWO NEW SAINTS: This weekend, Sunday 7th September, Pope Leo will create two new saints of the Church, with the canonisations of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Born in London in 1991, Blessed Carlo Acutis will be the first millennial-generation saint. Known for his deep devotion to the Eucharist, his care for the poor, and his creative use of technology to share the faith, Carlo reminds us that holiness is possible for everyone – even in our modern world. His

motto, “The Eucharist is my highway to heaven,” continues to inspire young people across the world.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901–1924), a passionate mountaineer and tireless advocate for justice, reminds us that faith is lived not only in prayer but also in action. His commitment to the poor, his love of the outdoors, and his conviction that “charity is not enough; we need social reform,” speak powerfully into our times.

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS: On their anniversary of Baptism, children are invited to wear one of our special sashes around school. For anyone with a Baptism anniversary, please be ready to collect your sash! On the back of the sash is a quote from Pope Francis: “*We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ...*”



VOLUNTEERS: We value our existing volunteers and welcome expressions of interest from new volunteers – this can be to help in a variety of ways around school and with learning. We have a playtime reading area – perhaps you would like to come over at lunchtime to read with our children? Alternatively, you might want to help in our Room2Grow farmyard? Get in touch if you would like to volunteer.

ONLINE SAFETY: [Click here for our September online safety newsletter.](#)

TEN:TEN PARENT NEWSLETTER: [Click here for the September prayer & liturgy newsletter.](#)

CHURCH BULLETIN: Our parish bulletin can be downloaded from our website at <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/parish-bulletin-social-media/>



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

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ATTENDANCE

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

ATTENDANCE: Please ensure that we are alerted of any absence in a timely fashion, either by phone or email. Holidays in term time are generally not considered an exceptional circumstance, meaning you cannot usually take your child away during term time. You can be fined or face legal action for taking your child on holiday during term time. If you need any attendance guidance, please contact our attendance officer, Mr Dootson. The latest National attendance statistics can be found at:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-attendance-in-schools>

UNIFORM: At Sacred Heart, we believe that wearing a uniform encourages a positive work ethos and instils in the children a better sense of pride and togetherness. In choosing Sacred Heart for your child, you are sharing in our expectations: support us in ensuring that the correct uniform is worn. School uniform, as in the table below, must be worn by all pupils throughout the year. We have some uniform in school to give-away. It will be in the school hall next Wednesday, after school. Help yourself. Please support us in ensuring a consistent approach to uniform. <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/school-uniform/>



Sacred Heart RC Primary School
WESTHOUGHTON
UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE
LOVE ONE ANOTHER
Jesus lives in our school: in our minds and words and actions...

Our school uniform...



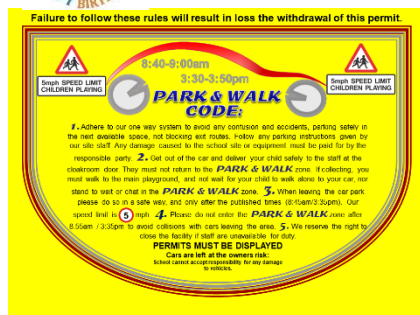
If you need help with sourcing appropriate uniform, please contact the school office.

ALL YEAR ROUND UNIFORM:	P.E. UNIFORM:	NOTES:
- White collared long or short sleeve shirt - Sacred Heart tie - Maroon v-neck jumper or cardigan (not sweatshirt) - Grey long or short trousers, <u>knee-length</u> skirt or pinafore - Grey or white socks or grey, white or maroon tights - Black low-heeled school shoes- no trainers (velcro fastenings preferred for Reception) Reception only: - Wellies - Waterproofs are ordered via the school scheme, and remain in school for everyday use - Spare socks / underwear may be kept in school	- White <u>round neck</u> t-shirt (not polo shirt) - Black shorts - Dark grey / black pumps - Track suit & trainers for necessary outdoor use. (School black track suit with Be Active logo introduced from Sep 2022 and available from uniform stockists.) <u>Draw-string pump-bag</u> to hang onto cloakroom hook. UNIFORM STOCKISTS: Approved stockists of official logo uniform & bags etc.: - Andrew Leach Schoolwear, Horwich - Aspull Village Embroidery - Smart Clothing, Bolton - Whittakers Schoolwear, Bolton Non-logo uniform is available elsewhere.	- Label <u>all items</u> of uniform with name. - Tie must be worn with all-year-round uniform. <u>No jewellery</u> is allowed. - Coat <u>must have a loop</u> for hanging onto cloak-room hook. - School book bag should have a <u>long strap</u> to hang onto cloak-room hook. - Any bag brought into school must hang on cloak-room coat hooks. - Water bottle & lunch box must be sealable and named. - Only plain water is able to be brought into school in water bottles (please do not use one-use plastic and ensure name is on bottle). - Lunch boxes should be tightly sealed and clearly named. - No nut products are to be brought into school.

Wearing uniform is a **badge of pride** and creates an **identity** for a school community...



BIRTHDAYS: Children are invited to wear (school appropriate) non-uniform on their birthday.



PARKING: Please respect that over 400 children must enter and exit school safely each day. This partly relies upon everyone parking safely and with due regard for others, including our neighbours. Please do not park across drives or in restricted areas. There is no right of vehicular access to the main school driveway for any parents, except by prior permission- the access control barrier is a reminder of this. Do not drive up to the barrier or block the driveway in any way. Please follow the code of use for our PARK & WALK facility, which has a speed limit of 5mph. There is strictly no pedestrian access through the PARK & WALK gates. Gates open at

8:30am and 3:30pm. Permits, which must be on display, can be applied for via the main office. More information is available at <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/park-walk/>



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OPERATION ENCOMPASS: Our school takes part in a project that runs jointly with the Greater Manchester Police Force. [Operation Encompass](#) is the mechanism for reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, where a child or young person has experienced, any domestic abuse. Operation Encompass ensures that a member of the school staff (DSL), known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been experienced a domestic abuse incident. Furthermore, any police involvement with children, out of school, will be alerted to school through this mechanism. <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/safeguarding>

SUMMER MAINTENANCE: Our site team, who work throughout the summer, have contributed considerably to the maintenance of our site. The main works included the re-imagining of our Reception outdoor classroom, with new pergola, willow gathering space, growing beds, sand pit and texture kitchen. New flooring was laid in our KS2 cloakrooms and toilets, which were then re-painted, and in the Sacred Heart Sanctuary and garden corridor. Mr Johnson & Mrs Altham also worked through much of the summer ensuring that our school is ready to operate for another academic year.



CLASS WOMEN OF SCRIPTURE: On move up day in July, each class selected a woman of scripture to focus on this academic year. Can you identify their symbols in the image?

Mary mother of Jesus → lily

Anna → scroll

Sarah → stars

Priscilla → open book

Jochebed → basket

Martha → bread/ serving dish

Mary Magdalene → alabaster jar

Naomi → wheat

Elizabeth → baby (John the Baptist)

Lydia → purple cloth / fabric bolt

Abigail → olive branch

Ruth → barley

Miriam → tambourine

Esther → crown

Class Friday morning CoW dates, to which parents and community are invited, are in our Annual Plan of Provision: <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/apop/>



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CLASS LED FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER: Class led Friday morning prayer, for the Marian term, to which you are invited, begins at 9:05am:

- 26th September 2025: Y6BT – Miriam
- 10th October 2025: Y2D – Martha
- 24th October 2025: Y4W - Lydia

MASS: Our community is welcome to join us for Mass. Our Marian Term schedule is below:

12 th September 2025	10:00-11:00am: Mass at Church – Y6
19 th September 2025	10:00-11:00am: Mass at Church – Y2
26 th September 2025	10:00-11:00am: Mass at Church – Reception welcome Mass - families encouraged to attend.
3 rd October 2025	10:00-11:00am: Mass at Church – Y4
10 th October 2025	10:00-11:00am: Mass at Church – Y5
17 th October 2025	10:00-11:00am: Mass at Church – Y3
22 nd October 2025	9:30-10:30am: Mass in School – Whole school Mass
24 th October 2025	10:00-11:00am: Mass at Church – Y1

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE START OF TERM: Keep an eye on our social media at <https://www.facebook.com/TheJourneyMatters/> to keep up with images from our learning journey...



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TERM DATES 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR:



TERM DATES 2025-2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025	SPRING TERM 2026	SUMMER TERM 2026	STAFF INSET DAYS 2025-2026
Term begins: Wed 3 rd September 2025	Term begins: Tues 6 th January 2026	Term begins: Mon 20 th April 2026 Bank Holiday: Mon 4 th May 2026	1. Mon 1 st September 2025 2. Tues 2 nd September 2025 3. Mon 5 th January 2026 4. Fri 17 th April 2026 5. Transferred to Twilights for Triangulation: 1 hour attached to Wednesday staff meetings on 3 rd Wednesday of each half term.
Half-term: Mon 27 th October - Fri 31 st October 2025	Half-term: Mon 16 th February - Fri 20 th February 2026	Half-term: Mon 25 th May - Fri 29 th May 2026	
Term ends: Fri 19 th December 2025	Term ends: Thurs 2 nd April 2026 (Easter Sunday: 5 th April 2026)	Term ends: Fri 17 th July 2026	
73 DAYS	58 DAYS	64 DAYS	5 DAYS
190 PUPIL DAYS			
195 STAFF DAYS			

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

SACRED HEART RC PRIMARY SCHOOL | WESTHOUGHTON | TERM DATES 2024-2025



PRAYERS: Please keep Mrs Furey in your prayers as she grieves the passing of her brother, who died this Monday. May his soul be at God's right hand. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

Also, please remember Mrs Doodson in your prayers, whose uncle's funeral is today.

Lord, we pray for all who mourn. Strengthen us as a family and a community; and remind us that we are never alone. May we find hope in Your love and encouragement in the presence of one another. Amen.



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

Jesus lives in our school: in our minds and words and actions... Love one another!
So that, in all things that we think, say and do, God may be glorified.



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS AWARD: We have been re-accredited with the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of our work to bring the world into the classroom. The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world. Thank you to Mr Clarke who leads on our work with the ISA.

MUSIC RECITALS: Dates for your diary!

Families and parishioners are invited to our half-termly music recitals which celebrate the music learning in all classes, and often contain liturgical or Catholic Social Teaching elements. All our children benefit from having a good audience, so please stay for the full event – it is not a 'drop in'.

- Monday 20th October 2025, 2:00pm
- Monday 1st December 2025, 2:00pm
- Monday 9th February 2026, 2:00pm
- Monday 30th March 2026, 2:00pm
- Monday 18th May 2026, 2:00pm
- Monday 13th July 2026, 2:00pm

Liturgical Dances will be performed at the start of each half-term's music recital.



EASYFUNDRAISING: Help us raise funds for playtime equipment and resources- totally free!

[Click here to download the Easyfundraising app to begin.](#)

The banner features the Easyfundraising logo at the top left. Below it, the text reads: "Shopping online? Raise free funds for us at the same time". A large orange button with the text "Sign up" is positioned below the text. On the right side, there is a grid of nine white flower-shaped icons, each containing a different retailer's logo: John Lewis, eBay, Etsy, H&M, Debenhams, M&S, Argos, compare the market, and Dunelm. Below the grid, it says "and 8,000+ online retailers...". The background is green with a string of bunting flags at the top.



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THANK YOU: Thank you to Mr Flanagan who completed his apprenticeship with us last Friday, and will take up a site supervisor role at a Salford secondary school. Well done!



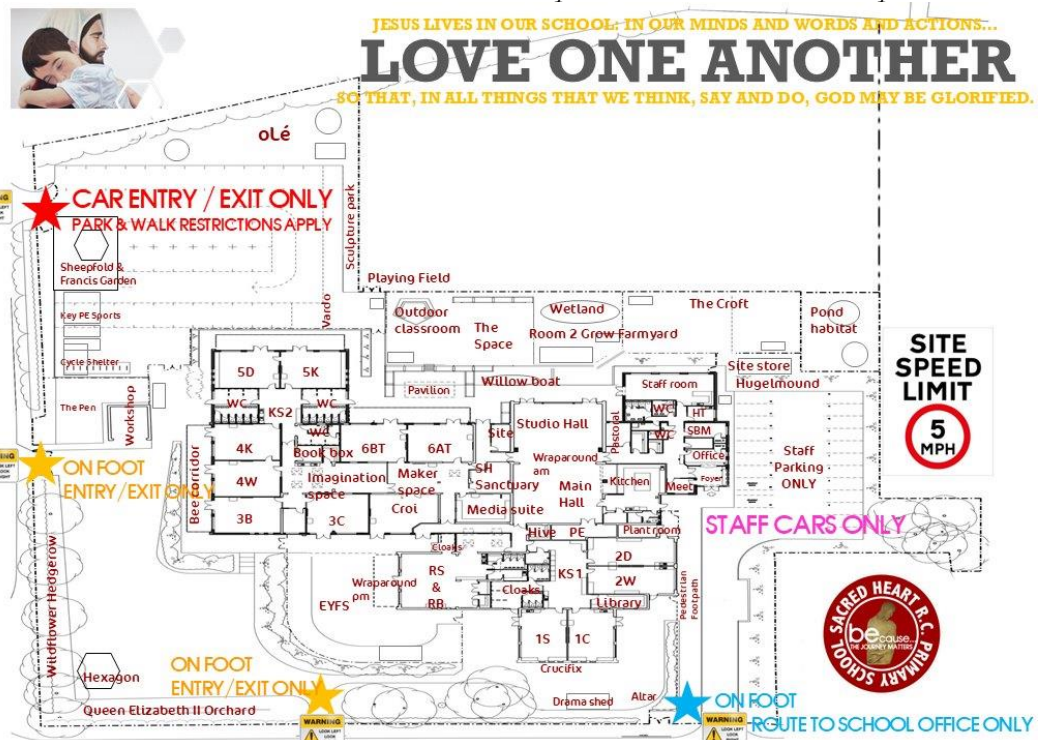
M Johnson
Mr M Johnson
Executive Headteacher

B Furey
Mrs B Furey
Head of School

F Duffy
Miss F Duffy
Deputy Headteacher

#GeneralAudience

Pope Leo XIV, Twitter, 3rd September 2025



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

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Our Ref: AW

17th July 2025

Mr M Johnson
Executive Headteacher
Sacred Heart RC Primary School
Central Drive
Westhoughton BL5 3DU

By email

Dear Martin

Inspection of Sacred Heart RC Primary School by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate on 9th and 10th July 2025

I have pleasure in enclosing the report from the recent inspection.

Well done to the school leadership for strategically fostering continuous improvement across all school dimensions! This is clearly driven by the dedicated and focused leadership of the genuinely inspirational executive headteacher and the impressive senior team, who ensure the school is always striving to improve. Their continuous pursuit of new ideas significantly enhances pupils' experiences and improves their outcomes academically, spiritually, and as human beings. The deep embedding of Catholic social teaching and the school's mission throughout all aspects of the school, parish, local area, and beyond is truly commendable. This strong leadership also underpins the exemplary behaviour and attitudes of the pupils, cultivated through their strong voice and active involvement in decision-making, leading to pupils feeling valued and taking on valuable leadership roles. Furthermore, the varied, vibrant, creative, and well-planned provision of prayer, worship, and celebration of the Word enriches pupils' spiritual development, and Religious Education lessons are challenging, well thought through, and inclusive, ensuring high standards of skills and knowledge with consistently high teaching quality.

The school must upload a copy of the report to their website, and distribute it to parents, within five working days of receiving it. It will also be available electronically on the diocesan and CES websites. A copy of the report has also been sent to the chair of your governing board.

Attached to this email is also a copy of our post-inspection survey. I would very much appreciate your considered response as it will help us to improve our service to the bishop.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and assistance in the inspection process.

With every best wish.

Yours sincerely

Angela Williams
Education Adviser



Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School

URN: 105243

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Salford

09–10 July 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

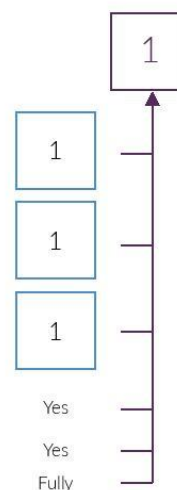
Collective worship (p.7)

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 fully complies with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference. Religious education, taught for at least 10% of the timetable, is the heart of the whole curriculum. The school is fully compliant with the requirements of the *Religious Education Directory*.
- There are no additional primary school requirements from the Bishop of Salford.
- The school has fully addressed the areas for improvement from the previous inspection. There has been a whole school approach to implementation of the *Religious Education Directory*. Executive leader reports to the Governing Board continue to evaluate provision across the requirements of the framework for Catholic school inspection, enabling effective challenge and support. Sequencing within religious education enables children to become increasingly religiously literate, and apply this to their lives, as they progress through school.

This Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection was carried out under canons 804 & 806 of the code of canon law. For maintained schools and academies in England it fulfils the statutory requirements of s.48 of the Education Act 2005. For maintained schools and academies in Wales it fulfils the statutory requirements of s.50 of the Education Act 2005.



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

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So that, in all things that we think, say and do, God may be glorified.**

What the school does well

- The dedicated and focused leadership provided by the genuinely inspirational executive headteacher, along with an equally impressive senior team, ensures that this school is always striving to improve. They continuously seek new ideas that will positively enhance the experiences of pupils and improve the outcomes they achieve academically, spiritually and as human beings.
- Catholic social teaching and the school's mission are deeply embedded in the fabric of the school and everything it does. These values are celebrated, and implemented in tangible ways within the school community, the parish, the local area, nationally, and globally.
- The behaviour and attitudes of the pupils are truly exemplary. This is due to their strong voice and active involvement in decision-making. They undertake a wide range of valuable leadership roles, demonstrating genuine respect, and support for one another. They know they are valued and cared for by the adults with whom they spend their days.
- The provision of prayer, worship and celebration of the Word is varied, vibrant, creative and well planned. It gives pupils experiences which help them to come to know God and to understand their faith in many special and unique ways.
- Religious education lessons are challenging and well thought through, so that all pupils, including those who find learning more difficult, can be fully included and attain high standards of skills and knowledge. Teaching is never less than good and is sometimes outstanding.

What the school needs to improve

- Ensure that provision for religious education in the early years maximises learning for all pupils.



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

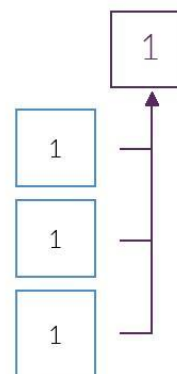
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

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 'Sacred Heart experience' is simply unique. This school proclaims its love of God and its prime mission to 'Love One Another' with joy and enthusiasm. Pupils who attend this school are very fortunate. They are confident, interesting, and curious at all ages. They know God loves them as individuals, each gifted with particular talents that they are called to share with others. They show deep respect for each other, including those of other faiths and cultures. As one pupil told inspectors, 'Pope Francis says we should encounter others so we understand them better, and realise they are just the same as us'. Behaviour is exemplary everywhere, even when pupils are not directly supervised by adults, or when caring for the school's animals and vegetable beds. Pupils demonstrate high levels of awareness of Catholic social teaching and the implications for taking action, especially when it comes to speaking truth to power, human rights, social justice, and caring for our common home. They take inspiration from their class saints. The charitable and community engagement undertaken by the school is beyond outstanding, having contributed financially and practically to more than twenty five charitable causes in the last year or so.

The school's purpose and mission are lived, in the everyday actions of staff and pupils, and the way they continually seek to be 'Like Jesus'. Pupils take inspiration from others, including popes, agencies such as EducareM, and speakers with expertise in fighting injustice. There is a strident commitment to inclusivity, and the celebration of individuality, even when this requires courageous decisions and action. Chaplaincy provision is particularly strong, and the care for families and pupils whose circumstances make life more challenging, often goes beyond that which can be reasonably expected. Some of this provision, done away from the public eye and with the dignity and privacy of individuals maintained as a priority, is literally life changing. Staff



members are inspiring role models in their relationships with each other and with pupils. There is a proactive culture of professional development, which leads to the creation of highly qualified middle leaders within the school, and future leaders for other schools. The attention given to the school's physical design, especially the spaces available for prayer and reflection are exceptional. Areas such as the Sheepfold, Sanctuary and Croi contribute significantly to the distinctively Catholic character of the school. The strong commitment to caring for our planet is lived out, through the installation of solar panels, the growing of crops and wildflowers, the urban farm, recycling and repurposing. Parish links are strong and the parish priest is a much valued and frequent visitor.

Leaders, including the governors, are dedicated to ensuring that the school maintains a strong relationship with the parish and diocese. They have established fruitful and nationally recognised collaborations with organisations such as The Royal Ballet and the Robert F Kennedy Foundation for Human Rights. Parents are supported as the prime educators of their children. Parents are highly appreciative of all the school provides and the values it teaches their children. One parent said, 'My children have flourished and developed a strong social conscience. I cannot praise the school highly enough'. Senior leaders, and the exceptionally committed executive headteacher, are particularly aware of the need to support those who are marginalised, left behind or left without. Policies and systems are rooted in the Gospel and everything that happens only happens because it is the right thing to do. Highly effective planning, monitoring and evaluation, ensures that leaders and governors know their school exceptionally well. All stakeholders are involved in shaping the school, including the pupils. They have significant leadership and monitoring roles through numerous groups and forum. Wellbeing is a priority for all leaders and staff say they feel valued and well supported in their faith formation and spiritual enrichment.



Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

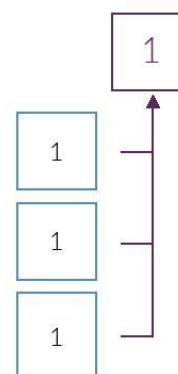
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

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 develop an excellent understanding of their faith and the implications it has for how they should live their lives, 'Because the Journey Matters'. All pupils, including those with special educational needs make consistently good progress. They develop high levels of religious literacy and recall of prior learning, because of the highly effective strategies used to help pupils remember. Pupils across the school are highly articulate and can discuss concepts and ideas with great effect. They ask questions of adults and show a deep desire to enhance their learning throughout lessons. They work with focus and independence showing exemplary behaviour and a strong sense of pride in their work. Books are presented well, and pupils take great pride in completing a wide variety of learning tasks, inside and outside the classroom. They are highly engaged individuals who have a clear sense of what is right and wrong. They know how to have a positive impact in the world. Feedback systems help pupils understand how well they have done and what they can do to improve. Pupils have ownership of their work and older pupils have started to develop the skills required to offer feedback to their peers.

Teachers exhibit extensive subject knowledge relevant to their phase and display a genuine enthusiasm for religious education, recognising its potential to shape pupils' understanding of how they can positively improve the world. Questioning enables pupils to draw on and make links between a breadth of sources, including *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti*. Every aspect of the taught curriculum is extremely broad, and exciting. It has numerous aspects to it that are engaging, challenging, and innovative. Special learning moments are captured and celebrated through video streaming on various screens throughout the school, serving as reminders of the enriching experiences that pupils have had. These experiences include visits to parliament, and a virtual workshop with the Jewish Museum in London. Visiting artists and poets, as well as the diocesan schools singing programme, and a wide variety of trips and extra-curricular



opportunities, including those that are abroad, enhance the religious education curriculum. Older pupils showcase their driving and artistic skills in electric go-carts liveried in the values of Pope Francis and Pope Leo. Provision for pupils with special educational needs is effective, thanks to dedicated support staff and the highly effective pastoral team. There are some missed opportunities in the Early Years Foundation Stage for pupils' learning to reach its full potential in religious education.

Leaders ensure religious education is given the highest priority. There is an extremely effective subject leadership team. The early adoption and implementation of the new *Religious Education Directory* and planning for the introduction of a new scheme, has been thorough and well managed. Leaders and governors are committed to securing high-quality training for staff, not only in terms of their professional development but also to grow their personal faith understanding. Opportunities for staff to undertake additional studies and acquire further qualifications are abundant. A large proportion of staff have the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies or equivalent. Leaders' commitment to enriching the curriculum is unwavering. They constantly seek ways to do things differently, including lessons on human rights heroes, racism and genocide. Parents are well informed about the content of the curriculum, through frequent Unite, Achieve and Celebrate events, as well as newsletters, social media and the website. Sports leaders, the pastoral team, and those responsible for special educational needs are devoted to assuring impressive support and activities for these particular pupils. Leaders, including pupils, demonstrate clear awareness of the impact of religious education, leading to outstanding outcomes.



Collective worship

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

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

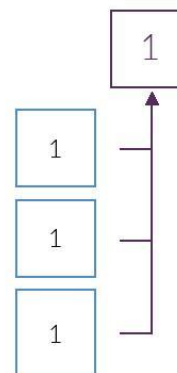
How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

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 consistently demonstrate a deep sense of reverence, and prayerfulness. They sing traditional and modern hymns joyously. There are frequent moments of spontaneous prayer, even at break times. There is a wide variety of types of prayer offered, including examen, adoration, celebration of the Word, and visio divina. Pupils say they enjoy these experiences. Pupils have a significant role in various prayer and worship opportunities. They take on these roles as true leaders, through membership of the Apostles, Hope Ambassadors, Creation Ambassadors, Farmers, Sacred Heart Singers, the Eco-Team, and as Altar Servers. They can articulate the purpose and impact of prayer on their daily lives and the way in which it calls and inspires them to action. One pupil told inspectors that, 'It makes me sad inside when I pray for those who are in need, but happy when I know there is someone I can help'. A senior leader remarked that, 'We want pupils to reflect on the fact that they can help people they do not know, and will probably never meet'. The sponsorship of a room in a local homeless shelter and fundraising for the purchase of pedicabs in Metro Manila are examples of how prayer leads to action by pupils.

Prayer and worship are fundamental to all aspects of this school's activities and are embedded into the daily routine. Staff members demonstrate exemplary practice in prayer, guiding pupils to enhance their understanding and skills in planning, leading, and evaluating worship. Music and singing are notable strengths in the school's prayer and worship activities. The choir even performs for younger students during lunchtime while they eat. The school makes exceptional use of the internal and external space available to it, to support and enhance prayer and worship. Access to these spaces is timetabled but is also freely available to pupils, for them to use at playtimes. All these spaces are well resourced and looked after, often by pupils themselves. Thoughtful additions to the school's provision, such as the urban farm, the vardo, a real grape



vine and even a fig tree, as well as three fire pits, and the forest school provision all show a determination to think outside the norm and do things differently to support prayer. There are numerous opportunities for parents and parishioners to join prayer and liturgy within the school and at the Church. Several adults told inspectors how much they appreciate these opportunities.

The highly skilled and experienced leaders have a deep commitment to ensuring prayer life is at the centre of everything. They have embedded strategies that nurture pupils' spiritual development, enabling them to take ownership and to take on genuine leadership roles. They have already ensured that the new *Prayer and Liturgy Directory* is faithfully integrated within practice. This includes preparing and identifying specific pupils fully, before they undertake ministry roles and appropriately acclaiming the Gospel before it is read aloud. The liturgical year, which is used to label the half terms, is celebrated in many engaging ways. Holy days, such as Sacred Heart and Pentecost are celebrated appropriately, but also in innovative ways, such as the use of dance or fire. Professional development opportunities offered to staff are extensive and include retreat experiences. Well-trained governors take their responsibilities seriously. They monitor and evaluate effectively and have an acutely accurate understanding of what they need to do to improve. Leaders have allocated resources to the prayer life of the school that ensure consistently high quality experiences for pupils. The parish priest and highly effective lay chaplain are significant leadership figures in prayer and liturgy activities.



Information about the school

Full name of school	Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	105243
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3503359
Full postal address of the school	Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School, Central Drive, Westhoughton, Bolton, BL5 3DU
School phone number	01942 634681
Executive Headteacher	Martin Johnson
Chair of governors	Claire Walker
School Website	https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	N/A
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	Non-selective
Age-range of pupils	4-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	03 April 2017
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

The inspection team

Mark Brennan
Alixena Lubomski

Lead
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

