

DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH VALIDATION REPORT



Saint George Catholic College

Leaside Way, Southampton, SO16 3DQ

URN: 116507
 Date of previous validation: 1st and 2nd March 2012
Date of this validation: 8th and 22nd June 2017

Overall effectiveness	Previous validation: Good
	This validation: Outstanding

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

This is an Outstanding school

- Saint George Catholic College provides an outstanding, aspirational and secure Catholic education for its students.
- Students speak proudly of their goals, progress and achievements which are encouraged and supported by dedicated and enthusiastic staff.
- RE maintains a high status in the college. It is well supported by senior leaders, governors and the local clergy.
- RE and the PSHE programme have a tangible impact on the sense of welcome and inclusivity experienced by staff and students alike. All members of the college speak of the high levels of support and witness given by these staff.
- The deputy head with responsibility for the Catholic life of the college works with zeal to ensure that the golden thread of the Gospel is woven seamlessly into the daily life and prayer of the whole community.
- Chaplaincy is well coordinated, dynamic and has a positive impact in the daily lives and spiritual growth of members of the college. The chapel provides a focus for the community during the liturgical year and for times of reflection during important events in the life of the students.
- Disadvantaged students are very well cared for both academically and socially by a highly visible, professional and compassionate team. The provision for these students is exemplary.

What does the school need to do to improve further?

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

- The curriculum is compliant with the RE Curriculum Directory, however, the amount of time given to RE needs to comply with the Bishops' Conference requirement of 10% in years 7 and 8.
- Continue to support the RE department as the college grows in terms of continuing professional development and the quality of teaching area.
- As the college grows in size, explore the possibility of additional leadership support for the RE department.

Full Report

The school as a Catholic community

The school community:	Outstanding
The wider community:	Outstanding

- The headteacher offers outstanding and uncompromising Christian leadership, focusing relentlessly on both the spiritual and academic growth of the community he proudly leads.
- The ASPIRE values are fully embedded within the school, being referenced and celebrated by staff and students.
- There is a great sense of Christian hospitality and commitment to the wider Catholic community. Saint George Catholic College is an outward looking school which seeks to offer itself as a base for the wider mission of the Church.
- Excellent links are made with local parishes, where school ambassadors carry out the evangelical work of the Church. In regard to this there is a notable and praiseworthy ecumenical element whereby Anglican students and parishes have embraced this initiative.
- Staff, students and governors have a great sense of pride in belonging to the community and value its care and commitment to the most vulnerable members of the community.

Curriculum religious education

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

- RE has a high status in the school and is very well supported by the senior leadership team. Members of the leadership team also teach RE in the department.
- The subject is valued by the students and they speak about the importance of RE and the way in which it fosters understanding and respect for others.
- Attainment and progress in RE are outstanding in Key Stage 4 as testified by the GCSE results of 2016, which compare favourably to both local and national data.
- Teachers have secure subject knowledge and plan effectively using a range of resources; lessons are varied and paced appropriately. There is a lot of active learning which enthuses and engages the students.
- Students feel supported by their teachers and know what they need to do to improve in RE.
- Exercise books show clear evidence of progression and there is good evidence that students act on teachers' advice to improve their learning. The use of subject targets and progress tracking sheets are examples of best practice.
- Behaviour for learning is very good: students are engaged and keen to do well in class.
- The head of RE is a dedicated and hardworking leader who actively promotes high standards and is very student focused. She is constantly seeking ways to improve and refine the curriculum offer. She is working to build a strong team of passionate specialists.
- The curriculum is currently changing at all key stages and the RE department are working on further developing assessment tasks which will be fit for purpose.
- There is good evidence of differentiated tasks, particularly at key stage 3. Opportunities to extend more able learners were also apparent in key stage 4.
- The department is well resourced and the classrooms are well-presented. The classrooms would benefit from being located in the same area in the school.

- The RE department is following the specified syllabus at Key Stage 4 as recommended by the Bishop's Conference. The Head of RE is a key contributor to the collaborative Diocesan efforts to resource this specification.
- In years 7 and 8, RE is currently under the time allocation required by the Bishops' Conference. This will need to be addressed.

Spiritual and moral development

Spiritual development:

Outstanding

Moral development:

Outstanding

- The school is well supported by local clergy. The assistant priest from one of the local parishes is a highly regarded and regular visitor. His academic skills are well used and valued by the RE Department. The co-ordinating pastor, as link governor to the RE Department, has an intimate knowledge and understanding of the school and the positive journey it has been on over the last decade.
- The lay chaplain is an outstanding example of the role within a Catholic school. As the leader of the Diocesan Chaplaincy group, she is at the forefront of evangelisation and embodies the charism of the school.
- The chaplaincy group organises the extensive prayer and worship life of the school, including Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the thrice weekly Angelus and regular prayer and Rosary times in the chapel. The most recent staff retreat was a spiritual highlight of the year.
- PSHE is a well-documented and integral part of the curriculum which clearly supports the ethos of the school.
- There is a distinct sense of inclusion for people of all faiths, whereby students report that they are free to air their views in an open and non-judgmental atmosphere.
- The work of the equality and rights student advocates is having a positive impact on the culture of respect evident within the college.
- Worship in both assembly and tutor time is thoughtful, interactive and well planned.

Leadership and management:

Outstanding

- The governing body are both challenging and supportive, taking an appropriate role in the strategic and Catholic life of Saint George Catholic College. The chair of governors leads by example and is a tangible witness to the mission of the college.
- The headteacher and senior leadership team have created an ethos of aspiration which has enabled students and staff to excel and fulfil their potential. Systems for tracking progress are systematic and robust
- The college has approached the diocesan self-review process with rigour and enthusiasm.
- The deputy headteacher in charge of SMSC is a shining example of Catholic leadership, who enjoys the support and respect of the staff body. He is enabled in his work by the outstanding Christian leadership of the headteacher who fully supports a Catholic vision for his community.
- The induction process for new staff is thorough and effective. Staff speak warmly and appreciatively of their support and encouragement in this outstanding Catholic college.
- The college has addressed all the areas for development from the previous validation.

School details

Name of school:	Saint George Catholic College
Age range of pupils:	11-16
Gender of pupils:	Mixed
Number of pupils on roll:	719
Chair of Governors:	Mr. Charles Marchetti
Headteacher:	Mr. Graham Wilson

Saint George Catholic College is situated on the outskirts of Southampton and serves a wide geographical and pastoral area. It is a small, but growing college which since 2013 has admitted both boys and girls. Two in five students speak English as an additional language, one in seven have an educational special need, and a quarter are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

Information about this validation

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

Validation Team

Mr. John Wright	Lead Validator
Mrs. Julie Oldroyd	Assistant Validator
Mrs. Teresa Cripps	Assistant Validator

Activities carried out as part of the validation

- Ethos walk with Head Boy, Head Girl and senior prefects.
- Discussion on the school's self-review documentation.
- Meetings and discussions with Headteacher, leadership team members, head of RE, pastoral leaders, new staff, Chaplain and Link Governor for RE and Chair of governors.
- 6 lesson and part-lesson observations.
- 1 tutor worship observation.
- 1 tutor observation.
- 1 assembly observation.
- Attendance at staff briefing.
- Meeting with the assistant priest
- 2 meetings with students; RE panel and School Council.
- Parental survey.

Conclusion

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