

# Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

URN: 113845

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Portsmouth

21–22 January 2026

## 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

- Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School is fully compliant with the general norms of the Bishops' Conference in relation to 10% curriculum time for religious education.
- Corpus Christi fully implements the diocesan bishop's requirements and directives.
- Corpus Christi has fully responded to the areas of improvements from the previous inspection.

## What the school does well

- The commitment to the Catholic life and mission of the school is exemplary through the work that is done to embed the principles of Catholic social teaching, Gospel virtues and Catholic character education.
- The school's mission statement and identified Gospel virtues is lived and witnessed by all and extends to the wider school community.
- Pupils make outstanding progress in developing their knowledge, understanding and skills in religious education and achieve extremely well.
- High quality provision for prayer and liturgy effectively supports pupils to develop and deepen their personal relationship with God.
- Leaders, including governors, are exemplary models of Christian witness and servant leadership, which inspires the whole school community.

## What the school needs to improve

- To use the opportunity of the *Religious Education Directory* to ensure that all those teaching religious education have the depth of subject knowledge required to confidently deepen pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills.

## 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**

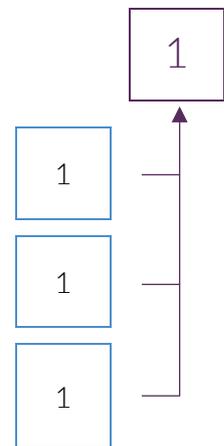
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

**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 are extremely proud of being part of the Corpus Christi school family and are deeply committed in their support of the school's mission statement and Gospel virtues. They have a deep understanding that everyone in the school community is called to make a difference to the world by serving God through helping others, for example, knowing that their support for charities like the St Michael's food bank, Mary's Meals and Cafod, are part of their response to Catholic social teaching and the school's Gospel virtues. Pupils show a deep respect for their own dignity and the dignity of others. They are empathetic towards others in greater need to themselves and were keen to explain how the School of Sanctuary award helped them to think differently about those in need. Pupils are enthusiastic ambassadors and are keen to take on responsibilities associated with the Catholic life and mission of the school, for example, joining the Mini Vinnies or Faith in Action groups, serving on the school council or as prayer leaders. These roles are well developed and valued by pupils as an expression of their commitment to the ethos and charism of the school.

Corpus Christi is a school where the mission statement, along with the identified Gospel virtues and Catholic character education, underpins every facet of school life; it is known, lived and witnessed by all members of the school community. For example, parents were able to tell inspectors what it means and how the community are witnesses to it. Staff fully embrace the mission and charism of the school and are exemplary role models in their support, care and love of the pupils. One parent summed up the views of many, describing Corpus Christi as being like a family. Pastoral care is central to school life, with all pupils, especially the most vulnerable, welcomed and effectively supported throughout the day. The school has achieved the School of Sanctuary award and Oscar Romero award at the Innovator level – the first primary school in the

country to do so. The principles that have led to these awards are reflected in the warmth of the welcome and inclusive environment that has been developed and maintained. The school environment is attractive, well maintained and distinctly Catholic; the chapel with the Blessed Sacrament is a place of sanctuary and source of inspiration to the community.

The headteacher, along with senior leaders, are inspirational witnesses to the Gospel and to the principles of Catholic social teaching. They fully embody servant leadership and ensure all in the community are supported and valued. Strategic planning, policies and Church teaching are central to decision making. The school curriculum is distinctly Catholic with Catholic social teaching and character education woven through topics and subjects, for example, during a recent unit on migration, Year 6 pupils considered themes of human dignity and solidarity. Leaders have ensured that this is shared beyond the school in their evangelising work with other schools as part of the Oscar Romero award. There is a strong, flourishing partnership between parish and school with the parish priest being active in his involvement in school life, providing valuable and insightful spiritual guidance to pupils and staff. Leaders treat staff with dignity and respect, providing a range of opportunities for spiritual growth and development. Consequently, staff feel valued, and appreciate the pastoral care they receive. Governors are a strength of the school in their witness and commitment to ensuring Catholic life and mission is prioritised. They are regular visitors to the school and offer high levels of challenge and support. There is a well-planned and effective induction programme and on-going training which has resulted in a cohesive understanding for staff of what it means to work in this Catholic school.

## Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

### Religious education key judgement grade

**Pupil outcomes**

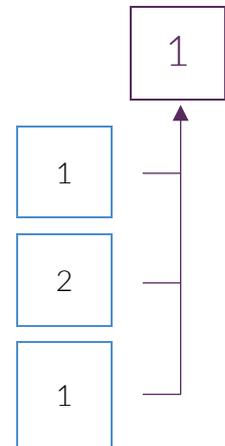
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

**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 thoroughly enjoy their religious education lessons at Corpus Christi and engage extremely well in their learning, especially in the early years and older classes. Because of this, behaviour in lessons is exemplary, with nearly all pupils demonstrating curiosity and very good knowledge of scripture. In a Year 5 lesson, pupils were enthusiastic in sharing and listening to different viewpoints on how artists had depicted the Baptism of Jesus. By the time pupils leave the school, they are achieving high standards in religious education because they have made consistently good progress in all year groups. Pupils' work is well presented and of a very high standard, especially in Year 6. There is a wide range of tasks including writing newspaper articles, diaries and sequencing scripture, which has ensured pupils are developing a secure understanding and knowledge of scripture and religious education themes. Pupils are able to make links between the religious education curriculum, the school's mission statement and what this means in their everyday life. In Early Years, on the parable of the Lost Sheep children were able to explain how we can grow closer to God by being kind to others, through prayer and by listening to the Bible.

Teachers have good subject knowledge, which is continually improved by the on-going training and support they receive from the subject leader. Teachers plan carefully to ensure that each unit develops and builds on prior learning and pupils can present their learning in a variety of ways, including scaffolds which support less confident learners. Scripture is at the heart of all teaching and is shared effectively including through video and discussion. In Year 6 pupils confidently use Bibles to refer to the chosen scripture. In the best lessons observed by the inspectors, teachers used effective questioning and discussion of scripture to deepen pupils' understanding and to assess their knowledge. For example, in a Year 1 lesson based on the Good Samaritan, children were able to recall the parable accurately and identify the key message of how all people are our neighbours and how this linked to the Gospel virtues. With the

implementation of the *Religious Education Directory*, all teachers need to further develop their subject knowledge so that all lessons are of a high standard; thus ensuring all pupils flourish in their religious education. In nearly all classes, teachers' expectations were high, enabling pupils to concentrate well, work hard and enjoy their learning. Feedback is relevant and purposeful; pupils are keen and motivated to improve their learning in religious education.

Leaders, including governors, ensure that religious education is at the core of the curriculum and delivered to the highest standard. It is given equal status to other core subjects in terms of training, resourcing and strategic development. The subject leader for religious education has a clear and inspiring vision for the on-going development of the subject. She provides effective support for staff by leading training and offering advice and guidance all of which strengthens the teaching of religious education. The subject leader works in partnership with the whole school curriculum leader which ensures there is a seamless thread running across the curriculum with themes linked to Catholic teaching being central to all learning. The curriculum is well designed and is planned to meet the needs of all pupils, each year building on their prior knowledge. The school's Gospel virtues, Catholic character education and commitment to Catholic social teaching enhances wider curriculum areas and enables pupils to apply their knowledge and understanding of religious education themes across the curriculum. These areas also enrich the opportunities for pupils. Leaders and governors' evaluation is robust and accurate, resulting in effective action planning.

## 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



Pupils are fully engaged and active participants in a wide range of prayerful opportunities. They act with deep reverence. In all times of prayer observed during the inspection, the quality of prayerful silence was outstanding and enabled pupils to reflect deeply. In a Year 2 prayer time, the awe and wonder of the children to the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was profound as pupils were eager to draw closer to Jesus. Even the youngest children in the pre-school and early years classrooms act with respect and reverence during times of prayer. Pupils work well with each other, staff and clergy to prepare and lead prayer experiences; older pupils are confident in choosing the theme, scripture and music and enjoy leading their peers in prayer. They also carry out liturgical ministries with reverence and commitment as was seen in the Key Stage 2 prayer time when pupils carried the Bible with deep respect and understanding that this was the word of God. Pupils can clearly articulate the importance of prayer in their lives and recognise that it supports them to grow closer to God, seek forgiveness and follow in the footsteps of Jesus. They have a developing understanding that different ways of praying reflect the liturgical year, identifying that during Advent and Lent they can experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation and can seek forgiveness.

Prayer and liturgy are central to the life of the school. The embedded, daily pattern of prayer along with weekly attendance at Mass has a positive impact on the school community. The school's chapel is at the heart of the school and promotes the spiritual development of pupils and staff. As it contains the Blessed Sacrament it is very much a sacred space and enhances the opportunities for reflection and prayer. The headteacher, senior leaders and the school's chaplain are inspiring models of exemplary practice, leading by example and offering support and guidance; staff acknowledge this supports them in their own spiritual life and helps them when leading prayers with pupils. Scripture is well chosen to reflect the liturgical year and as was

seen in the Key Stage 2 celebration of the word, based on the theme of Jesus as the light of the world, staff are highly skilled at helping pupils to interpret the meaning behind the readings and provide a clear mission for pupils to act on as they live out this time of prayer. Families are effectively included in the prayer life of the school with an invitation to join Mass on Wednesday and through the prayer bags that are sent home for families to pray together and record their own prayers.

Leaders and governors have considered carefully and acted decisively when considering the needs of the school in relation to prayer and liturgy as can be seen in the carefully, thought out policy, high quality prayer experiences, beautifully presented chapel and appointment of the chaplain. This reflects their commitment to ensuring prayer and liturgy are given the highest priority at Corpus Christi. There is a clear strategy which outlines the progression and development of pupils in participating in and leading prayer. There is a well-planned and comprehensive school calendar which reflects the liturgical year and identifies links to Catholic social teaching. Leaders have prioritised the Celebration of the Eucharist, such as on the feast of Corpus Christi, holy days of obligation and other significant days in the Church or school calendar and ensure opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are planned for key times in the liturgical year. Leaders and governors ensure staff receive regular support and guidance to deliver high quality prayer and liturgy and staff value this support. Leaders, including the chaplain, have a strong understanding of prayer and the spiritual development of pupils. They work effectively with the parish priest, seeking guidance with liturgical preparation. The school's provision for prayer and liturgy is robustly monitored by leaders and governors, which leads to well-planned improvements.

## Information about the school

Full name of school	Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	113845
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	8393684
Full postal address of the school	St James's Square, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH5 2BX
School phone number	01202427544
Headteacher	Simon Lennon
Chair of Governors	Dr Anna Murphy-Sullivan
School Website	<a href="http://www.cccpschool.co.uk">www.cccpschool.co.uk</a>
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	2-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	February 2020
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

## The inspection team

Ursula Clark  
Tara Sharp

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