



Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection report for
St Ignatius College

URN: 102058

Carried out on behalf of His Most Rev. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster on:

Date: 23-24 February 2023

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 curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The school is fully compliant with all requirements of the diocesan bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection	Fully

Summary of key findings

What the school does well

- Ignatian spirituality permeates the college and ensures that all members of the community strive to be 'men and women for others'.
- The leadership team and governors embrace and enthusiastically support the Catholic life and mission of the school.
- Pupil progress in religious education is outstanding.
- Pastoral care for pupils at St Ignatius is excellent; pupils enjoy their learning and have very positive relationships with staff.
- Prayer and worship are woven into the daily life of the college; the Daily Examen in particular enhances the spiritual life of the whole community.

What the school needs to improve:

- Share current good practice with the wider Catholic community.
- Continue to adapt learning strategies to ensure consistent good practice, providing challenge for students of all abilities.
- Continue to develop pupil and all-staff leadership in preparing creative and varied experiences of prayer and liturgy.

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.....

1

Pupil outcomes

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

1

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

1

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

1

Pupils understand the distinctive Ignatian identity of the school and were able to explain this in detail to Inspectors. They feel safe at St Ignatius College; the rich diversity is celebrated and pupils feel valued and cared for. Pupils understand that they are 'men and women for others'. They know the importance of actively pursuing the Common Good and speak enthusiastically about striving to embody the 'Jesuit Pupil Profile'. Pupils are active in helping those in need: examples include support for Cafod, Jesuit Missions, Christmas hampers for the local community and over forty students taking part in a Sleep Out to raise awareness of homelessness. The behaviour of pupils in and out of lessons is exemplary, and students are very respectful of those of other faiths and religions. Pupils all spoke warmly about the sense of community, and one stressed that, 'you'll never feel left out here'. The chaplaincy is valued by both pupils and staff. Pupils have a variety of opportunities to serve: in the Liturgy Group, as Eucharistic Ministers, readers, servers and in the prayer group.

The mission statement is clearly lived by both pupils and staff. St Ignatius College excels at being a community which witnesses to Catholic tradition and practice. There is strong staff support for the vision and values of the school and a culture of high aspiration for all pupils. In observed lessons it was clear to Inspectors that staff have strong positive relations with pupils. When asked why they liked this school many students commented on the support they received from staff. The school prides itself on its inclusive nature, and pupils value this welcoming sense of community. Staff in all areas of the College are positive role models for the young people in their care. Pastoral care is strong and pupils know who to go to if they have difficulties. The school provides a free breakfast for over 200 pupils each day and this is

highly valued by parents. Pupils appreciate having a beautiful chapel, and a larger space for bigger services. Excellent displays in common areas and classrooms highlight the distinctive Catholic ethos. The chaplain plays an important role in the life of the College, organising retreats and helping to prepare the Daily Examen. The RSE programme, part of the school's 'Magis curriculum', is carefully planned, well received by pupils and fully meets diocesan and statutory requirements.

Leaders and governors are totally committed to the Church's mission and ensure that Christ is at the centre of this school. The enthusiastic support given by leaders to Catholic life is inspirational for both pupils and staff and is a key strength of the college. There are strong links with the diocese and leaders ensure that the school actively participates in services offered by the diocese. Parents really value the work of this school. One parent commented that the college 'is true to its long-standing traditions and moral responsibilities, but also in touch with its responsibilities in a modern society, as well as its role in the wider community.' Another parent said, 'I cannot praise St Ignatius college highly enough for their excellent pastoral care, spiritual support and moral development focus.' Leaders work hard to support those in greatest need and have a strong sense of social justice. The head teacher has placed RE at the heart of the college curriculum. Governors are very ambitious for this school and take their responsibilities seriously. The Catholic Self Evaluation Document was comprehensive and analytical. Such processes have led to a strong culture of continuous improvement across the school. Professional development is outstanding; staff are actively encouraged by leaders to develop their skills and expertise.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade:.....

1

Pupil outcomes

How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education.....

1

Provision

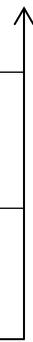
The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education.....

2

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor, and evaluate the provision for religious education.....

1



Pupils at St Ignatius are developing excellent knowledge, understanding and skills and speak confidently about their learning in RE. Results, particularly at GCSE, show pupils making exceptional progress from their starting point. Careful and selective review of the exam syllabus with expert teaching and effective intervention support has increased pupil progress over time. Religious literacy is strong and pupils ask incisive questions of adults in their quest to know more and to learn more. Pupils produce work of a high standard and take great pride in their books; they have a good understanding of how well they are doing. Behaviour in lessons is excellent; pupils are curious learners and are actively engaged in their learning. They enjoy RE and approach lessons with great interest, passion and enthusiasm; this is exemplified by the level of engagement and the respect for the school drive on 'Disruption Free Learning' which helps to ensure that all learners have the opportunity to exceed their minimum expected target grades.

Teachers have good subject knowledge and are passionate about religious education; the department ensures that RE is 'Core of the Core' in the school. Teacher expectations are high with a culture of aiming for excellence; this is evident in displays and the quality of workbooks and assessment books. Celebration of effort through the use of achievement points is clear and evident in books and in lesson contributions. Teachers have a very good rapport with pupils and there is mutual respect. Assessment books showcase pupils assessed work which is celebrated and modelled as good practice, although diagnostic marking is not always sufficiently detailed. Planning is very effective with a good use of shared resources and teachers have a good knowledge of class data. Questioning was often used skilfully during lessons in order to challenge misconceptions. In an observed Year 7 lesson the teacher used

extensive and probing questions to elicit deeper responses from pupils about the work of Martin Luther King. Although they know their pupils well, some observed lessons and the college progress data confirm the need to adapt learning strategies to ensure consistent good practice and challenge for students of all abilities. Teachers are aware of the internal gap for those with pupil premium and special educational needs and are putting clear strategies in place to address this. The school's motto and mission underpin the RE department and this helps pupils to find their place in the world, confident in their faith.

RE is a flagship department at St Ignatius. Leaders have moved the RE classrooms into the centre of the College to highlight its importance. The head teacher is passionate about ensuring that staff have access to on-going professional development and there is a strong focus on the College's 'Shared Mission'. The RE subject lead is inspiring and motivational and leads the department with a vision of excellence for all. Excellent recruitment for A level Religious Studies clearly demonstrates the progress the department is making. The Key Stage 4 Coordinator in RE has shown great strength in innovative data analysis to help develop the subject with the clear aim of closing the gaps. Curriculum maps show links and mapping to ensure progression and build on prior learning. Monitoring of data is highly effective for targeted intervention to take place. Pupil needs are clearly known and understood. It is clear that leaders and governors have an excellent insight into the work of the RE department with rigorous strategic planning and challenge resulting in outstanding pupil progress.

Collective worship

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

Collective worship key judgement grade:.....

1

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

2

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship

1



Pupils at St Ignatius spoke warmly about their experience of engaging and participating in the varied and frequent opportunities for prayer, reflection and worship on offer. The Daily Examen at 12.18pm, which all staff and students participate in, is an example of outstanding practice, and something that could be successfully shared more widely. All pupils spoke highly of the Examen and felt it made a difference to their lives and relationship with God and each other. The respectful way in which pupils responded to opportunities for prayerful reflection was outstanding. They clearly understand why they pray, and they are able to articulate how prayer leads to action. The school follows the liturgical calendar closely and Mass is celebrated at notable points in the Church year, and also to mark key Jesuit occasions. A variety of prayer and worship is offered, for example the Stations of the Cross in Lent, the rosary in May and October and imaginative contemplation. Pupils are encouraged to take part in leading collective worship and there are student Eucharistic ministers as well as form group liturgy ambassadors.

Worship is central to the school and permeates all gatherings of pupils and staff. It is obvious from the moment you enter the college that you are in a Catholic school; the Jesuit charism underpins all the college does and stands for. Scripture was a feature of all lessons observed; it was a key part of the observed Year 10 assembly and the previous Sunday's Gospel was read at the beginning of the Daily Examen. All staff observed support the school's ethos and charism. The chaplain supports staff to deliver liturgy based on guidelines from the Westminster Diocese. The college is very fortunate in having two chapels and the facility to hold whole school Masses on site. The new school chapel is a dedicated prayer space, open daily for pupils and staff to use for quiet prayer and can be used for small group Masses,

retreats, prayer groups and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There is also a separate prayer space for pupils of other religions. The chaplain attends Enfield deanery meetings and local parish priests are welcomed to say Mass in the school. The college recognises the need to enable more staff to be involved in the planning and evaluation of prayer and worship. Moreover, the potential for pupils to prepare and lead creative and varied experiences of prayer and liturgy has not yet been fully realised.

The head teacher, leadership team, governors and chaplain are all highly experienced and have a clear vision for the Catholic life of the school; one member of staff commented, 'This is not the first faith school I have worked in but it has the strongest and most clearly embedded practice of faith I have encountered anywhere.' The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered at Lent and Advent and Mass is celebrated regularly and on feast days. There is further scope for involving parents more widely in the outstanding prayer life of the college, and governors are keen to make this happen. One day a year is devoted to professional development in Ignatian spirituality and Catholic life. All new staff, as part of their induction programme, attend internal Shared Vision Induction, a programme of formation for teachers and support staff in Jesuit schools. Both chaplaincy and RE are generously funded. Leaders' commitment and skill is not in doubt; the head teacher and the leadership team are committed to delivering outstanding prayer and worship.

Information about the school

Full name of school	St Ignatius College
School unique reference number (URN)	102058
Full postal address of the school	Turkey St., Enfield, EN14NP
School phone number	01992 717835
Name of head teacher or principal	Mary O'Keeffe
Chair of governing board	John Donnelly
School Website	http://www.st-ignatius.enfield.sch.uk/
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Type of school	Secondary comprehensive
School category	Voluntary aided
Age-range of pupils	11-18
Trustees	Society of Jesus
Gender of pupils	11-16 boys, mixed in Sixth Form
Date of last denominational inspection	December 2016
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

The inspection team

Paul Higginson	Lead inspector
Deirdre McHugh	Team inspector
Carol Ransom	Team inspector

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